

Cornwall Agencies

*Community Priority Setting Exercise
September 12th, 2005*

Report

Final Report Date: October 2005

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Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Brief Review United Way of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
3. **Part I: Issues – Turbo Brainstorming**
 - 3.1. What are your communities' most pressing issues?
 - 3.2. What are the most important factors creating these issues?
4. **Part II: Discussion**
 - 4.1. What's working well
 - 4.2. What needs improvement
5. Dotmocracy regarding issues
6. Discussion Local vs. Regional
7. Discussion regarding sharing of info
8. Closing Remarks

3. Part 1: Issues

- 3.1. What are your communities' most pressing issues?
- 3.2. What are the important factors creating these issues?

3.1. Communities most pressing issues identified

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3.1.1. Youth | 3.1.6. Mental Health |
| 3.1.2. Education | 3.1.7. Child Abuse |
| 3.1.3. Unemployment | 3.1.8. Shelter |
| 3.1.4. Access to Services | 3.1.9. Diversity |
| 3.1.5. Poverty | 3.1.10. Understanding Vision Loss |

3.2. Important Factors Creating Issues

3.2.1. Youth

- No youth centers/no permanent location
- Lack of activities for youth/teens
- Increased Crime (youth)
- High % of high school drop-outs
- Lack of support
- No opportunities
- Bored
- Need to recreate youth from 12-18 yr range
- Community has nothing for youth to do
- Lack of creativity
- Youth do not want to go to Optimist park – no transport – city changed the location on the youth
- No social dances
- Many youth are out after midnight – where are the parents? No supervision
- Many 16-17 yrs – having babies. Kids raising kids
- No hands-on work at school – strictly brain work so some youth are driven out of school

3.2.2. Education

- Need appropriate trades training for non academic youth
- Literacy levels low
- Technical school “hands-on” learning for “hands on” people (adolescents, adults and kids)

3.2.3. Unemployment

- High unemployment = increased poverty
- Job Loss with more coming
- No Jobs

- Bad Economy
- Domino effect
- Recent plant closures
- Barriers to getting jobs ex: skill set, education
- Lack of public transport – accessibility to jobs
- Affects fundraising abilities of agencies
- Low education levels
- Kids leave for university and don't come back
- A high high-school drop out rate
- Factory only jobs, which drove our society – high wages but with closures cannot find the same high paying jobs - those companies were the legacy
- A lot of companies need training in the HR department – revisit hiring practices
- Guidance counselors guide students towards university not skill trades
- Need more mentoring with business people
- Too much subsidized employment
- Stigma with community

3.2.4. Access to Services

- Increase number of high risk “youth” - Seeing personality disorders who are on psychoactive drugs but no doctors, no accessible services – huge issue
- Waiting list – sometimes too late when served
- Information not in laymen terms
- Government cuts on social services so transfer to other services and burden other agencies
- Privacy laws becomes a barrier to work with other social services
- Lots of agencies overwhelmed
- Accessibility to information and physical transportation and mobility is suffering
- No doctors
- Long waiting lists
- Services need more integration
- Barriers to services
- Aging population
- Need better access to medical/clinical services for high-risk youth

3.2.5. Poverty

- High household bills versus income
- Increase gas prices
- Large number of single families
- Low income

3.2.6. Mental Health

- Stress
- Suicide
- Over-worked workers

3.2.7. Child Abuse

- Project truth

3.2.8. Shelter

- Lack of emergency housing/shelter
- No transitional housing for youth

3.2.9. Diversity

- Increasing culture diversity

3.2.10. Understanding Vision Loss

- Increase knowledge of sight loss – preconception “when you are blind – your blind” = this is wrong – only 10% legally blind – 90% - accused of faking – vision loss
- Lack of understanding – ex: aging population

4. Part 2: Activities/Services/Strategies/Resources:

- 4.1. What is working well in the community?
- 4.2. What do we need to improve or add that would make a difference?

4.1. What is working well in the community?

- 4.1.1. Skilled volunteer resources
- 4.1.2. Children’s ministry (ex: mental health, youth, justice is working well)
- 4.1.3. Early Years + SB6
- 4.1.4. Police Chief – youth centre initiative
- 4.1.5. Mental Health public health education
- 4.1.6. Abuse prevention RESPECTED – red cross awareness program for Grades 7-9
- 4.1.7. Work in small community – close knit
- 4.1.8. Ontario Disability Act – putting it all together – going well – shows community spirit – how quickly ODA went into place
- 4.1.9. Fundraising initiatives – this community donates!!
- 4.1.10. Wonderful volunteer base – many, many volunteers
- 4.1.11. Children Treatment Center – that there is such a place
- 4.1.12. Community does realize that there are needs and that we need to do something
- 4.1.13. Parks and pools program – having the supervision, incredible resources

4.2. What do we need to improve or add that would make a difference?

- 4.2.1. Programs that are working are very vulnerable with budget cuts
- 4.2.2. Community wants to be more secure
- 4.2.3. Need to sensitize the community as a social fiber – someone will listen, sensitize the local municipal level, social issues are not being discussed because they are issues, not tangible like a pool
- 4.2.4. Need a strategy – not cheap or quick to help fix some of these problems
- 4.2.5. No formal social planning – need structure
- 4.2.6. Public transportation needs to be improved

5. Ranking Of Issues

Achieved through the Dotmocracy process.

3.2.1.	Youth	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
3.2.2.	Education	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
3.2.3.	Unemployment	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
3.2.4.	Access services	✓✓✓✓✓
3.2.5.	Poverty	✓✓✓✓
3.2.6.	Mental Health	✓
3.2.7.	Child Abuse	✓
3.2.8.	Shelter	✓
3.2.9.	Diversity	
	Understanding	
3.2.10.	Vision Loss	

6. Discussion on Local vs. Regional

3.2.1.	Youth	Local
3.2.2.	Education	Local & Regional
3.2.3.	Unemployment	Local
3.2.4.	Access services	Local & Regional
3.2.5.	Poverty	Local
3.2.6.	Mental Health	Regional
3.2.7.	Child Abuse	Regional
3.2.8.	Shelter	Local
3.2.9.	Diversity	Local
3.2.10.	Vision Loss	Regional

The group agreed that most of the issues were local. The issues surrounding Education and Access to Services were considered to be both regional (S. D. & G.) and local issues. For the other issues of Mental Health, Child Abuse and Vision Loss, the group felt that it would be indicative of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

7. Addendum

A draft report was sent to all participants for further commenting. One change was made to the actual report.

Comment sent:

- I think it is important to note that although Youth is an issue, youth are also affected by most of the other issues.