

# Eau Claire County

Date: March 1, 2002

On February 17, 2002, at the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Inc., 22 Hmong community members and Pang Cher Vue met to discuss Hmong educational needs. Our target was 50, but only 22 participated. 12 out of 22 are male and the rest are female. At least 16 are parents and 5 are youth. Following is what we have learned from the discussion:

### **LEARN BEST:**

Parent:

- Learn by doing/seeing by demonstration – hands on
- Drawing
- Experiment - “monkeying around”
- Actually spelling the word out
- Study room
- Quite area outside home (atmosphere)
- Library
- Pattern (blueprint)
- Learn by example
- One to one

Youth:

- Hearing
- Note taking
- Quite environment
- Someone to guide

### **CHALLENGES**

- Language/environment (differences/barriers)
- Legal issue (disciplinary)
- Not enough time
- Time/money budget
- Planning management
- Children too “Americanized”
- General – TV, radio, entertainment (too many choices)
- High school dropouts
- Students don’t continue education after high school
- Gang issues

### **CHALLENGES**

- Generation/cultural communication gap
- Violence in the school
- Peer pressure
- Testing/study habits

“gang wannabes” – needs to be defined

- middle road (half/half)
- constantly changing values
- delinquency – skipping

“Americanized” – what does this mean?

- Divorced rate goes up

What has successfully worked in local Hmong community in the past to address these challenges?:

- mentors (small portion, would like to increase)

- Early Identification Program (Gear – up), pre-college programs (youth said)
- Community internship (parent said)
- ESL programs (parent said)
- Tutoring (parent said)
- Mediation (parent said)
- National Youth Sports Program
- Workshop
- Summer youth programs
- Family strengthening at DeLong/HMAA

CONCERN: Would like to see some results from these meetings

**OTHER CONCENRS:**

Father: male/female issues

Father: family issues (children, affairs)

Mother: Economic

Mother: Role change

(different opinion between husbands and wives)

Elderly:

Gamble/act: center for elderly – social/gathering

Education:

International exchange for youth

More parent participation (youth said)

School system

**SMALL BUSINESS:**

More laundry service, bank, and clothing services

**CHALLENGES:**

- Farmer’s market
  - Extend current farmer’s market hours
  - Worked hard, but end up throwing half of supplies away
  - Flea market
  - Owners contact area business to sell surplus to
  - Growers grow different crops or produce
- Lack of budget
- Cooking classes as demonstration during farmer’s market hours to promote Hmong produce

**HEALTH CARE:**

- Dentistry (Lack of providers to serve Hmong clients (MA card holders))
- Healthcare through work base on income/too much, not enough income for coverage (health insurance)

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

- For elderly
- Interpreters
- Hmong certified health care providers

**RACIAL ISSUES:****SECONDARY EDUCATION:**

A higher education institute like UWEC works with medical students on college preparation and entrance procedure,

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Psychologists, doctors with understanding of Hmong culture (healing practices)

**HMONG CENTER FOR YOUTH (CROSS-CULTURAL CENTER)****SENIOR CENTER FOR HMONG ELDERS****HMONG SOCIAL WORKERS IN EDUCATION SYSTEM TO SERVE AS ROLE MODELS****HIRE LOCAL GRADUATES (NOT OUTSIDERS) TO WORK IN SCHOOLS WHERE THEY GRADUATED FROM.****YOUTH DROP OUTS**

- Bi-lingual counselors
- Hmong counselors in Eau Claire School System

**OTHER EDUCATION TOPICS TO LEARN ABOUT**

- Non-credit classes at other topics i.e., budgeting, management
- English classes/grammar
- Money management/budgeting
- Accounting
- Legal system
- School district system
- Government system
- Electronic/computer classes
- Basic home maintenance
- Budget for Hmong professional development
- Technology with computer training

**BEST WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THESE TOPICS:**

- Hmong instructor
- Model, demonstration – hands on

**OTHER**

- Brick laying instruction
- Purpose of educational classes for experience or for certification

## Demographic Data

Each location coordinating facilitator is asked to provide us with the following demographics so we can roughly characterize the participants and compare the focus groups demographics of the different Hmong communities in the state.

### **Focus Group Demographics**

*Date of the Focus Group Meeting:*

*Site Location: Eau Claire (Mutual Assistance Association, Inc., in Eau Claire)*

*Facilitator: Ka Vang and Cara Yang*

*Number of participants at the site\_23 including Pang Cher Vue, Joe Bee Xiong, two facilitators above*

*Number of men\_11*

*Number of women\_7*

*Number of male youth \_\_\_2*

*Number of female youth \_\_\_3*

*Number of Hmong participants \_\_\_23*

*Number of other Southeast Asian \_\_\_None*

*Number of African American \_\_\_None*

*Number of Caucasian \_\_\_None*

*Number of Other \_\_\_None \_\_\_\_\_ describe:*

*Number of people under the age of 20 \_\_\_5*

*Number of people 20 to 30 \_\_\_5*

*Number of people 30 to 40 \_\_\_6*

*Number of people 40 to 55 \_\_\_5*

*Number of people 55 to 65 \_\_\_2*

*Number of people 65 and older \_\_\_\_\_*

*(Age to be determined by the best estimate by the facilitator)*