

End of Needs Assessment Approaches!!

Clark County's Partnership for Success Workgroups have been hard at work compiling data to inform their prioritization of ways to impact change in each of our six assessment areas.

When the workgroups first met, they determined which data would be optimal as they sought to better understand each of the 5 or 6 Target Impacts under each Assessment Area. Target Impacts are those aspects of a problem which a community can address to have a measurable impact on a particular issue.

Once the groups decided what data would be needed, those workgroup members with access to data and/or the time to collect data, started their work. In every workgroup, members discovered that the some data they expected to find did not exist or was very hard to compile in a meaningful way. The groups worked through these issues as best they could, often aided by our data management consultants, Community Research Partners.

Now, the data collection has ended, and CRP is compiling our local data with the state data they have collected. We have also compiled some County Profile data which may be helpful background information. The County Profile data will be sent to workgroup members on January 28, with the workgroup specific data to follow on Monday, January 31 so that each member can begin prioritization of the Target Impacts in each assessment area.

Each of the six workgroups will present their top two priorities to the Community Planning Team on February 15th. The Planning Team will then consider the presentations and supportive data, and refine the Priorities.

The CPT will then present these priorities to the Funders' Forum and Family and Children First Council on February 25th. Following this presentation, the Needs Assessment will be available to the public, and the workgroups will begin Resource Assessment for the highest priority Target Impacts.

All workgroup members: participate in prioritization!!!

If you have missed a few meetings, or if you felt like you weren't the right person to collect data — don't worry!! Now is the time to come back to the workgroup and lend your point of view to the prioritization process.

- Check the meeting dates listed to the right,
- Read "How Do We Get There From Here" (next page)

You're ready!!

Workgroup Prioritization Meetings

Public Health

February 3rd from 8:30 –10:30 AM
February 10th, 11:00 - Noon
Combined Health District on Home Road

Early Childhood Education

February 3rd from 10 - Noon
February 10th from 9:30 – 11:30, if needed,
Town and Country Center, on Van Buren

Vulnerable Adults and Families

February 3rd 3:00 – 5:00
Elderly United conference room

Housing and Neighborhoods

February 2nd 3:00 – 5:00
February 9th, 3:00 – 5:00
Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2nd floor

Youth and Families

Wednesday, February 2nd, 3:30 to 5:00
Tuesday February 8th, 3:30 to 5:00
Dept. of Jobs & Family Services, Lagonda Av

Economic Development

Thursday, February 3rd, from 10 – Noon
Springfield Foundation, 4 W. Main, Ste. 825.

Community Planning Team Meetings

Workgroups Present Priorities
February 15th, 8 AM—10 AM
Clark State Brinkman Ctr, 4th floor

Planning Team Discussion of Priorities
February 18th, 8 AM—10 AM
Clark State Brinkman Ctr, 4th floor

Presentation to Funders Forum and to
Family and Children First Council
February 25, 8 AM—10 AM
Clark State Brinkman Ctr, 4th floor

HOW DO WE GET THERE FROM HERE?

A brief guide to the **prioritization process** in Partnerships for Success.

PfS is a “data-informed” process for developing strategic initiatives to address community issues. Needs Assessment identifies the highest priority needs. Later, strategic initiatives will be developed for these high priority needs. As you set priorities, remember these points:

- Strategic planning is oriented toward finding workable, effective solutions.
- Recommendations from a strategic planning process may not be perfect, but can be realistically implemented and they present an acceptable solution to a problem.
- Prioritization in strategic planning determines where limited resources can best be invested.

In considering how to impact a problem, the PfS model borrows concepts used in guiding positive youth development. No matter which assessment area you are working in, if you keep an idealized vision of how things should be, you can then look at various factors as:

- A risk factor, something which adds risk to your efforts to reach that idealized state
- A protective factor, something which protects your efforts as you work to that idealized state,
- An asset, something which already exists and represents a part of that idealized state.

For a community to be most successful, it should be working to reduce risk factors, institute protective factors, and support and preserve assets all at the same time.

Now.....the work of prioritization begins:

Within a few days, each workgroup member will receive, via email*, background data on Clark County and Ohio, followed by a compilation of the data your workgroup or CRP has developed.

- *Most of this will be in the form of an Excel spreadsheet*
- *Many groups will have maps to consider*

Each workgroup member will also receive, via email*, a Word document entitled “Worksheet #1”.

- *You should print out a copy of this for each target impact your group has (typically 5 or 6)*

Review your data, but also consider what you know about the community.

- *Your decisions should be data-informed, not data-driven.*
- *You may want to consider the risk, protective factor, and asset framework to guide you.*

Develop your priorities, and document your thinking on Worksheet #1.

- *Documenting your thoughts will help you in the group discussion at your next meeting.*
- *Documenting your thoughts also provides an important record to others.*

** if you do not have email, contact your chairperson or Kim Fish to arrange hard-copy delivery*

Make sure you attend your February 2nd or 3rd Workgroup Meeting!!

- Your chairperson will guide you through consensus building around the priorities.
- You will have an opportunity to document your consensus and/or your dissent from the group’s priorities.
- Your group will prepare to present priorities to the Community Planning Team.

**Sample Worksheet #1: To be completed individually after you review compiled data.**

Worksheet #1

Analysis of Needs--Collected Data Sample

This worksheet will assist you in making sense of the data you have collected, and will help you with the group priority ranking exercise (worksheet #2).

Instructions: This worksheet is to be completed by each member individually before group discussion. For each targeted impact answer the following questions based on the needs data that is available to you. (That is, you will complete one worksheet for each Target Impact) After you answer the questions, assign an initial ranking (“1” is the highest priority ranking) based on your analysis of the needs data. The priority rankings should reflect how influential each targeted impact is in bringing about positive change in your assessment area.

Targeted Impact: _____ **Rank:** _____

Preliminary Success Measure(s): (success measures are measurable indicators) _____

1. In general, have the indicators for this targeted impact changed over time in a positive or negative direction (consider demographic changes in the population)?
2. How do local data compare to other county, state and/or national data? Is your community doing significantly better or worse than other areas based on your analysis of the data?
3. Are the data presenting an accurate and consistent picture of the state of your community related to this targeted impact (i.e., is this really an accurate portrayal of what is happening)? What might be affecting this?
4. What conclusions do you draw from your analysis of the data related to this targeted impact?
5. What other information do you need to judge the priority of this targeted impact in your community (be sure not to draw illogical conclusions about an increase/decrease and its connection to what you have done by way of intervention)?
6. What are the final conclusions that you draw about the data? This is the 1st major decision point in the PfS Model. *Where the team will need to reach consensus, consensus does not mean that everyone agrees. It means that all partners can live with and support the decision.*



**Clark County
Partnerships for Success**

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We're on the WEB!
www.Pfsacademy.org
Click "across Ohio"
Then click "Clark"

PfS Assessment Funding Partners

- Alcohol Drug Mental Health Board
- Center City Association
- City of Springfield
- Clark County Combined Health District
- Clark County Commission
- Clark County Dept. of Jobs and Family Services
- Clark County Family and Children First Council
- Della Selsor Trust
- Nehemiah Foundation
- Springfield Clark County Chamber of Commerce
- Springfield Foundation
- Turner Foundation
- United Way of Clark and Champaign Counties

July	August	Sept	October	Nov	Dec	January	Feb	March	April	May	June
Mobilize	Community		Needs	Assess-	ment	Ongoing	Here				
								Resource	Assessm't		
										Strategic	Initiative

This schematic shows the timeline for the first year of the PfS process. We are in the midst of the Needs Assessment Phase. By the end of February, 2005, the Needs Assessment will help our community select priority Target Impacts. These Target Impacts will enter the comprehensive Resource Assessment Phase, and drive the development of Strategic Initiatives.

Community Planning Team Prepares to Receive Prioritized Targeted Impacts

The Community Planning Team (CPT) of the Clark County PfS program met on January 14 to make preparations for receiving the prioritized Targeted Impacts from each workgroup in a special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 8 to 10 AM. That meeting, and a follow-up meeting three days later, will complete the Needs Assessment phase of the program.

CPT co-chairs Woody Cornette and Rob Baker welcomed the group and then Woody reviewed the process components and reminded CPT members of their responsibilities in key decision making roles. They will review written needs assessment priority reports and hear oral reports from workgroup representatives as they deliberate selection of community priorities.

On Feb. 25, the CPT will make its report of the Needs Assessment and Prioritization recommendations to the Funders' Forum and the Family and Children First Council. These groups will then give guidance for moving forward into the next phase, Resource Assessment. Resource Assessment will focus only on the highest priority Target

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Partnerships for Success is supported by several people who are willing to help you at almost any time.

If you have questions, call a member of the Core Team:

- Kim Fish, PfS Coordinator 525-6703
- Marilyn Demma, Family & Children First Council 327-1991
- Doug Lineberger, United Way 324-5551
- Robin A. Pfeil, Springfield Foundation 324-8773

Or contact Workgroup Chairs, via email:

- Woody Cornette: Woodycornette@ameritech.net
- Rob Baker: j baker@wittenberg.edu
- Jane Skogstrom: jskogstrom@ctcn.net
- Jeannine Fox: jfox@wittenberg.edu
- Shelia Hiddleson: shiddleson@ccchd.com
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