

# **UW-Extension Lincoln County Community Partner Advisory Group (CPAG)**

May 1, 2008 Notes

The UW-Extension Lincoln County CPAG met on May 1 to discuss the following important community issues.

- Obtaining adequate health care
- Learning parenting skills

Eight (8) community stakeholders attended the meeting. They were split into two groups of four. Each stakeholder group thoroughly analyzed the issues based on the following questions.

- *What are the primary community needs related to this issue?*
- *If this issue was resolved/achieved, what would be the most desirable result? (i.e. What is the vision of success?)*
- *What agencies can work together or can strengthen their collaborations in the effort to fulfill needs surrounding this issue?*
- *What might UW-Extension's role be in collaboration with other organizations in helping to address this issue?*

Primary discussion points are listed below.

## **Learning Parenting Skills – Group A**

*What are the primary community needs related to this issue?*

- Not a lot of outside influences – young parents look to their parents as the expert – sometimes this is good and other times we repeat the same problems.
- With budget cuts FRC has been cut and decreased parenting classes
- Court ordered attendance
- Crisis calls vs. parenting education
- Parenting classes – haven't gone over in general – even with child care and food

- Parents would attend discipline issues
- Child birth classes – not ready for parenting classes – more interested in process surrounding birth
- Parenting is a tough job – not sure how people who do it alone do it
- Need to be “brick wall” – provide
- Discipline – people don’t understand what this means
- A negative perception if I go to a parenting class – not a good parent if I go to parenting class vs. I could learn something to help me as a parent.
- What if it’s not a need – devils’ advocate – if community doesn’t believe they need for parenting skills/classes then we aren’t going to make a progress
- Can’t force people to learn
- Question is “How to convince the community that no stigma in going to parenting classes and its important”?
- People that need this program, most aren’t going to come to parenting classes.
- Maybe a different focus is to focus in on the child and providing positive opportunities in their lives.

*If this issue was resolved/achieved, what would be the most desirable results? (i.e. What is the vision of success?)– protect the child*

- Go thru child = involvement /clubs/activities
- Don’t give on reaching adults but at same time shift some focus on building positive relationships with other adults
- Kids spend majority of day with other youth and very few adults and when they go home they are influenced by popular culture. In prior agrarian society, youth spent more time with adults working on farm, going places with adults, and being around adults
- Increase adult/child contact and relationship together
- Weren’t taught life skills in school – balancing checkbooks – if children don’t learn this in school, it’s important to learn this from adults
- Court ordered parenting classes are being provided through social services
- Children between birth to 3 years old – formed – how do we protect the child in those early stages?
- Research shows peer to peer is the most effective way

*What can we do?<sup>1</sup>*

- Internet has drawbacks but could it be used as a tool – create parent chat room

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<sup>1</sup> This particular question was discussed rather than what agencies could work together to find and implement solutions.

- Ones with highest needs are probably at home with their child and don't see resources – how do you get people to be curious?
- So damaged as an adult, they aren't capable of providing love and strong parents.
- What about required parenting classes in high school? Or life skills class that includes parenting, balancing checkbook, etc.
- Collaborate – guest teachers to teach life skills in the school
- Look at what other communities are doing and learn from their successes
- Parental leave

*What might UW-Extension's role be in collaboration with other organizations in helping to address this issue?*

- Extension could bring information to support need for life skills – parenting skills included class at high school
- First 6 months to a year certain things in a child's life need to have these things met.
- Example of a company that paid her to be at home one day a week and gave her lap top to do 3 – 4 hours of work a day
- Probably can't do a lot for homes in trouble beyond what we are, but life skills could pay off in the long run
- Parents, finance, careers, basic communication in healthy relationship ideas for life skills class
- Facilitate groups/agencies – proposal, collaborate to create curriculum and go to school to sell it (school board, administrators) why is it important/results from other programs and try to connect it to school/academic success.

### **Learning Parenting Skills – Group B**

*What are the primary community needs related to this issue?*

- Changes in society – parents have delegated it to the schools and start at a very early age to day care. Society change has let parents give up their responsibilities.
- Create an environment viewpoint that can't delegate parents to institutions. Not to say that all parents who take children to day care are doing this.
- Working parents.
- Problem is not both parents working but its more about expectations of role of parents

- Youth risk issues re: lack of parenting – How much peer time vs. time spent with other adults?
- More responsibilities on children at younger ages – is this part of parenting skills?
- If there's always been an expectation of being responsible – life expectations.
- Community role – helping to raise all children
- Is this a societal issue – have we lost respect for each other and therefore not willing to say anything to other peoples children
- It's important to remember that the majority of youth are good youth and act respectfully.

*If this issue was resolved/achieved, what would be the most desirable results? (i.e. What is the vision of success?)*

- Every Sunday – stores would be closed and we would have a community day/families together
- Families function well and therefore build sense of community.
- This is not voluntary – part of the education process at high school. School systems can do a lot in teaching parenting skills for future generation.
- Create family networks, boundaries set
- We all have our own network – usually for adults it's people they work with and probably don't live near them so youth have a different set of friends and I don't know them.
- Can we create neighborhood – sense of community – going to be different for rural families vs. town.
- Isolation – youth
- Parent/family/neighborhood – role modeling?

*What might UW-Extension's role be in collaboration with other organizations in helping to address this issue?*

- Programs that Extension already do
  - 4H
  - Parenting newsletter
- Lots of things offered but people aren't coming to them
- By missing opportunities to find interest groups – share common interest – create community within group. Build community by finding common interest share and build network through these interest groups.
- What about city planning – influence on creating neighborhoods/communities?

## **Obtaining Adequate Healthcare - Group A**

*What are the primary community needs related to this issue?*

- Too many clinics
- Access available for emergencies
- Payment issues
- Doctor's office won't take clients who have not health insurance (creates more demand for the ones that do accept uninsured)
- People with cash have no problem
- Lack knowledge about available programs
- If have knowledge of program, then may not completely understand it
- Hesitant [to seek payment help] because of pride

*If this issue was resolved/achieved, what would be the most desirable results? (i.e. What is the vision of success?)*

- Aware that health care is not a commodity
- Anyone showing up at a health care facility knows their choices for paying
- Uniform method of showing/[describing] potential paying methods
- Financial counseling available on health care issues
- We don't have a good handle on how many people are affected

*What agencies can work together or can strengthen their collaborations in the effort to fulfill needs surrounding this issue?*

- Hospitals/clinics
- Businesses/employers
- Government agencies
- Schools
- Churches
- Senior groups

*What might UW-Extension's role be in collaboration with other organizations in helping to address this issue?*

- Organizational convener
- Helping to create and disseminate materials
- Learning about target audience

## **Obtaining Adequate Healthcare - Group B**

*What are the primary community needs related to this issue?*

- Plenty of care around but cost is very high
- Small businesses and farms have difficult time getting insurance
- Shortage of doctors; especially OB and F.P.
- Fine with emergency (sic??)

*If this issue was resolved/achieved, what would be the most desirable results?  
(i.e. What is the vision of success?)*

- More health care professionals
- Shift from emergency care to proactive approach
- Plenty of knowledge about Badger Care but don't want to use
- National problem with local implementation

*What agencies can work together or can strengthen their collaborations in the effort to fulfill needs surrounding this issue?*

- Hospitals/clinics
- Insurance companies
- Government agencies

*What might UW-Extension's role be in collaboration with other organizations in helping to address this issue?*

- Education on how situation affects different sectors of the community (businesses, farms, hospitals, etc.)
- Facilitate/convene groups