

## **CONNECT Public Safety, Health, and Human Resources**

### **Working Group meeting**

Thursday | March 5, 2020 | 1:00pm  
McKees Rocks Borough Building  
340 Bell Ave, McKees Rocks, PA 15136



**Municipal Attendees:** Sarah Harvey, McKees Rocks; Bill Stout, Millvale; Laura Drogowski, Pittsburgh; Jay Gilmer, Pittsburgh

**Other Attendees:** Kat Sutherland, ACHD/LEAD; Rebecca King Rosenberg, Sto-Rox Neighborhood Health Center; Aaron Lauer, Pitt Institute of Politics; Taili Thompson, ACHD; Ross A. Watson Jr, ACHD; Maria T. Cruz, ACHD; Lucas Musewe, Star Consultant LLC; Jeff Williams, Foundation of Hope; Brandon Schmidt, Rainbow Fire Volunteer Co; Shallegra Moye, University of Pittsburgh; Gabby Warner, Prevention Point Pittsburgh;

**CONNECT/GSPIA Staff:** JoEllen Marsh, CONNECT, Lydia Morin, CONNECT; Tess De Jong, CONNECT

### **Welcome to McKees Rocks!**

#### **Violence Prevention Discussion**

CURE Violence in Wilksburg – a public health approach to gun violence, violence as a disease

- History and development, how the model works and is implemented. They have a positive relationship with the police but they don't work with them
- Uniqueness of Wilksburg as a community many non-residents commute through every day
- Other communities in the county may not know their rates of violence are increasing, as violence moving from inside the city

#### **Revisiting the Volunteer Fire Crisis**

- Review of the spring '19 CONNECT capstone report and how the Rainbow Volunteer fire chief became involved with CONNECT
- We have about 10% of the volunteer firefighters we had in the 70s. Too much equipment and not enough drivers
- The two ideas that have emerged to help solved the crisis (train 16 year olds and training those in jail) won't solve much. Or to purchase drones. These are bandaid ideas.
- Free tuition with CCAC if you volunteer, but terrible participation rates
- A well-trained fire team of 4 is so much more efficient than 7 companies of 2 coming from all over when they get a call
- The minimum state requirement to be a firefighter is a 1.5 hour online course (most fire depts have their own training standards, though).

- A resolution around more power dedicated to research?
- EMS/firefighter model and the culture change it would require to think about consolidation
- Suggestions for recruiting high school seniors

#### **LEAD/Community policing update & discussion**

- Building an advisory team; mayors and managers, police, people at the county level, community advocates, people in recovery, people formerly incarcerated
- Proposed a LEAD steering group – can a few municipalities do this in addition to their involvement in our working groups, or should they be a subcommittee. Need more member input. Don't want meeting fatigue.
- Will use the "Municipal Roadmap" section of the LEAD report when meeting with municipalities, so give feedback if it needs changes
- The biggest take away from community policing CONNECT capstone report: crime rates are not correlated with police budget, and community policing practices are not correlated with police budget (LEAD is a subset of community policing)

#### **SAMSHA Updates**

- CONNECT has a grant through ACHD
- Helping municipalities distribute Narcan and implement EMS Narcan leave behind

#### **Plans for PSH working group moving forward**

- Decided to save the resolution discussion for next Executive Committee meeting as so many members were out sick today.

#### **Next PSH Working Group Meeting**

- TENTATIVE: Thursday, July 16, 2020 | Time & location TBA

**Adjourn 2:54pm**