

**HOUSING / SOCIAL SERVICES ROUNDTABLE
CLEARFIELD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
AUGUST 23, 2005**

ATTENDEES

Jodi Brennan, Director of Clearfield County Planning Office
Meredith Krejny, Planning Specialist of Clearfield County Planning Office
Robin Holt, Intern of Clearfield County Planning Office
Susan Reed, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Bonnie Floro, Executive Director of the Children's Aid Society
Audrey Bucher, Cen-Clear Child Services
Deacon Tony Indelicato, Good Samaritan Center
Rita Bass, Amon-Shimmel & Walsh
Judith Courson, MHMR
Carmela Burfield, MHMR
Chief Jeffrey Rhone, Clearfield Borough Police Chief
Nancy Lombardo, Clearfield County League on Social Services
Ellie Fenton, CPCA, Inc.
Mary Lou Wilson, United Way
Susan McLaughlin, Crossroads
Paul Dudak, Clearfield County Assistance Office
John Farr, Habitat for Humanity
John Kordish, Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging
Debbie Liadis, Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging
Sue Kordish, Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging
Rose Smith, DuBois Housing Authority
Sister Therese Dush, Young People Who Care
Sister Ruth, Young People Who Care
Rex Read, Clearfield County Commissioner

INTRODUCTIONS

After introducing one another, the question was asked, "who's missing from this roundtable that should be contacted?" Response from participants included Farmers Home-Rural Development and DRMC's free clinic on Long Avenue.

PURPOSE

County Planning Director Jodi Brennan explained that the input collected at today's roundtable would be used for the purpose of updating the county's comprehensive plan. She then briefly explained what a comprehensive plan was and the purpose it serves. She also stressed that they would accept input after the meeting as well and asked for participants to share any data sources or reports that would be useful in the development of this plan. The roundtable participants will be sent the final draft of this comprehensive plan section for final review and comment.

PROCESS

The Director also explained the process in which today's meeting would be run to obtain this input. The SWOT analysis, a commonly used planning process, would be utilized which simply

stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. These items would then be used to develop a list of goals.

After lengthy discussion, participants developed a list of the following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and goals. Participants were then given five stickers, which they used to vote for the top five goals they felt were the most important. Participants were allowed to use more than one sticker per goal if they so desired. These “votes” were then used to prioritize the goals.

STRENGTHS

- Computer database of (Info link) resource agencies
- 7 senior centers, education Programs
- 2 free medical clinics; DuBois & Frenchville
- Health & Human Services Council; Non profit
- Housing Loan Programs
- Clearfield county collaboration board
- Homeless shelters
- Housing task force
- Shelter & care grant program
- Child care programs, subsidies, mental health, for children
- Law enforcement co-operation
- Abundant senior housing choices
- Affordable housing, vouchers
- Abundance of social service programs
- Elderly transportation – Handicap

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of transportation for non elderly or handicapped high cost of transport
- Low cost housing / lots of services bring in problems from elsewhere
- Families requiring services locate here
- Large distances between people and services
- High gas prices make outreach difficult
- Tight budgets (need to do more with less)
- Lack of funding
- Lack of transitional mental health care
- Emergency funds for people who've exhausted other options
- Lack of accessible housing for people with disabilities
- Increase in serious crimes (many drug – related)
- Low average incomes
- High poverty rates (especially children)
- High unemployment
- Lack of job opportunities (especially for disabled)
- Homeless, unsafe housing
- Difficulty accessing services

OPPORTUNITIES

- Info link to become web-based (24/7 access)
- ATA currently underutilized
- Homeless survey to identify needs (September)
- Can involve county in collaboration efforts promotion
- Could better centralize information on services
- PSU – DuBois provides, pool of social workers
- LHUP – Clearfield, PSU – DuBois (opportunities for higher education)
- Information – sharing between agencies
- Furniture store – reuses old furniture, provides work skills for inmate labor, proceeds go to homeless shelter
- Payroll deductions for donations (i.e.; united way)
- Federal funding available (particularly for law enforcement)

THREATS

- Funding cuts, decreased donations
- Need to keep higher – income people in county
- Rising healthcare costs
- Rising energy costs
- Increasing crime
- Drug use, trafficking, other issues
- Proximity to I-80 brings problems
- Youth peer pressure
- Loss of school resource officer funding

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

Note: Participants combined several goals together since it seemed that they were interconnected with one another.

1. a. Economic resources needed to raise opportunity
b. Find ways to keep people here / draw new people to county
c. Develop & promote county's amenities; low cost, low crime, recreation & tourism, quality of life etc.
d. Living wage jobs
e. Encourage development of variety of housing options (41 votes for a-e)
2. a. Bridge gap in services
b. Centralized intake (17 votes for a-b)
3. Identify & prevent root problems (13 votes)
4. Need to be inclusive of smaller communities (9 votes)
5. Educate public about need for variety of housing options (4 votes)
6. Promote & protect assets (2 votes)
7. Promote municipal cooperation (1 vote)
7. Need more low income, non-elderly housing (1 vote)
8. Inter – agency collaboration on grant applications (0 votes)

Participants were informed that they would receive minutes from this roundtable with the results of the prioritization of goals in the near future. An invitation will follow for a second follow up

meeting to develop a plan of action to implement the top 5 goals established at today's roundtable. Participants were encouraged to provide additional goals.