

**Entrepreneurship & Small Business  
Alliance Meeting  
September 15, 2009  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce**

**Attendees:** Tim Pett, John Willoughby, Stan Smith, Nick Ayon, Phyllis Robertson, Roger Douthett, Byron Watkins, Sherdeill Breathett, Rob Koger, Marcia Stevens, Terry Taylor, Marc Howell

**Small Business Member Needs and Findings**

Phyllis Roberts reported on the findings from the Chamber's Small Business Focus Groups.

- 80% of Chamber members are small businesses (1 – 100 employees)
- A lot of job creation comes from small businesses
- A Chamber priority is more focus on small business
- Purpose of the focus groups was to determine from members desired:
  - Services
  - Frequency of participation
  - Communications preferences
- 120 participants (9% rate)
- Findings:
  - Top priority needs
    - Networking
    - Business information and resource provider
    - Peer to peer roundtables
    - Greater involvement in and representation with government
    - Education

How can this alliance help the Chamber's efforts? After programming is determined this group can participate and assist in evaluating programs and help get people involved. The Chamber is more focused on those who already have a business rather than start-ups.

**Visioneering Updates**

*Birth-K* – The alliance developed a regional early childhood plan. As an alliance they applied for and received a \$1.1 million grant from the Kansas Children's Cabinet. They will apply for a continuation grant in 2010.

*Older Adult* - The MetLife Foundation hosted a regional "Livable Community" summit in July. Participants had an opportunity to apply for Jump Start Grants to continue the work from the conference. Fifteen grants were awarded for a total of \$15,500.

*YPW* – They have contracted with Next Generation Consulting to do a community handprint study. Results will be available in January 2010.

*GWEDC* – They are going to hire a consultant to assess our economic development strengths and weaknesses. This could point to our new economic prosperity.

*City to City Trip* – We are taking 60 business leaders to Chattanooga, TN in October. The focus is downtown revitalization and economic development.

*Downtown Revitalization* - Everyone is encouraged to attend the downtown master plan presentations. They are Sept 22 & 23 at 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Wichita Scottish Rite. More information is on the website [www.downtownwichita.org](http://www.downtownwichita.org).

*Recreation* - They launched their website [www.GoPlayKansas.com](http://www.GoPlayKansas.com). Currently only Sedgwick County parks and open spaces information is available. State information will soon be added. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are building their curriculum around the website. Also, dance and PE teachers state-wide are interested in how they can use the website.

<b>Alliance Next Steps</b>
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What should the work of this alliance be? Should it be a higher level than projects?

- Be a part of the economic development planning
- Lobby for an environment for entrepreneurs
- Help get the word out to the community about opportunities

Next meeting: Oct 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Chamber.