

# FOCUS GROUP WITH DHHS

*Wednesday, July 31, 2019*

## WHAT ARE YOUR ASPIRATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

- Connection to all Waupaca County communities, with each's unique resources
- Integration of special populations
- Parent-to-parent connection
- Support and resources—a location
- Inclusiveness/non-judgement
- Become one for all
- Celebrate uniqueness of everyone
- Sharing of resources and pooling of knowledge
- Health equity—individualized health plans/opportunities/goals
- More informal connections to support one another
- Events to bring people together
  - Connections—all-welcomed
  - Nonjudgmental
- All intertwined
- “Not those people”
- Natural supports for families
- WHAT

## WHAT CHALLENGES DO WE FACE IN REACHING THESE ASPIRATIONS?

- Culture disconnects
- Lack of safe space
- Lack of other's stories
- Resources
  - Transportation—community to community
  - Financial
- Us vs Them
- Isolation in personal way vs social media
- Awareness of programming
- Fear and anxiety of human interaction
- Poverty
- Perceived as unwelcome
- Negative prior experiences
- Money
- Get all involved
- Central volunteer clearing house for all activities

- Disparity can get worsened
- Courageous, outside-the-box leaders
- Status quo issue
- City vs. Chain dwellers
- Library kudos
  - Openness
  - Everyone welcome
  - Friendly interaction with people and the ability to not interact
  - Open-minded director
- Myths, perceptions, stigmas
- Encouragement of participation
  - Inclusiveness
  - Side childcare
- Infrastructure on bringing together leaders that see beyond own community
- Sharing resources
  - Time
  - Talent
  - Finances
- Mutual assistance and aid
- County-wide United Way

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY TO REACH THESE ASPIRATIONS?

- Central volunteer clearinghouse
- Street lights—more—encourage people to be outside and interact
- Ways to get people outside
- No-tolerance for exclusion
- Be open and not being afraid
- Opportunities available to get out with others
- Feeling safe and included talk to others
- Educate people to overcome myths and stigmas
- Open communication between community agencies/resources/people
- Breaking down silos
  - Taking turns
  - Value resources
  - Prioritize
  - Ask questions
  - Develop ideas
  - Sharing finances, time, talent
  - Work together
  - All generations work together
- Community conversations invested in community

- Remote sites—community sites
- Bringing each other to each other
- Bringing each other to site of resource
  - Take someone
  - Go with them
- Look at transportation
- People are so polarized—Ask “What would love do?”
- Consumer change
  - Encourage others to branch out
  - Go with/encourage
- Ride-share board
  - Ask for help
  - Give help
- Portray ourselves as non-judgmental
  - Be human

- Break stigma
- Empathy
- Community engagement
  - Be warm and welcoming
  - Reach out
  - Share all resources across county

## WHAT CAN THE LIBRARY DO?

- Ball Pit—ball with “tell me about...”, etc.
- Children’s library goes to people, making people more comfortable
- Fines are barriers
- “Humans of Waupaca” page
- People sharing stories
- Safe community space
- Library is a connection hub
- Ride-Share Board

# INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

## WHAT ARE YOUR ASPIRATIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

- Health equity
- All residents feel connected or support to and by their neighbors
- Natural supports for families
- Connections between all—Waupaca community have joint using of the Waupaca Way
- Everyone included, intertwined
  - No more “us vs them”
- Opportunities for community connection
- Events that bring people together
- Safe, supported, welcomed
- More services
  - AODA is booming now but connection to more informal groups
  - People to build up as supports to one another
- Inclusiveness
- Culture that inspires, allows for creativity
- Inclusion vs homogeneity—there is the impression that, in order to fit in, “you need to be like the rest of us”
  - Differences
  - Uniqueness is not celebrated, instead is ostracized

- Belonging is for everybody—ALL MEANS ALL!
- To become one for all
  - Sharing concerns
  - Sharing communication
  - Sharing hearts
- Parent-to-parent connection groups
- Sensory Day
- Tutoring (after school program) for students
- Evening activities—after working hours
- Family engagement activities
- Connection
- Activity
- Information
- Resources
- Youth with special needs integrated into peer groups (integration/inclusion)
- Parent education/support
- Everyone inclusive
- Knowledge of and share resources—all communities



## WHAT CHALLENGES DO WE FACE IN REACHING THESE ASPIRATIONS?

- Poverty
- Transportation
- Lack of resources and knowledge
- Disconnected culture
- Lack of space (safe)
- Lack of knowledge of other people's stories
- Leadership in fostering idea that together we can do have for each community and raise quality of life for everyone
- Some populations having limited resources—transportation
- Attitudes—"not us and them"
- Isolation—physical disconnect from one another
- Desire for authentic connection –be off social media
- Access/transportation and awareness
- Human interaction
- Break stigma
- Myths, perceptions, stigma
- The library makes good attempts to expand mindsets. How can we get the rest on board (Chamber, Rotary, etc.). We need courageous, outside-
- The-box leaders to override old school, "good ole boys" mentality
- Chain people and city dwellers not connected
- "Small town mentality" is an excuse
- Opportunities to feel "safe and connected"
- Street lights!!!
- An understanding of what is "going on" in our community/by all
- Being open and connected to the community/communities
- Transportation
- Participation—at the beginning
  - Marketing
  - Encouragement
- Transportation access
- Communicating information
- Transportation
- Lack of knowledge
- Perceived not welcoming
- Biases
- Different = strange, fear of differences
- Bad prior experiences

## WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY TO REACH THESE ASPIRATIONS?

- Education
- Resource allocation
- Jobs (long-term change)
- Community engagement
- Community events
- Community conversations/education
- Collaboration/time spent together
- Remote/community-based offices or meeting spaces for events
- Break down the silos to unite the whole county (develop...unreadable)
- Resources, access to resources
- Attitudes—"not us and them"
- More collaboration—bring each other to each other
- Common goals—"What would love do?"
- People are so polarized—don't see themselves as their neighbors
- Willingness to branch out/take risks/try new things even when aware of events—to actually attend
- Ride-share
- Break stigma
- Education of community members
- Safety
- A deliberate and public overhaul—no tolerance for exclusion policy
- More knowledge to the people—media/space for connections/time
- More transportation options
- Open communication
- Increase in volunteer transportation, carpooling, specialized programming, parent advocate/communicator
- Transportation
- Reaching out to folks
- Warm and welcoming to all
- Share in treasures
- Share info and resources
- \$\$ and time and people power