

Priority issues as determined at Community Meeting on December 13, 2006

Successful Children and Youth

- High school dropout rates – especially in Lynchburg.
- For youth going to work out of high school work readiness skills are lacking.
(change to: For youth going to work, work readiness skills are lacking).

Notes: Quality needs to be added to childcare slots in number 5.

Substance abuse and mental health issues contribute to youth challenges.

While the number of regional childcare slots is growing, the number of slots for infants is not meeting needs. Need quality childcare slots.

Strengthening Families and Individuals

- The high number and percentage of people living below the poverty line and all of the consequences that accompany poverty.
- Low wage jobs fail to provide a living wage for individuals and families – creating the working poor.

Notes: Where is information on the elderly population? This information will be included under Healthy and Independent individuals for Central Virginia.

The concentration of poverty and resulting problems in the region's cities.

For low income workers, child care and transportation continue to be a serious problem.

The large number and percentage of substandard houses.

Far too resources available for the prevention of individual and family problems.

The growing homeless population.

The numbers of new parents in need of parenting education and skills remains high.

Healthy and Independent Living

- The widely held suspicion that mental health is a major, yet unmeasured, problem within the region.
- The large number and percentage of people without health insurance.
(change to: without access to proper health care).
- The high number and rates of teen pregnancy.

Notes: Childhood obesity is a problem in our community.

Mental health issues are a problem in our community.

Private physicians limit the number of Medicaid patients but the Johnson Health Center and Health Department do provide services for individuals who have Medicaid.

Elderly population and issues that affect these individuals needs to be addressed.

Health problems that plague the nation as a whole are also prevalent in the region – smoking, untreated hypertension, obesity.

Surveys have shown that approximately 50% of citizens do not get routine dental care – the consequences are far reaching.

The growing numbers and percentage of elderly in the region will create new and increase existing problems such as elder abuse.

People in Crisis Receiving Help

- The absence of adequate mental health and substance abuse services for people of all ages but especially youth and the elderly.
- The high number and rates of reported child abuse and neglect.
 - This priority includes: Law enforcement officials are of the opinion that substance abuse is an underlying factor in a huge but unmeasured portion of the crimes and children and youth with both mental health and substance abuse issues – dual diagnosis – have no local treatment options.

Notes: Where does domestic violence fit in?

Voluntarism/Charity/Civic Engagement The declining amount of dollar contributions per capita in the region to United Way. (This needs to be rewritten to better reflect United Way of Central Virginia's contribution trend).

Notes: Individual does think the community should understand the importance of volunteers.

United Way should not make this focus area a priority for resource investment.

The Natural Environment

If had to choose one, Global warming is a worldwide threat- including our region. Can we become a “Green City” and a “Green Region”.

Notes: United Way should not make this focus area a priority for resource investment.

Should all United Way agencies have a recycling program?

Next Steps

- Needs Assessment Committee will meet to discuss these results and to develop strategies for moving forward.
- We will continue to involve community collaborators in the process.
- Challenges/questions to answer:
 - Where do we continue working or start to work?
 - How do we get organized? Who will step forward to assume leadership? (Strategic Plan recommends two people from United Way Member agencies that have programs in the priority area to facilitate the development of community outcomes).
 - Who needs to come to the table and how do we get them there?