

We Graduate Another Strategic Foresight Cohort
APRIL 2022

Sixteen local leaders, representing a Catholic parish, the Greater Green Bay Chamber, the City of Green Bay, NEW North, nonprofits and a business group, made their final presentations to the Envision Board of Directors on April 8. Two new Envision board members also completed training along with Envision’s new Executive Director, Steve McCarthy.



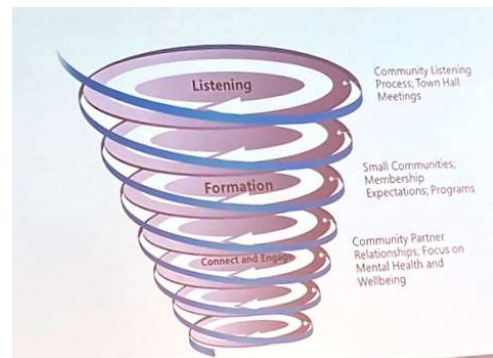
(Not pictured: Chris Davis, Green Bay Police Chief, and Kevin DeCleene, St. Norbert College Parish)

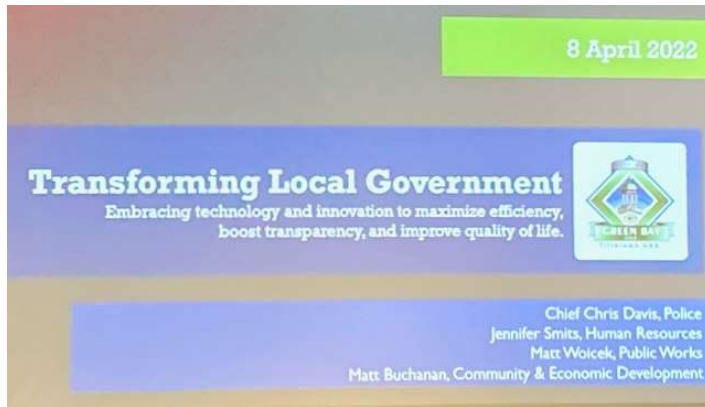


“This is our vibrant parish initiative.”

The **Resurrection Parish** team kicked off the day with its transformational view of a church that includes everyone and rejects no one. Deacon Kevin DeCleene, Pastor Tom Reynebeau, Faith Formation Coordinator Karolyn Efferson, and Tony Pichler,

Mission Outreach Coordinator, explained the spiral effect of listening, formation, and connection to build a culture of inclusivity. Together they laid out a ten-year plan for Resurrection that begins with town hall meetings, relies on blockchain to improve engagement, and ultimately helps faith communities across the nation and across the world achieve full inclusivity.





The City of Green Bay fielded a team of four, including the Police Chief, an Economic Development Specialist, an HR Generalist, and an Assistant City Engineer. Police Chief Chris Davis explained that expectations are now shifting away from “defund the police” and toward different police behavior. HR Generalist Jen Smits reported tracking signals related to the emerging tier of livable cities and ongoing hiring challenges related to local culture.



We heard about technology to make roadways safer, the likelihood of autonomous people movers, and creative uses of blockchain to accomplish basic city functions.



“We tend to get siloed in local government.”



Barb LaMue, President and CEO of **NEW North**, Inc., a business initiative covering 18 counties, focused her trend watching on broadband. She walked us through a ten-year scenario that imagines broadband ultimately serving 1.5 million households in the NEW North area, including rural communities.

“New technology also creates new barriers and inequalities.”



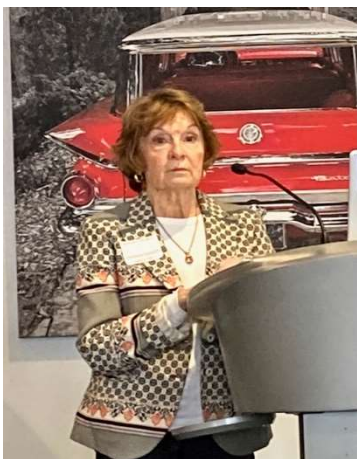
The Ecumenical Partnership for Housing was represented in the class by David Peitenpol and Crystal DeCleene. They reported on the signals they’re following, including the dawning of virtual mental health services, a decline in teen mental health, a growing housing crisis, and a steep decline in U.S. church membership. They see trends toward more generational poverty, lack of affordable housing, and increasing polarization, ultimately resulting in huge gaps between “haves” and “have nots.”





The group was introduced to the concept of a “community school” by Amanda Johnson of **Howe Community Resource Center**. Johnson provided a fascinating account of the Center’s immediate response to the demands of the Covid pandemic by virtue of being a responsive organization already attuned to meeting basic needs. “We were able to mobilize immediately,” she explained, “and we funded the postage and cost of paper and printing for teachers to mail lesson packets to their students.” Johnson’s sixteen-year transformative view of the Resource Center envisions a new community school on the east side in two years, an additional four federally funded community schools by 2026, eventual contributions from the Green Bay Packers, and all Green Bay public schools functioning as community schools by 2040.

“We need to steward the next generation of donors.”



Two new Envision board members reported on their experiences in the Strategic Foresight training. Beverly French has been focusing her trend watching and signals tracking on behalf of the **Weidner Center**. She walked the group through a fascinating vision of the growth and expansion of the Weider Center for the Performing Arts between now and 2035.

Rick Sense, Vice President of the **Greater Green Bay Chamber**, reported that he has already engaged his own multi-faceted team in the basics of STEEP: Society, Technology, Economics, Environment, and Politics. He hopes to engage a broader Chamber leadership team soon. Sense shared with his cohort the transformational future he envisions for the Chamber over the next six years, including housing legislation, immigration reform, worsening traffic and the expansion of I41 and I43, rising crime rate, and a statewide talent alliance.



Steve McCarthy, **Envision**'s inaugural Executive Director, has been auditing the course led by futurist Garry Golden. He offered a transformational view of Envision itself, beginning with a new strategic plan this year, a more diverse board of directors, and a special Signals Group established for people under the age of 40. He explored the possibility of adding futures studies to our local higher education curricula and, within five years, making it a part of the local public school curriculum. McCarthy envisions the local



celebration of World Futures Day growing exponentially, with Elon Musk booked as the keynote speaker by 2030. Ultimately, he said, Envision would take on a more supportive rather than promotional role, and would be able to retire as the local futuring promoter by 2034.



Perhaps the most unique presentation of the day was about the designation in Green Bay of the country's thirtieth National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) just beyond the mouth of the Fox River. Presented by Bob Rupp of **Leadership Resources of Wisconsin**, this aspirational discussion included some interesting signals: The economic impact of sports fishing in our area is tremendous; fish scale waste has great potential for re-engineering bone and other human body parts; Ducks Unlimited and the Audubon Society are great supporters of the NERR designation effort. Rupp anticipates the NERR will be established on Renard Island, which has been safely "capped" and could become a destination for retail, recreation, and education.



Between presentations, the event offered rich opportunities for networking in the Automobile Gallery.



Nicolet National Bank is the premier sponsor of Envision's Strategic Foresight workshops.