

UTILIZINGS OF THE LINKING NEIGHBORS WORKSHOP SERIES

IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY ASSETS

- Group of Hmong youth in South Sacramento
- Youth Village (program of Mutual Assistance Network of Del Paso Heights)
- Community Health Alliance youth in Dixieanne area

PURSuing A SINGLE ISSUE / OUTCOME

- Oak Park Drug Free Zone (Fighting prostitution)
- Community Health Alliance Youth in Dixieanne area (Block party planning)

IDENTIFYING GOALS FOR AN ORGANIZATION / COMMUNITY

- Greater Meadowview Area Coalition (GMAC)
- Dixieanne Area Neighborhood Association (DANA)
- Gardenland/Northgate Neighborhood Association (GNNA)
- Parent Led Assistance Network of Woodlake Elementary School (P.L.A.N.)
- Parent Led Assistance Network of Parkway Elementary School (P.L.A.N.)

North Sacramento/Del Paso Heights Community Health Alliance (CHA) Block Party

- * The Alliance helps neighbors of North Sacramento and Del Paso Heights to work together to educate, employ and guide teenagers toward becoming responsible, productive citizens.
- * The Alliance includes over 22 public, private and community-based organizations. They represent: residents, government, law enforcement, health care, schools, parks and recreation, housing, job development, neighborhood revitalization, family support services and the faith community.

Community Health Alliance Action Plan

- * Four youth organizers from the alliance, a parenting teen and a coordinator participated in WORKSHOPS tailored to organize a block party for the neighborhood surrounding the Community Health Alliance office. Each person was given an activity or topic to focus on:
 - * Coordinate roles of block party leaders and volunteers
 - * Resources, donations, food, supplies, budget
 - * Theme, activities, events and entertainment
 - * Create surveys, flyers, sign up sheets and block leader contacts
 - * Plan meetings to include: CHA, leaders, volunteers, others
 - * Advertise block party, promote CHA and educate about community health
- * As a result of a survey conducted prior to the block party, six block leaders were identified to coordinate:
 - * Plan meetings to: Set-up and Clean-up
 - * Plan meetings to: Theme Decorations
 - * Entertainment/Booths
 - * Pot Luck/Food
 - * Safety/Police
- * The block party was a great success and everyone felt a sense of community and fun! Around 150 people attended. There were programs for children and families. There was food and entertainment. Most importantly, neighbors met neighbors and they united to help clean up afterwards.

OAK PARK DRUG FREE ZONE

- * A group of concerned residents came together in Sacramento's Oak Park community to tackle problem of prostitution in their community.
- * They gathered data and found that 73% of the prostitution arrests in Sacramento County happened in their neighborhood. The group developed an action plan with specific strategies, actions and a timeline to achieve their overall goal of reducing prostitution. The action plan included several initiatives that the community wanted to have passed.
- * They have successfully taken one of these initiatives to the City Council, which has resulted in the council passing an ordinance to take action against individuals that solicit picking up prostitutes.

Highlights of activities the residents participated in

- * Neighborhood cleanups and patrols
- * Neighborhood watch
- * Letter writing campaigns
- * Neighborhood march
- * Working with landlords

Collaborations occurred amongst

- * Residents
- * Police department
- * Media
- * Businesses
- * City of Sacramento
- * Neighborhood associations
- * Politicians
- * County of Sacramento
- * Schools

Other goals that were of an interest to the group

- * Increase owner occupancy of homes
- * Decrease drug use and or drug selling
- * Decrease blight
- * Decrease boarded homes
- * Increase response and awareness to crimes

Dixieanne Area Neighborhood Association

- * Twelve newly elected D.A.N.A. board members came together to create an ACTION PLAN for their community to create a mission statement and identify goals and strengths of Dixieanne area.
- * A community retreat was coordinated for D.A.N.A. to present their action plan to the community to prioritize the action plan components for each identified committee (D.A.N.A. members, other Dixieanne residents, The City of Sacramento, SHRA and North Sacramento School District collaborated to make the retreat successful.)
- * Two D.A.N.A. board members volunteered and participated in conducting Linking Neighbors Workshops for a newly identified group in need of an action plan. It was a great success!! 😊
- * D.A.N.A. is currently in process of implementing the prioritized issues.

Highlights of Goals for D.A.N.A. Committees

Beautification

- R Landlord accountability
- R Increase home ownership

Events

- R Get to know the neighbors
- R Increase community events

Legal

- R Eliminate prostitution
- R Decrease traffic

Recreation

- R Creation of community center
- R Expand Dixieanne Park

Infrastructure

- R Alley issues
- R Street and Lighting

Membership

- R Increase D.A.N.A. membership
- R Increase local business membership

ship

AN EXAMPLE OF TAILORING THE LINKING NEIGHBORS WORKSHOPS TO CREATE YOUR OWN ACTION PLAN

FIRST WORKSHOP: MISSION, STRENGTHS & CHALLENGES

1. Expectations from the workshops (pre-workshop survey)
2. Create / revise Mission Statement
3. Strengths & assets of your organization & of your community
4. Challenges of your organization & of your community (Identify committees as needed using categories the brought up challenges fit in)
5. Tasks:
 - Identify more assets of your organization / your community
 - Obtain a contact name/address for the listed assets
 - Identify more challenges of your organization / your community

SECOND WORKSHOP: BRAINSTORM STRENGTHS, SET OUTCOMES AND GOALS FOR EACH CATEGORY

1. Brainstorm on strengths of each category / committee
2. Set outcomes for what you want to see happen in your community
3. Set goals for the identified outcomes
4. Tasks:
 - Identify more outcomes and goals under each category
 - Do research on the brought up outcomes and identify:
 - a. Organizations/people that can help you implement it (contact name and number)
 - b. Steps needed to be taken to implement your plan

THIRD WORKSHOP: SET OBJECTIVES

1. Set Objectives for the identified goals
2. Decide what information your organization needs to research about to reach your outcomes (Keep in mind strengths, resources and assets)
3. Tasks:
 - Think of more objectives to help reach your outcome
 - Think of information to gather to help reach your outcome

FOURTH WORKSHOP: COMPLETE THE ACTION PLAN AND DECIDE HOW TO IMPLEMENT ITS COMPONENTS

1. Finish up your action plan
2. Discuss baselines and indicators
3. Decide how you want to choose your priorities
4. Decide to whom you would like to present your action plan to
5. Decide how you want to present your plan to others
6. Discuss the next steps to implementing the action plan
7. CELEBRATE THE END OF YOUR WORKSHOP SERIES!! 😊

SAMPLE ACTION PLAN

Suggested phrases for the mission statement:

- Quality of life
- Better neighborhood
- Promote community involvement
- Promote quality economic development
- Healthy environment
- Bring community together
- Enhance educational opportunities
- Safe environment
- Encourage neighborhood-friendly businesses
- Business opportunity

PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT:

“The mission of ---- is to promote community involvement in activities that will enhance quality of life, make our neighborhood safer, increase educational opportunities, promote positive business development and encourage neighborhood beautification.”

Results from the following two questions:

“Why did you join “Group X”?” (Words in **bold** mentioned more than once)

- To make a difference
- To get running water in parks
- To do something for the community
- **Increase involvement**
- **Like the events**
- Learn new ways to help
- To help accomplish neighborhood tasks
- To improve the neighborhood
 - The association is good
- To help make changes
- To get kids involved
- To address neighborhood problems

“What do you hope to get out of the training?” (Words in **bold** mentioned more than once)

- Get something done – not just talk
- Learn to follow timelines and agendas in meetings
- Develop a community vision
- Develop a mission statement
- Get organized

ASSETS OF THE COMMUNITY AND OF “GROUP X”

Community Assets:

Natural assets:

- Fertile soil
- Gardens
- Wildlife
- Mature trees
- River
- Free water
- Central location

Location

- Freeway access
- Shopping
 - Grocery stores
- Close to arena
- Close to airport
- Close to medical facilities

Character of the community

- People
- Diversity
- Family-oriented
- Longevity of resident base
- Rural aesthetics

Recreation

- Youth sports
- Schools
 - Parks

Services/organizations

- Our organization
- a local non-profit organization
- Community Service Center
- Police services
- Flood protection

Asset People

- City Neighborhood Resource Coordinator
 - City Council Representative

Business

- Opportunities for development
- Extra big lots

“Group X’s” Assets:

- Political clout
- Group unity
- Longtime friendships
- Name recognition
- Enthusiasm
- Community connection

- Active members
 - Teamwork
- Commitment
- Mutual respect
 - Family involvement

Brainstorming Results of Challenges:

Challenges in the neighborhood	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up the main road • Blight • Drugs • Getting city services • Increase of police enough • Graffiti • RT - no garbage can • Dirty vacant lots • Business image • Business involvement in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive programs for kids of all ages • Mentoring programs for youth • Counseling programs for youth • Variety of youth programs - not just sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not having a community center close • Need of youth center • Public image • Recognition of "Group X" • Community involvement in improving community • Educating community on available city services
Challenges for "Group X"	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need of speed bumps on roads ---- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization • Follow timelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change school boundaries • Improve local parks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication skills • Membership

Possible Committees Identified as the Result of Categorizing the Above Challenges

- Beautification
- Public Relations (Includes Business)
- Infrastructure
- Resident Services
- Fundraising

Beautification Committee Action Plan

Concern #1

Outcome:

- By ---- beautify South end of boulevard X

Goal:

- Eliminate neighborhood blight

Objectives:

- Clean up old tires
- Get lidded cement garbage cans for bus stops
- Bus bench enclosures
- Establish relationship with code enforcement people
- Have Public Works keep weeds down
- Median strips landscaping
- Gain cooperation of property owners
- Have establishments transfer their dumpsters from the front to the back (if not, put fencing around them)

Concern #2:

Outcome:

- By ---- beautify boulevard X from location ---- to location ----

Goal:

- Promote aesthetic responsibility among area businesses

Objectives:

- Computer generated certification program
- Control business signage
- Create incentives for businesses
- Approach business owners
- Create partnerships
- Improve business lightings
- Better access to business entrances
- Get police input

Beautification Action Plan Continued...

Concern #3:

Outcome:

- By ---- build relationships with leaders of ---- neighborhoods

Goal:

- Network with other neighborhoods

Objectives:

- Attend each others' meetings
- Attend functions
- See if have similar goals to work on together- partnership
- Do joint projects
- Establish contact list

Concern #4:

Outcome:

- By ----, have ---- families participate in recycling

Goal:

- Educate neighbors about recycling options

Objectives:

- Newsletter
- Door-to-door campaign
- Flyers
- Coordinate with local schools
- Invite city staff to do a presentation
- Presentation at spring fair

Concern #5:

Outcome:

- By ----, clean up carwash in ---- ways

Goal:

- Improve the outlook of the carwash

Objectives:

- Adequate lighting
- Move dumpsters to the back (if not, put fencing around them)

Beautification Action Plan Continued...

Concern #6:

Outcome:

- By ---- improve uniform fencing on Boulevard X

Goal:

- Have uniform fencing on Boulevard X

Objectives:

- Contact city staff
- Neighborhood paint project (partner up with businesses)
- Choose on a color and a design for fencing to flow
- Contact Art-Council for help
- Donations from businesses

Concern #7:

Outcome:

- By ----, have building and business guidelines (design and review)

Goal:

- Improve appearance of business districts

Objectives:

- Improve frontage
- Get rid of “sandwich” signs
- Contact City/County to find out about regulations
- Have telephone polls free of signs
- Educate residents about policy of nuisance signage (Ex. Garage sell signs)
- Get the media involved
- Contact City-Arts council for a project

Public Relations Committee Action Plan

Concern #1:

Outcome:

- By ----, promote Group X in ---- ways

Goal:

- Promote Group X to the public

Objectives:

- Group X newsletter
- Article in local neighborhood journal
- Business cards
- Website - City
- Website - Group X's own
- Yearly calender for upcoming events
- Plan things on quarterly basis
- Logo, banner, brochure
- Create letter head
- Network with elected officials
- Use of Electric billboard
- Neighborhood Welcome Sign
 - Network with other organizations
- Have parties

Concern #2:

Outcome:

- Have ongoing relations with our representatives ---- times per year

Goal:

- Establish positive relationships with policy-makers

Objectives:

- Host presentaitons at meetings
- Communicate (Call / Write)
- Get involved in issues
- Take positions on issues

Infrastructure Committee Action Plan

Concern #1:

Outcome:

- Weeds in public areas and vacant lots will be gone by ----

Goal:

- Work in partnership with agencies to ensure proper upkeep and maintenance of neighborhood facilities

Objectives:

- Contact Public Works
- Contact the council member
- Contact code enforcement
- Prepare a list of facilities in need of repair
- Contact weed abatement
- Advertise the list in needed of repair

Concern #2:

Outcome:

- By ---- safety of elementary kids would be promoted by improving traffic conditions

Goal:

- Promote neighborhood safety

Objectives:

- Contact city engineer
- Flashing light by school for cars to slow down
- Petition city to have more traffic lights by school
- Add speed bumps to Avenue X

Concern #3:

Outcome:

- By ---- there will be traffic calming on local avenues and streets of need

Goal:

- Promote neighborhood safety

Objectives:

- Make a list of Avenues/Streets that need traffic calming
- Contact city engineer at public works

Infrastructure Committee Action Plan Continued...

Concern #4:

Outcome:

- By ---- running water will be available at Park X

Goal:

- Improve Park X to promote its use by the residents

Objectives:

- Contact City
- Contact public works
- Talk to council

Concern #5:

Outcome:

- By ---- the pool will be open at Park X

Goal:

- Increase youth use of Park X

Objectives:

- Repair Pool
- Maintain pool
- Get water in
- Contact officials

Concern #6:

Outcome:

- By ---- lights will be installed at Park X

Goal:

- Increase safety for residents who want to utilize the park at nights

Objectives:

- Contact city

Resident Services Committee Action Plan

Concern #1:

Outcome:

- By ---- there will be PO boxes at Shopping Center X

Goal:

- Offer service and convenience to the residents

Objectives:

- Contact post offices
- Contact local businesses
- Make space for annex

Concern #2:

Outcome:

- By ---- a neighborhood resource guide will be developed and distributed

Goal:

- Identify neighborhood resources

Concern #3:

Outcome:

- By ---- a medical facility will be constructed within boundaries of Group X

Goal:

- Promote health for residents
- Provide convenience for residents
- Encourage business development in community of Group X

Objectives:

- Find out who the contact people are

Finance Committee Action Plan

Concern #1:

Outcome:

- By ---- have ---- members of Group X in grant-writing skills

Goal:

- Develop an awareness of available funding sources

Objectives:

- Find grant-writing workshops
- Select amongst Group X who would want to attend these workshops
- Sign up the interested members
- Find out funding sources

Concern #2:

Outcome:

- Develop a finance committee by quarter ---- of year ----

Goal:

- Establish a fiscal infrastructure for Group X

Objectives:

- Set up finance committee