

Futures Planning Team Meeting
11:30 am, October 18, 2007
Business and Community Services Building

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Facilitators LaDene Bowen, Don Chaplain and Bill Wood of the Institute for Decision Making (IDM), UNI; Waterloo Mayor Tim Hurley, citizen members David McCalley, Donna Harvey, Patricia Sass, Jeffrey Kutz, Kathy Flynn, Steve Abbott, Richard McAllister, Kathy Young, Tom Jennings, Steve Schmidt, Brian Schoon, Shaffer Ridgeway, Eileen Daley, Billie Bailey, Aric Schroeder and Tom Eachus, County Attorney Tom Ferguson, County IT Director Kim Veeder, County Supervisor Frank Magsamen, County Auditor Grant Veeder

ALSO PRESENT: Rick Smyre

Frank Magsamen passed around a list of team members and asked for accurate email addresses, since most communication for the team will be handled that way. He introduced Rick Smyre, who had given his futurist presentation the preceding evening. Smyre said he felt his presentation was unusually well-received here, and elaborated on some of his themes like keeping abreast of technological advancements and collaboration through physical and virtual networks.

Kathy Young asked about his work with other counties. Smyre said he usually has to deal with places that aren't wired for collaboration the way it appeared to him that Black Hawk County is, and that after a relatively painless planning stage, the difficult step is to keep momentum going into implementation, and to keep getting public input. He offered to connect us with people who are involved in this sort of thing.

Dave McCalley asked how planning for the future, which in Smyre's presentation focuses heavily on high-level new technology, would involved the developmentally disabled. The conversation broadened to include the elderly and others who frequently don't have advanced technological skills, as well as mentally ill individuals and groups recently arrived from other countries. Smyre said that the needs of such populations need to be addressed in the planning, and advised that face-to-face meetings be part of the process, utilizing recognized spokespersons from different groups, which can result in ideas being transmitted exponentially. LaDene Bowen said that multiple avenues will be used to garner input, including one-on-one meetings and county website postings. Smyre said that some of the new technology that he discussed will be able to assist populations with disabilities and other health problems.

Smyre showed some Power Point slides on Trends for the Future of Government, mentioning incentives to be a "green" community, wi-fi and wi-max infrastructures, biofuels and energy reduction, e-government, creating concepts and methods of sustainability, and elected officials as transformational capacity builders.

Bowen reviewed the tentative schedule of the planning team over the next several months, a diagram of which is included in the packets given to members. She and Bill Wood and Don Chaplain talked about the role of the team. They discussed November 27 as the next meeting date, but complications being noted, the decision was postponed.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:02 pm.

Grant Veeder, Recording Secretary