

Eastern Plains Community Pantry

Board Meeting Summary

August 29, 2016

Fourteen board members and two guests were present. The August 1st minutes were approved.

Pantry expenses were greater than revenues for the month of August. Revenues were down for August while utility bills and food purchases remained about the same.

The Pantry served 1,026 people in August and volunteers donated 621 hours.

There were two major issues that came up at the meeting; changing the operating hours of the Pantry and taking over the "Holiday Giving Program" from the Ministerial Alliance. The Board of Directors is considering cutting back the days of operation from 5 to 3. Possible days of operation would be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and every other Saturday. A survey for clients and visitors is available at the Pantry. Fifty four surveys have been completed indicating. The Board did not think that 54 surveys provided enough information to act on a change in operating hours. The surveys will be available through the end of September. In addition the Board has asked for a daily count of visitors and clients during the month of September. A sign-in sheet will be at the front door to record the number of people coming to the Pantry each day. The discussion about changing Pantry days of operation will continue at the October meeting.

A request has been made of the Pantry to sponsor the "Holiday Giving Program". In the past the Program has been sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance but in actuality has fallen on the shoulders of one member. It is time for this generous individual to get some help. The Pantry Board agrees that the "Holiday Giving Program" has been a blessing to the community. However there are concerns about the financial obligations tied to the Program. The Board appointed a sub-committee to explore funding possibilities. Community support for funding the Program will be critical in the decision for the Pantry to take over the Program. The Pantry can't afford to fund the Program. This issue will be an action item at the October meeting.

The "Summer Food for Families" program served 52 families (151 kids) over the summer.

EPCP will have a table at the COC Health and Education Fair on Saturday, September 24, 2016.

October is "Volunteer Recognition Month". EPCP would not exist without the 34 volunteers that help.

The Pantry is in need of a walk-in freezer, a cooling system for the storage room, sheets, pillow cases, blankets, men's jeans, pants hangers, and winter clothing.

The Care and Share Mobil Food Pantry will be on Friday, September 16th, starting at 10:00 a.m.

The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday, October 3, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Pantry.