

JN
8/12/10

Who has gotten us where we are
How has it made a difference

Early years 1945-85-ish

"Society responsible for solving problems of poverty"

Became an island - not building collaboration

& partnerships as well as we could

Others did not own the problem - or their part

Last 25 years

"We can't do it alone"

It is a community concern, not "our" problem

Poverty is a community issue

Poverty impacts everyone

Poverty can happen to anyone

↳ hard on everyone, community

In order for people to become economically secure

there are structural issues - these will

always be low wages/entry level wages -

there will always be an unequal distribution
of wealth

⊗ Our society needs people to be able to
live at all income levels

"Eliminating poverty" - BH Goal - not an

expected end result

↳ Eliminating the conditions of poverty

"You will not be homeless"

"Your children will not be hungry"

As a community we must sustain people at
all income levels

What causes conditions of poverty
What eliminates " " "

"Political will" denies affordable housing

What can we bring to the table to
patron & educate about how collaboration
will be in the best interest in the
community while helping people avoid conditions
of poverty

We need to know what "we" can do together
Started taking on a more public profile

~~Addressing~~ Addressing causes, not situations, appealed
to the faith community

Operating like a business vs. "non-profit"
but without the benefit of "proceeds"
* without the same tools

We operate at a higher level than most
businesses

Inside perspective - what it takes to get
the work done can impress those on the outside

Understanding the comprehensive nature of
our programs

Example - Head Start → School district
Schools —

“We need them — they need us”

We don't have the ability to control what
employers pay

We do have the ability to understand
what is costs

What services can bridge the gap

What it takes to move people up the
economic ladder



Business decisions create community issues
Alternatives

They're not alone —

We don't blame anyone for “what is”

We need to develop a deeper understanding

of “what is” & how we can all
contribute to the solutions

So much to learn from those who aren't
getting services — why, impact

Recession vs ?

Point to the good news - "this is what is needed to achieve stability"

— Showcase these - arguments for building the kinds of services that alleviate conditions of poverty, improve community economics

State report - eviction rates in subsidized housing

↳ lowest

most stability in affordable houses

↳ supportive services helping to

improve this outcome

→ Supportive services impact on housing stability

People like to know what we are learning

"good things have made a difference"

"we're still working on the gap"

"not about the hole"

"where are we closing the gap"

Focus on what you are accomplishing,
not on what you aren't accomplishing

Progress that makes a difference

People want to be a part of the solution

ARRA - How are we going to capture the story of this initiative?

What currently resonates?
Call #'s

Grateful we are here & able to do something

How do you bring on board as advocates for solutions

What do we want people to do?

What is their match? - name



We want people to know that we are the place to call

- because they understand us
- appreciate us
- support us

Nearest & dearest

continuing to have a more intentional process for info gathering - what do they care about / correct them

Menu of real needs/opportunities

Seek advice as a way to connect
Have a hands on experience to connect
Host to bring others together

What adds value
What are our priorities

How do we get others to "work for us?"

Program sessions to learn what would
really make a difference

(*) Return to brown bag lunch forum
Cross-communication between programs

What are the gaps in delivering services
that clients need?

What would make the difference

Examples? Where have we achieved
creative solutions to the gaps?

Reservations/opportunities utilizing volunteers

Session w/ leadership group -
topic - what are our needs
what is coming down the road



Use of All Staff ???

→ explanation of community engagement
input - what people need

CA resource fair @ All Staff & Wellness Day
Show & tell

- We reason first from deeply held values.
- Values help answer: “Why does this matter to me/us?”
- We need to start with **VALUES**, not with the policy and program details.

- **Values:** Quality of life, opportunity and prosperity
- **Community:** Getting to “we” – not “them”
- **System Thinking:** Structural problems – structural answers
- **Government:** Our public toll for solutions
- **Aspiration:** Not unsolvable crisis