# **VANCOUVER FORUM - 1/9/2024**

# TABLE 1 + 2 (Merged) – Notetaker: Jackie St. Louis

- What do you think about the information provided tonight? IS there anything significant or interesting?
  - Shocked by the fact that people not knowing was the number one reason why people were not accessing services.
  - "I didn't know the disparity."
  - Surprised that there isn't more demand for legal services
  - Surprised that housing was #1
  - o Recommendation for a "tree of life/Web of knowledge."
  - "Why aren't the city, county, nonprofits and corporations doing nothing?"
- What do you think are the causes of Poverty in our Community?
  - Racism and discrimination
  - Greed
    - "We are not serving the people that need to be served because we are making money for ourselves."
  - Lack of education (not just formal)
    - "Where is the place where people can learn about this stuff?"
  - Spoke to the challenges faced by persons of color that have had traumatic experiences with systems (i.e., schools) in the early stages of their lives
  - Competition between service providers, nonprofits and governmental organizations
  - "The community is not being heard."
  - Recommendation for grassroots/community action to address their issues
  - o The voice of impacted people is not being centered and heard
  - Cost of living is one of the causes of poverty
  - High rental costs
  - Inflation
  - o "People are ashamed they got that low, and do not want people judging them."
  - Politicians and elected officials that are inept
- What kinds of programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?
  - Financial education "all across the board"
  - "Actually, taking into consideration decent working wages/minimum wage vs. cost of living so people aren't going into debt every month just to live."
  - "You can't budget if you don't have adequate funds."
    - "My budget is literally telling me; I am going in debt to live."
  - "We have a lot of really good programs here in Clark County, such as food pantries."
  - Organically grown foods to replace pantries.
    - "Prisoners can grow the organic food."
  - Good Programs
    - Clark County Food Bank
    - Northwest Victory Project
    - Kindred Homestead

- "Some of the mental health and behavioral health issues are because we are not getting enough nutrition from food."
- Access to technology phones, tablets, computers, etc.
- Employment acquisition for jobs that pay a living wage
- o Programs to reduce recidivism rates

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- Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided tonight?
  - People's inability to save money for emergencies
  - That poor people are "going into debt just to live."
  - o "We are by no means lazy people."
  - How difficult it was to find/access the survey
  - o Provide information about what services are available
  - "There should be rental unions, even in apartment complexes."
  - "There needs to be a resource team researching what is happening around the world and is working."
  - How to get the information to the people that are not aware of it
  - "A roundtable where we all sit at the table and bring all our gifts, all our things."
  - "Why can't I have a better life today?"
    - Being held to her past (Credit score, which is a construct)
- General Notes
  - Surprise about the number of people that do not know about services
  - o "The community was better 10 years ago than it is today."

# TABLE 3 – Notetaker: Rebecca Royce

Question 1. What do you think about when you see the information provided tonight? Is there anything significant or interesting?

- All information is interesting. Full picture about what services are needed. Statistical information.
- Information not surprising, but data is important
- Not surprising. Except the low response about cultural barrier and language supports needed. More Pacific Islander languages: Kosraean, Marshallese.
- Community is stereotyping.
- A lot the information wasn't new, but was helpful to see numbers

# Question 2. What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?

- Work with immigrants; when they arrive struggle to get worker authorization and don't have funds to survive and hard to or can't get service.
- Pacific Islander community getting citizenship or worker documentation to be able to work.
- Getting paid enough to pay for housing and services.
- Pacific Islander community typically having larger, multi generational families make it difficult to earn enough for services/housing – childcare, elder care, etc.

- Language barrier for services; cultural competency
- Chuukese translation not accurate
- Childcare costs. Have to be low enough for Head Start, otherwise limited supports, but can't afford childcare
- Transportation issues: low credit to finance cars; gas vouchers
- Financial literacy/budgeting classes
- How to access programs, fill out applications for services

# Question 3. What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?

- Financial literacy/budgeting classes
- More housing assistance
- Employment programs
- Transition of educational attainment from previous country to the US
- More skill/trade education
- More childcare
- More language classes; streamlined access; more types of languages; online language classes; more at your own pace classes
- Daycare at companies

# Question 4. Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided tonight?

- Getting the survey out to more marginalized communities
- Conversations to discuss working towards a solution
- Not throwing all communities of color into one "solution" or category; each group has it's own barriers, needs and areas they want to focus on
- Access to BH and physical services especially services provided in native language
- Having to rely on children to translate, especially for situations that are not appropriate for children
- Many immigrant/non-english speaking people not feeling comfortable going to get services because of language barriers
- Having to pay for doctor visits, wasting time, having to reschedule because doctor wasn't able to translate

### TABLE 4 - Notetaker: Luis Nunez

## Question 1

- Main barriers of not knowing where to go for employment/education services. Outreach efforts haven't been successful possibly? The data is showing that people still don't know where to go. What could be preventing that?
- What is keeping people living outside? What is stopping the programs from accomplishing their intent?
- What about all encompassing services that helps all the needs of individuals experiencing living outside?

- Spending more in housing should be a priority.
- Needing more childcare services "if we have childcare, more people would go to work"
- The participants were all in consensus that needing 30 an hour to afford a good living was shocking.

#### Question 2

- Childcare services are not affordable
- Not enough employment opportunities
- Imbalance of the economy
- Lack of opportunities to develop skills and talents work
- Compassion is low, people deserve to be treated with dignity
- Housing prices keep going up, young adults go to school and then come out and can't afford housing. Students that have to move away is hard to keep the support net from their families.
- Young adults do not have the same support system, sometimes get kicked out at 18 because that is the rule their parents set.
- "If you work, then you need childcare; if you need childcare, you need to have a good paying job"
- Having a community is extremely important, have a support system can make a good impact.
  - Having a good relationship with your community would help keep people safe.
- Not having support to start businesses.
- Language can be a barrier, culturally specific assistance.
- Legal status of immigrants can have an impact as well.
- Not knowing how to use technology.
- Many people do not have education that is required to get jobs.
- There are rules at some of the shelters that do not work for everyone.

# Questions 3/4

- Does not know where to go to get a job something that would help someone get a job.
- Financial support and education support
- Maybe credit card payment help
- Programs for small business support start up assistance, education of best practices
- Mentals health services for the whole community "Not only for English speakers" "Sometimes
  when you don't feel mentally healthy, you start to struggle on all aspects of life"
- Investment education How to plan budgets, how to have a savings account, education around emergency funds.
- Senior citizens services
- More jobs so people can find one that would allow them to support themselves and families
- Financing assistance from programs should be temporary, should be a goal to have a person stable and off the assistance once they are on their feet.

## TABLE 5 - Notetaker: Laura Ellsworth

# Question 1

- 1<sup>st</sup> slide shown re: poverty & homelessness
- Discussed Chuukese culture and cultural reasons for higher likelihood of poverty and homelessness
- Isolation from "tribes", families, community
- Continual get "on the list"
- #1 barrier is not knowing where to go

# Question 2

- Systemic inequities
- Displacement
- Rent, childcare
- One thing that causes disruption and then stuck; snowballs, interdependencies
- Housing should be top priority
- Lack of a safety net
- Individualistic society
- Being born into poverty
- Barrier to good paying jobs
- Barriers to education
- Rent burdened
- HTheres "operating hours" to being homeless

# Question 3

- Workforce training
- Daytime services
- Skills based training; real life skills
- Central place to access communications, restrooms
- Childcare
- Parents too busy trying to survive to teach kids
- Reliable, accessible transportation

# Question 4

Responsible climate change solutions that don't disproportionally impact people in poverty who
cant afford the latest and greatest gadget or invention

# TABLE 6 - Notetaker: Kayla Williams

# Question 1:

- It is not clear to households or to many agencies where to find help or how to get help.
- Need collectivism in response to low income / housing concerns. Individualism is alive in our culture but the nature of work requires a collectivist approach.

- Technology is a barrier for many low-income households. Language is also a barrier.
- Education costs are rising but livable wages required degree or technical skill.
- Fear of service utilization (public perspective, opinions)

# Question 2:

- Education is out of reach for many. It also does not adequately prepare low income households transitioning from HS to the 'real world.'
- Mental health barriers and gender differences.
- Where is the regulation on rent increases, inflation, general cost of living.
- Outdated policies, language, approach to services.

#### Question 3:

- Policy change, ability to advocate and lobby together.
- Integration, education, medical services.
- We need to model the behaviors internally (we expect agencies to understand integration and collaboration but internally our departments don't even have a full understanding of the programs and processes).
- Child care, gathering spaces for the community.

# Question 4:

- Mobility access for those with disabilities.
- Active transport.
- Dental was surprising, there is a major need here.
  - o Veterans don't get dental insurance!?

# **VIRTUAL FORUM - 1/23/2024**

## **GROUP 1 – Notetaker: Cherise Billington**

### Question 1:

- Number of hours and the amount of income required to rent. The statistics of what our young
  adults must do just to rent a 1 bedroom was shocking. This led to the question, are we laying the
  groundwork for our youth to be successful or are we setting them up for criminal activity just to
  make ends meet.
- Most people do not know where to go.
- Is 211 the best way to connect people to resources? What, if any data comes from 211 that can be used to help determine how to address the most requested need resource.

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## Question 2:

Wage stagnation and cost of education. Cost of living, most people do not know how to survive
on the income they receive. This also raises awareness that many people do not know how to
budget, stretch a dollar, or know how to stretch a meal.

- Increased stress plays a role in how people ability to deal with circumstances. Mental health, hunger, and lack of housing are the main points of stress.
- Compounding stress of multiple layers of needs not being met keep people in a poverty cycle.

## Question 3:

- Food deserts are a growing problem in Clark County. Ow can we get more food into neighborhoods that have many barriers to access food banks and other food resources.
- Housing programs help stabilize individuals and families; we need more access to affordable housing.
- Historical/War trauma is a real, if the parents have dealt with it, so do their children. Mental health is an area where expansion of meeting needs is high.
- Prevention in schools and youth programs.
- Faith based community support.

#### Question 4:

- Eastern European and new arrivals from Ukraine. Clark county is one of the top counties in the nation that accepts refugees from Ukraine. Does the data reflect the influx of new arrivals?
- In language support is a high need.
- What are the needs of the providers? What can we learn from what they see directly dealing with the impoverished communities.
- Engagement from the community
- Transportation solutions

## **GROUP 2 - Notetaker: Lauren Hendrickson**

Q1: What do you think about when you see the information provided today? Is there anything significant or interesting?

- Surprised that dental nudged out housing in terms of important needs. They were close (within 1%) but I was surprised to see that was such a prominent issue.
- \$30 wage to afford a 1-bedroom house in CC was shocking
- How discouraging it can be for folk to move out of poverty level with price of livability.
- Strong points of the presentation: good overview of representation of people taking the survey, liked the general demographics section, data was very thorough.
- Would like to understand more about Medicaid reimbursement and how that is impacting people in poverty locally.
- Surprising: almost every time, the highest barrier was not knowing where to go and how to access services. How many people don't know about 211 or other resources that help with navigating resources.

Q2: What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?

- Lack of childcare. A parent has to leave the workforce OR you're a single parents and you have to depend on TANF or SSI (if you're lucky)
- Cost of childcare and making it as a single parent

- Childcare gives people access to be able to work
- Strong correlation to race and wages and a huge issue with people getting livable wages
- The biggest thing is stagnant wages. Someone needs to work 96 hours to afford a two bedroom apt?
- Lack of affordable housing
- What does it cost for a family of four to have the basics—mortgage or rent, childcare and insurance, car payment. What is the livable wage necessary to sustain those basic expenses?
- Housing market out of balance—so expensive to rent and impossible to buy.

Q3: What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?

- To address childcare burden= cap on the % of your income that you are paying for childcare.
   7% of income is recommended as the cap for childcare expenses. Government stipends would cover the rest.
- Childcare tax subsidies helps sustain families throughout the year.
- Medical insurance co-pays and co insurances should go away because it discourages people from seeing the doctor and ends up costing more in the future.
- Access to higher education and trade/hands-on vocational programs to get people into better paying jobs.
- Having resources/courses for people that are coming into the states or who are having issues building credit and managing credit. Ideas about credit vary across cultures—so helping people integrate into the system here and how important credit
- Financial education—credit repair element
- Rent stabilization?
- Home sharing programs—helps home owners take on a renter and stabilize their own financial situation and helps renters get out of the market and into stable housing.
- More affordable housing units—

Q4: Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided today?

- Medicaid reimbursement and access and how that's affecting access to care for people in poverty
- The amount of money a family has to make (ie under 2k a month) to qualify for subsidies. 27k a year for a family of four is not reasonable to qualify for services—the income threshold should be higher.
- Something I would find help when looking at who falls below the poverty line is education level—filtering poverty stats by educational attainment would be helpful
- Transportation: over 1k per month to have your own vehicle, but public transportation is not reliable especially if you're trying to get kids to childcare and then get to your own job—this was a big eye opener, not necessarily something that was missing

## **GROUP 3 - Notetaker: Jackie St. Louis**

Question 1. What do you think about when you see the information provided today? Is there anything significant or interesting?

- "I was quite surprised that food insecurity rated as high as it did given some of the programs that are available."
- "A prosperous as we are, it is surprising that this is such a huge need."
- Surprised about the food insecurity situation.
- Questions as to why some people are missing out on being served.
- "I al so appreciated them saying that some of this information was available in Chinese. There is a big Chuukese population in Vancouver, so I was happy that this information was available to them."
- Surprise at how severe the housing crisis has gotten.
- Concern that wage increases are not matching up with increasing cost of housing.
- Not surprised by the cost-of-living concerns and how they were exacerbated by COVID.
- Question as to whether there is a way for people working in community to find out more about available programs such as a resource list or guide.

# Question 2. What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?

- No great answer to this question because there are so many issues.
- "The cost of childcare."
- People are working and poor.
- "There are so many factors that contribute to it."
- Difficult for immigrants and refugees who struggle to navigate the system in the US.
- Cultural differences
- Was surprised by the responses and believes that there is "a prideful component about all of these services."
  - Believes that the onus should be on the agencies to "know their audience" and adapt their services to be culturally informed and responsive.
  - o "It needs to come from the agency and making sure that they have people on board that can speak to those individuals."
    - Such as refugees and immigrants
- "Our work has been to build rapport with people n the area and we are doing that by partnering with local churches."
- "The common thread with all the reasons for poverty, is trust. You are baring your soul when you go to nonprofits, only to be told that there is a two-year waiting list to get on a program."
- Programs and services are not results-oriented.
- Not listening to people to understand what they need.
- Lack of understanding about the real root of the problem
  - o Too many Band-Aid solutions such as rent assistance or food services.

# Question 3. What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?

- Financial literacy
- Credit repair services
- "It gets to be a daunting task to know where to start and how to help, from a provider standpoint. Community building needs to be the first and foremost part of it."
- Providers need to collaborate.

- More treatment and detox options
- Need to be able to make less of a barrier to get into homes and they need to be more affordable.
- Move to ownership to free up some of the rental units.
- Services to remove barriers.

# Question 4. Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided today?

- "The only other thing I could think of is the divide between homeowners and renters and the
  natural assumption that renters would like to become homeowners. This is something that
  needs to be researched."
  - "Ask if homeownership is on their radar and if it is not then whether it is because they do not think it is possible."

## GROUP 4 - Notetaker: Janet Snook

- 1. What do you think about when you see the information provided today? Is there anything significant or interesting?
  - What can we do to eliminate the poverty and other things that were discussed?
  - Clients with disabilities and mental health: can we do anything to help them out?
  - How do we get information to the people who do not know how to find the resources?
  - Transportation particularly interesting. How to get maps/information so people know where to go for public transportation. An improved bus system map?
  - Poverty level and how much people need to make is not a pretty picture.
- 2. What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?
  - Wages are too low.
  - Cost of housing is too high.
  - People are not making enough money and do not have anything to work with.
  - Disproportionate wages to housing.
  - Rent is too high for people to start businesses. Property costs are too high.
  - Widow can't afford a place of her own.
  - Immigrants and refugees are having a particularly hard time.
  - Need for affordable housing and interpretation services.
- 3. What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?
  - Non-profits that work in financial services to educate people how money works is often key.
  - Language services and the ability to learn English for immigrants.
  - Professional training (free). People from other countries often expect it to be free, so need financial support for training.
  - Where to find money, since majority of income goes to housing.
  - Post-secondary education costs have skyrocketed, and is causing massive debt for many.
  - FPL is defined. Many people are just out of reach of it, and no assistance is available for them.
- 4. Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided today?
  - Intersectionality aspect is challenging. Zip code, unsheltered, does not have housing, all speak to poverty. Only speaking of race, gender, age, is not enough. For example, person with language

barrier cannot start a business because they do not have the same experiences as someone more proficient.

• Value in individual stories, so need space on the survey for more personal information.

## **GROUP 5 – Notetaker: Amy Roark**

# **GROUP 6 – Notetaker: Rebecca Royce**

Question 1. What do you think about when you see the information provided tonight? Is there anything significant or interesting?

- It's all significant. Not new data due to the work I do in the community.
- A lot of room for growth to help our community members.
- Needs assessments are important and pay attention to the information and the disparities.
- Survey didn't ask about small businesses. Small businesses experienced significant impacts due to COVID.
- Survey has great questions and good data was collected. Work with a lot of small businesses in Clark County and a lot of immigrant communities.
- Appreciate the work DCS is doing to reach out and understand the needs and then work towards meeting those needs.
- Work with a lot of patients in physical healthcare as resource specialist and work with many
  people who are homeless/sleeping with car. Hear a lot of struggles to get into shelter and
  especially if have pets. Health risks increase when houseless and trying to work with patients to
  maintain prescriptions.
- Want to see more funding go to shelter and respite care for people exiting healthcare systems.

# Question 2. What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?

- Costs are increasing; housing, food, etc leading to increased homelessness. For those on a limited budget the income is not increasing fast enough, there aren't enough resources or higher paying jobs to afford higher housing costs.
- Higher jobs typically require higher education, higher education is expensive.
- Injury and chronic illness leads to not being able to work.

# Question 3. What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?

- Teaching about credit cards; payments and interest rates, and effects on credit score
- Financial/budgeting classes; personal budgeting and investing/saving; especially to young people
- Education about financial assistance in healthcare; going to free clinic vs going to ER; how to apply for charity care through mainstream healthcare systems (goes up to 300% FPL)
- Healthcare is expensive and hard to navigate; education on what the costs are and what they
  mean

- Assistance with rent and utilities
- Transportation and gas stipends/vouchers both medical and employment related
- EBT benefits for *nutritional* food. Difference between access to food vs access to healthy food.
- More access to food banks/pantries to go more often.
- Program for general help; navigate services, understand what the needs are; some type of assessment to determine needs and gaps on the family level. Program would identify the causes on the family level to help teach family so don't end up in the situation again.
- Education about medication assistance programs and all types of other services food, rent, utility, clothing, etc

Question 4. Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided tonight?

- Want to see an action plan for programs based on needs identified.
- MESO has classes for budgeting personal and businesses. MESOPDX.org
- Add resource link to CNA.

# **CAMAS FORUM - 1/25/2024**

Question 1. What do you think about when you see the information provided today? Is there anything significant or interesting?

- Always helpful to see the bigger picture.
- The information is affirming.
- "There were a couple of Aha's."
- Having this type of data helps to show where you can get the "bigger bang for your buck."
- "Housing did not surprise m."
- "I was surprised that dental was as high as it was."
- Financial literacy, money management, getting out of debt was something that was new.
  - o "I'm not certain where those services are available."
- "I have a fair amount of curiosity about transportation, and I think a lot about that."
- Question and interest about what else will be impacted/resolved if we are to address transportation.
- Surprised by the sense of confusion that respondents have about where to go for services, save for housing.
  - "This shows the lack of housing options."
- Curiosity about what "I don't know where to go means."
  - That they actually do not know where to go or that the places where they have been to aren't able to provide the help that is needed
- Underscored the importance of "no wrong door."
- "From my perspective, each service provider is doing their best but there are not adequate resources."
- The childcare costs presented in the numbers/data seem lower than the actual cost of childcare.
- Questions about how to reduce the costs of childcare to alleviate the burden off parents and caregivers while also advocating for childcare workers to be paid a living wage.
- Does the data take into account differences by city/community within Clark County?
  - Would be interested to see how things look different as broken down by zip code

# Question 2. What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?

- "Its such a great place to live but it just costs a lot."
- "Places that are more desirable to live have higher housing costs."
- "The rising costs of everything.:
- "If you have to live 40 miles away from where your job is because of housing, you create all kinds
  of havoc."
- The cost of childcare, food and low -paying jobs
- Inflation and many jobs aren't keeping pace.
- Elderly with fixed income and young people with families are the most impacted.
- The minimum wage is not a living wage.
- Income inequality continues to get worse.
- "Capitalism is the cause of poverty."
  - o "Unchecked capitalism."
- Racial inequalities are a piece of this as well
  - "That needs to be corrected."

# Question 3. What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?

- Affordable housing
  - o "A safe, stable house is the foundation."
- Some programs are focused on helping persons earlier in their journey such that they stay out of crisis.
- It has to be age appropriate because the needs of the elderly and young are different.
- Workforce support
- "What is the ideal mount of preventative care?"
- There is a way to redistribute community support. For example, you can get young and old people to support each other in a way that works.
- Culturally-specific programs, resources, and services
- Programs that address racial disparities
- Education and information sharing (resources) in Spanish

## Question 4. Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided today?

- "What can we do to be age and dementia friendly as a community?"
- "Washougal and Camas have such different needs."
- There are perspectives missing from the discussion today.
- Thinking about Camas-Washougal, you have to think about where people are already congregating.

#### Other Notes and comments

- "One thing I see in Clark County is a lot more support for people." (Moved from Texas)
  - o "The supports here are better than a lot of places in the US."

- "As a bus rider, the services here are heads and shoulders above what you will see in other communities."
- "Sometimes in Southwest Washington, you are thinking, is Seattle serving us or is Portland serving us. There are pros and cons to both." (211 related)

# RIDGEFIELD FORUM - 1/31/2024

# Q1: What do you think about when you see the information provided tonight? Is there anything significant or interesting?

- It's consistent across every board....the same issues are on every issue
- Ridgefield has grown really fast and we've not until recently had an issue with homelessness but now we do with kids couch surfing and finding themselves homeless
- This forum is trying to dismantle stigma—this is addressing the systemic barriers and I would like to keep our focus on those systemic barriers (ie homelessness is because of barriers to housing and employment, not because people are lazy)
- I appreciate the steps taken to combat the stigma I've experienced when trying to address and meet the needs of individuals
- "It's a systemic thing" and these types of forums can help people see each other as individuals who are struggling in systems with lots of barriers
- In the non-profit world, we hear part of the story. But this data needs broader sharing and a broader audience. If people really understood the barriers people are facing when getting employment (ie having to make double minimum wage to afford housing), they would see how literally impossible it is to make ends meet in this community.
- "I wouldn't be able to rent the apartment I am in now if I applied today, even working a full time position" –The only reason I am housed is because I got into this apartment years ago when the market wasn't crazy
- BIPOC people have been working really hard to make this information more well known and widespread.
- We need to hold ourselves accountable: we need to platform the voices of the people we're serving (ie homeless). We need to go out of our way to make sure their voices are represented.
   There are things we can do and so we shouldn't feel hopeless.
- It is hard to talk about racial disparities in Vancouver.
- The chart on childcare is significant to me—I have two kids in childcare and it is so expensive. It's like paying for another house. It's really tough to pay for that on top of the cost of food and other bills.

# Q2: What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?

- I used to work at PIC and we distributed rent payments during covid—it's astounding how much housing costs and I wonder what happens to families after they don't receive those assistance payments any longer and their rent goes up.
- The church has dropped the ball and become greedy. There's people with billions of dollars that hoard it. Banks are corrupt.
- I've always been living paycheck to paycheck, but there's tons of people who have so much money they can't spend it and there are people who are destitute and don't have anything.

- People don't have education about how to budget and plan for expenses
- It's a combination of things. Someone in my family has a disability and I hadn't realized before what depression could do to a person. Behavioral health leads to problems with rent, which leads to housing issues, etc.
- Financial literacy and financial education have been weaponized against people of color or immigrants. When you look at credit card companies and interest and how it preys on poor people and people unfamiliar with the systems—kids coming out of school, etc. The systems are designed to disenfranchise people so it's not on the onus of the individual to be financially literate.
- Debt based system of our economy straps people down. People are making money off of interest and that's evil. Self-control and balance are critical for everyone.

# Q3: What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?

- As people are making ends meet, having financial education for youth would be helpful. Having an understanding of how to budget.
- I was always working and raising a family and I never noticed these bigger problems that were out there. But now I have a daughter who has struggles and a granddaughter who helps women who have been abused and I really had no idea what people are going through. Knowing what I know now, communicating with people who are in need and connecting them with the services they need.
- It's a collective thing—find where people need help and what they need and somehow get it ot them.
- You need to know the right people in the network who have the right skills to meet the needs of people. You need a quarterback to help delegate to different people.
- We need a freeze on inflation, interest, etc. so that people can catch up (like they did in the Great Depression). We are trying to be part of the solution and we want to work through DEI and help break down barriers but we are always putting out fires and dealing with emergencies.
- It's hard to know where to start: is it food assistance, medical assistance, medical?
- Ridgefield has good food and clothes assistance programs
- Application processes to get help—forms and hoops people have to jump through to get basic necessities is a barrier
- Redistribution of wealth. Where are funds already going? Move money around—instead of funneling more money to law enforcement, redistribute it to those who need it. Layers of bureaucracy absorbs more money that could be distributed directly to people who need it. Grant distribution could be improved and moved around.

# Q4: Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided tonight?

- Mental health is huge—it affects kids, adults, seniors. Having mental health resources at the school level where kids spend most of their day, at employers where adults spend time. Mental health funding at all levels.
- Media exposure with kids is an issue with things they are promoting. It all starts spiritually. Government promotes a lot of stuff that's not good.
- Mostly when people are seeking services, they want to know that someone isn't going to give up on them-that someone will listen and care. Behavioral/mental health services are huge.

- I do like the idea of redistributing wealth so that the inequities in wealth are not so wide.
- Having people in positions of authority who don't get burned out—making sure they're ok and they are taking care of themselves.

#### VIRTUAL FEEDBACK

\*This feedback came from satisfaction surveys and the virtual data walk. All information is direct quotes.

# Q1: What do you think about when you see the information provided tonight? Is there anything significant or interesting?

- The demographics seem somewhat similar to those of the meeting attendees.
- Everyone is hungry for balance between income and expense. Yet we all have a similar bare minimum need.
- This is affirmation that we are starting the foundation in the right community. The effort shown to demonstrate the need accurately and as completely as possible, is a missing element in many locations we have investigated.
- Looking at this data, I wonder about the procedures for recruiting community members to take
  the survey. I wonder about how many community members who hold marginalized identities
  contributed, and if the experiences our culturally diverse, neurodivergent, gender non
  conforming and disabled/chronically ill community members had as much opportunity to
  contribute as other members of the community.
- What I found significant and interesting was the amount of thought that went into creating the data questions and results.
- I am not surprised. This is all what I see everyday.
- Need more funding
- Very interesting overall, it was helpful to learn
- Was surprised to see a common theme of folks not sure where to go for information
- everything is interesting
- Si, es significativo que se considere lo que debe ganar la hora alguien que tenga que pagar la renta de un apartamento de una habitacion deberia ser \$30.96 la hora y sin embargo tenemos familias entre ella la mia que la hora esta en \$17 mi esposa y \$22 este servidor
- all ready shared in the group
- Again, that for most issues, people indicated the main barrier was they didn't know how to access the needed resource.
- Child care needs be elevated. It impacts our local economy, poverty and homelessness
- I think about how my organization can potentially help with housing
- It's takes a lot of time to live in poverty. A recurring theme was people didn't know where to find resources. The time it takes to find resources and go to get those resources is significant. When you are managing multiple systems to help relieve the burden of poverty, there just isn't enough time.
- We need to be helping people. We all need assistance.
- Nah fam

Q2: What do you think are the causes of poverty in our community?

- Systemic racism, stagnant wages, lack of affordable housing and social services.
- Greed, Lack of transportation, lack of understanding of who holds the power in our country
- Opportunity to keep up financially is both a problem of individuals and businesses. Choking the
  supply or sources of energy raises ALL costs and chokes the economy. Educating people so that
  they are more valuable to an entity is only part of the solution. Limiting the hurdles to be and
  stay in business so that business leaders start and grow in our communities. The costs of energy,
  or the lack of it, impacts everyone.
- I have only lived in the area for about a year and a half, but what I have noticed so far is that the general cost of living is increasing faster than our under resourced community members are able to increase their assets, specifically relating to the cost of base needs such as housing, food, and transportation.
- In inequality in the workforce. The lack of giving people opportunities, despite a lack of education. Mentorship. Disparity and housing solutions. A lack of mental health resources that are assessable.
- Rent cost/ affordable housing
- Education, racism
- Ignorance and shame
- low wages, limited jobs, depression
- all
- racism, lack of education
- 1.- Limited access to quality education can lead to lower employment opportunities and income levels. 2.-Health challenges, especially when coupled with a lack of access to affordable healthcare, can lead to increased medical expenses and reduced productivity. 3.-Discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, or other factors can contribute to unequal opportunities and economic disparities.4.-Government policies, both at a national and local level, can influence the distribution of resources and opportunities.
- inflation, and limited resources / services
- Generational poverty, mental illness and addiction, housing too expensive
- Employment support for people with accommodation needs
- Racial disparity, access to education a complex hard to find system of resources. And 211 is not the answer
- Lack of affordable housing, stagnant wages
- Racism, cost of living vs available jobs that pay a living wage
- Keeping the status quo. Rent hikes. Not making enough money. Public education on what the economy means, what poverty means.
- Inequity and capitalism

# Q3: What programs/services do you think will best support people struggling financially?

- Affordable housing programs, employment services like job coaching, access to higher education.
- Universal Basic Income, Universal Health Care, a less restrictive immigration policy, actually really truely affordable housing, more bus services/public transit, an understanding that literally anyone can wind up on the wrong side of that "welfare line" in all of our social programs

- The basic needs before education. A person who isn't feeling healthy, is hungry, or is under other stressors, will have greater difficulty being successful in learning, working, associating in society.
- Improve flow of information relating to community resources- our under resourced community members have minimal, if no, bandwidth to go searching for this info as they are spending all of their time, energy and money trying to survive. We need this info plastered everywhere- for example 211 offers free print resources. Get posters, business cards, flyers, and plaster them everywhere! Grocery stores, doctors offices, post offices, banks, libraries, schools! The most consistent feedback I get from folks is that they are blown away and thankful when I send/hand community support info to them instead of giving them an agency name and asking them to look it up. -Financial literacy classes: Teach people how to make a budget, how to save money using coupons and promotions, and how to manage these concerns with the limited resources they have. -General health and wellness classes that are community funded and can be self paced. People from underprivileged upbringings often simply do not have information about how to eat healthy food, the benefits of moving their body, or how living a healthful lifestyle can be accessible even to the busiest person. -Free basic mental health psychoeducation classesagain community funded and self paced. There are some topics that I literally talk with every single client about: Basic relaxation training, boundary type and boundary setting skills, conflict resolution and interpersonal communication, generic parenting and coparenting skills, this info could be presented by the county and made accessible to everyone- often just having the vocabulary around these things makes a tremendous difference, and having free access to that would likely reduce the massive need for mental health services in our area.
- Creating a rent to own program that can facilitate in first time home ownership to low income
  families, avoiding a down payment. The rent structure would be less than what they are
  currently paying. Prison grown foods. Organically, and of high nutrient value. That used to be a
  thing back in the day but prisoners don't grow their own food anymore.
- Childcare, rent assistance
- Mental health, more wrap around services, home visiting programs
- Financial, health, education, opportunity
- access to public/portable restrooms, hand wash, showers, laundromats, gas cards, bus pass, incidentals
- food bank
- liHeap, food stamp, lighthouse, House Counseling, etc.
- Financial literacy, education, credit enhancement, budget management, etc.
- Access to mental health servies, support services for housing, navigators to help access resources, joint efforts with multiple agencies and entities
- Vehicle repair subsidy, tax relief, debit relief, increase pet services
- Increased support to neighborhood associations and faith-based communities
- Access to education, affordable accessible child care
- Access to higher education and vocational training, affordable housing
- I think the problem is systemic. People can work multiple jobs and go to the many amazing resources in our community and still be in poverty. I think there's a bigger picture we are missing in the conversation and that is how do we remove barriers that don't allow people to thrive. Side

- note, I love the tiny home projects. I don't know much about them beyond that they exist but I'm excited about people having a home.
- Creating our own currency that would help with food, rent and basic human needs. Education on the purpose of economics, please read 'Doughnut Economics 7 Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist by Kate Raworth
- Housing assistance

# Q4: Is there anything you think is missing from the information/discussion provided tonight?

- Definitions. What does "access" mean? For me, access usually means it is too far away which to me equals transportation.
- All of the items you mention related to costs, was raised recently by two major events. Covid
  and the costs of energy. First carbon related with transportation, heating oil, coal fired power
  plants. Electricity is no longer abundant or inexpensive. Until everything catches up to it or it is
  less expensive and abundant, we will all do the best we can to trim where we must and focus on
  helping those we can.
- I would love to know more about the needs survey and where to find the results, I checked the county website and it currently only shows a link for the version from 2020. This info will definitely impact the way that the behavioral health agency I work with will present ourselves, we will work harder to provide easy access to information about mental health services in the area and double down on presenting info about community supports.
- I think that the information that was discussed at the forum was well thought out and prepared pretty, and presented. I applaud your efforts, Michael, and Ms. Malloy
- Excitement and hope
- security, public storage in city/travelers, public telephone booths
- Solo comentar, si el mismo condado paga la hora a lo que deberia ser a sus empleados?
- the field in the survey if a participant employed or a small business owner
- nothing at this time
- Nc
- Next steps for those who want to be involved.
- https://fenix.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/downloadFile/845043405579281/Raworth%20%282017%29%20 Doughnut%20Economics.pdf,
  - https://youtube.com/watch?v=OY0meOEzifl&si=y04SlplgYR6HOYz1
- Nah

#### **FEEDBACK CARDS**

# January 9, 2024 – Vancouver Community Library

- \* much of the feedback below came from a single participant
  - People were not happy they didn't get a reply
  - 2019 had so many replies because the food banks
  - 360.315.3493 <a href="mailto:chriswithey919@gmail.com">chriswithey919@gmail.com</a>. Please reach out to me. Thanks.
  - <u>lilyirisarts@fmail.com</u> Caroline Chaparro 971.407.7739. Please send assessment when finished.

# **Overall Needs**

- Mom and Pop landlords cannot keep rents low because of rising taxes, repairs, bills, insurance, etc.
- Small kitchens to warm up food. Access to water for cooking, hand washing in library.
- Public restroom with shower for homeless/travelers in need.
- Surprising to see dental service so high on list
- Also surprised that childcare isn't higher on list
- There are many problems with the supply chain for nutritious foods. It's plain stupid.
- Someone or a group is likely creating this artificial supply/demand equation to make us all poor
  just trying to provide for our families.
- Dentistry is generally too expensive and think this to be a method to allow quality care at affordable prices. E.g., a hobbyist who used tire tools effectively would be a prime candidate as a dentist. Do they need all the science? Nope! This just a foolish barrier to becoming a dentist.
- Need person in charge of overall needs assessment. Different lists to get housing with different protocols keep people on the street.
- Dental services need separate management to address need.
- Corruption.
- Our Fed Gov and Congress are under the thumb of the corrupt elite which is why we are so f\* right now.
- No one deserves more than \$100B on the total asset valuation. The rest will build our future.
- We must purge the corrupt elite who do not immediately part with the significant portion of their wealth for the welfare of all.
- Spying (electronic surveillance) should be illegal.
- The only reason for such extreme data collection is for ideological warfare to manipulate a society into capitulation. I will kill the corrupt elite if I need to . . . There is no reason for such invasions of privacy that the intelligence community does at the behest of the rich corp corrupt elite.
- Affordable housing could be built by the military at a fraction of the cost and fully up to code. A
  problem be they than private contractors. This should be obvious to anyone with above average
  IQ.
- Mental health need better resource availability and ease of access. This pop is vulnerable
  under constant threat and often one deals with mental illness incl PTSD, induced by being
  homeless. Military: we must have an adequate military that fears God.
- It would be nice to have more affordable housing. Anymore one can't hardly find affordable housing without going all the way out to Washougal or to Longview-Kelso.

## COVID-19 Impact

- I see there's a lot of grants and resources on live. But as part of trying to get the ball in motion to getting the actual grant in hand, the actual pages are not accessible. The web pages are.
- Human trafficking is inhumane.
- Check ancestry. Humans do not live outside. I am a DNA-O. Male-Female. Nothing more.
- Not very surprising for a man developed virus to aid in a fascist takeover of the globe. . . but not on my watch.

## Education

- These stats are not surprising whatsoever. Freaky baby boomers.
- It should be obvious to anyone other than the corrupt that education should be free. An you should be afforded the opportunity to trade careers.
- Can have multiple runs at education paid for by the people via the gov.
- These people should afford none free childcare and remove other barriers to becoming a more skilled works and contributor to society.
- No one wants to pay anyone what they're worth they get by paying as low as they can. People
  are greedy.
- How many resources there are for Daycare? Home or Center.
- Need house/place to stay to focus on education. Need access to get trained for new career that requires certification.
- It's too dark to read this data.

# **Employment**

- AGI (artificial general intelligence) should be halted and permanently deleted. A highest illegal penalty of any designed Torture if you violate my rules regarding AI.
- A self-employment opp and education skills. The corrupt elite want to keep us in the dark about our true ability to shine in this life. They view you as replaceable part of a machine. They rarely care about you.
- Need housing/mailing address to get employment. Need housing to keep/maintain employment.
- Work requirements are starting to become unreasonable for folks with legal, MH, trauma, to maintain high barrier compliance and coverage.
- We need more trade schools and to shorten unnecessary ed for skilled jobs. Liberal arts is
  valuable but has been pushed heavily by a long list of corruption to shovel USA to
  insurmountable debt.
- Employment will be supported by quality ed. And access to ed and support to allow the individual to be successful in educational/skilled program.
- Micro degrees and trade schools would be wise to proliferate.

## Housing

- We need more Section 8 housing.
- I think there should be a cap on how much the landlords can raise the rents to space per year. 100% is ridiculous.
- There is no such thing as low-income rentals when the rents are 1000.00 and up. Person on rece 500 a month.
- I'm shocked by the income/housing cost. It that a legit stat?
- Americans don't need so many green lawns, shouldn't need so much real estate to provide shelter. We could learn a lot from the Japanese.
- There is no reason for AF to be so expensive w/o elaborate plots of corruption. There is simply no other way.

- Forgot to add . . . A major problem w/ supply of housing is that it is based off supply and demand of affordable remakery to builders and developers. Instead, affordable housing fmacey should be based upon future needs of the community, not greed.
- Do away with corporations owing rentals!
- Surprised emerg housing/shelter isn't higher on list. I imagine if large # of homeless pop responded to survey they would have rated this need higher—but they are a hard pop to reach.
- Need overall program management to gain access to housing. Services are disconnected. Lists
  are not being managed for housing the homeless.
- Landlords need breaks on property taxes.
- What would the landlords of the world do when we are all homeless?

# Income and Asset Building

- Final word on asset valuations: total valuation of any types of assets in good or?? Is not to exceed \$100M per family of up to including 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins. E.g., if family of 4 and each family of 2 parents as 2 parents one grandparent and one grandchild = total family size for asset evaluation = 7 family members if I did my math correct. Combined asset value of 7 members not to exceed \$100M.
- Only those with IQ above 1
- 30 who do not possess a dark toned personality, disorder, are allowed a cum asset value of family of over \$10M. Therefore, to have value above \$10M must not possess dark toned personality and also have IQ of more than 130. Safety check.
- There should be more financial classes available for the community.
- Need help with identity theft protection and after your identity is compromised, how to reclaim your life
- I've been denied help for gas/heating assistance because I made \$0.50 over the guidelines. Very tough when you're a single parent.
- When you loose the family feel you lose the authenticity. We need to energize and support and educate much better in this area. Owner doesn't wat to? but very good for employees to know or have some idea of the struggles of owners.
- Financial understanding and access to resources. We are extremely lucky in this area. Corps
  knew how to fix it but refused to on the name of max short term quarterly profits. The dirty,
  dirty dogs.

# **Physical Health**

- Non-prescription heath services virtually do not exist unless you have private insurance.
- We need insurance for immigrant low-cost!
- This should have been obvious to anyone w/o an offered survey

## **Behavioral Health**

• This should be obvious to anyone sane these corrupt billionaires that to provide safe streets we need to legalize all natural drugs and ban synthetic unless medical for w/ sufficient research evidence. I don't want to pardon my chemicals myself). You are not allowed to see natural drugs

on black market because we expect idiots to eat cocaine or q/c w/ synth's to seduce and kill. If I do many infractions nor more drugs for you.

- Spending more on BH
- Need access to music/arts/crafts to refocus behavior on positive pathways.
- Criminal justice and BH services are vital for residents

# **Support Services**

- Need financial assistance for gas, laundry services, bus pass.
- So important and demand is day care or childcare. If we open more childcare home or center we have more resource, people work, families growing.
- While I agree that 211 is great for finding resources, it can be really hard to come in contact with someone. I understand that the need is high and support services may not have enough employees.
- Transportation and fees, legal assistance and fees, support services and fees. Fees, fees, and never enough money.
- We need to invest on public transport much more heartily. Ideally paid for by the fed so if your
  car broke and you just spent last \$ freely family you can shall get to work to keep your job or just
  transport in general.

# January 25, 2024 - Camas Public Library

No comment cards received

# January 31, 2024 – Ridgefield Community Library

\* The feedback below came from 1 participant

#### **Overall Needs**

No feedback

## COVID-19 Impact

No feedback

# Education

- Head start is super important
- Access to more education, but not college
- Adult GED classes are important

# Employment

No feedback

# Housing

Home repairs – not only low income, but people with low net cash but seem well off

#### Income and Asset Building

• Credit repair – at all income levels

# Physical Health

Affordable senior care

## **Behavioral Health**

No feedback

#### **Support Services**

- Eldercare in county
- Resources for non-English speakers other than VA
- Substance abuse more actions
- Transportation easier to access

#### Virtual Feedback

\* the feedback below came from 9 participants

## **Overall Needs**

- I would say anything after Employment assistance is under reported, but also asset building is underreported since Maslow's Hierarch of Needs indicates that impoverished individuals are thinking less of those other needs.
- As behavioral health provider I can absolutely confirm that the need for mental health services has dramatically increased. To be second only to food and housing, that is serious and we are working to have that addressed by increasing availability to continue supporting the massive amount of new client requests that we receive weekly, but that is not enough. A potential upstream solution: mandate that all behavioral health providers support a minimum percentage of state health insurance clients in addition to private insurance. For example: every private practice is required to maintain a client population that is comprised of at least 5% state health insurance. If every behavioral health private practice took one state insurance client for each of their clinicians, that alone would dramatically improve services to that underserved population. This is also reflected of the ethical standards for behavioral health providers which mandate us to offer discounted or pro-bono services to a portion of our caseload in order to practice ethically: "C.6.e. Contributing to the Public Good (Pro Bono Publico) Counselors make a reasonable effort to provide services to the public for which there is little or no financial return (e.g., speaking to groups, sharing professional information, offering reduced fees)." -American Counseling Association Code of Ethics 2014
- Mental health support seems to be topping the list and has a reoccurring theme. The
  generational curse of men being stoic is attributed to a lack of emotional intelligence, which then
  leads to The inability to deal with one's own mental illness
- I think Covid payments made lots of people lazy and to this day people are expecting county and state to hand out freebies

#### COVID-19 Impact

No feedback

#### Education

- There is NO ACCESS to public transit for nearly half of the population. Too many people that do have access choose to maintain their ignorance.
- Knowledge where vocational training is available and accessing it is also difficult. Students who
  are not geared for college or university education can be successful "Hands-on". CTECH in Keizer,
  OR is very successful in promoting their training in Salem/Keizer SD and their students are
  finding work after training. Although construction/manufacturing related, the same could be
  true for those with interest in IT, Semiconductor manufacturing and servicing technical
  equipment there and in healthcare.
- interesting metrics
- I think education loans should be paid back if one moves out of county

# **Employment**

- Look at your non-profits to find a lower wage.
- I thought discrimination would be at the top of the list for an employment barrier. I believe we need more business owners acting as mentors understanding that they have the opportunity to shape notches the life of an employee, but the life of their entire family. Mentorship programs and job training programs have a huge benefit for all parties involved. There needs to be more empathetic, business owners willing to take on that role.
- The software developers have to put time and money into their education while most food industry workers just do food handlers and lot of food workers get tips which are tax free

# Housing

- Did you ask if transportation was a barrier to accessing affordable housing? I have seen LOTS of new housing that is only accessible by car, which decreases its affordability.
- In April 2023 Margie and I started to form BHome Foundation a Non-Profit Washington entity and filed the form with the IRS for recognition as a Non-Profit. As of January 16th, 2024 we are still not in possession of the documentation but we understand it is forthcoming, hopefully before the end of January. Starting from scratch, it's difficult to get community recognition without a location to house people. Most organizations only deal with Non-Profit entities and getting information about the \$ available to assist housing, from very busy people using limited funds has been difficult. Sometimes we got the feeling that sharing information with us, might affect the funding that they receive, and they do protect that source and information (understandably). We now have most of the data we need to proceed and the possibility of getting grant funding is promising for our intended location(s) in Clark County.
- I am a mental health provider who works primarily with underresourced clients, and I wanted to add that seeking emergency financial assistance to for rent and bills is the most common base need deficit that I observe in my work. I think offering financial literacy and community resource informational classes at public libraries could be an upstream solution to assist with this issue.

- I feel that many people get discouraged for being on a HUD housing list or voucher for rental assistance program that they often failed to keep up with the obligations on their part. I might be wrong. But being discouraged, definitely dissuades individuals from reaching out to a hand that has slighted them in the past. It's unfair for them and for you to have that experience because you genuinely are trying to bring programs to the people in need and they're just afraid of being let down.
- This will keep lazy people away from Clark County unless county starts to handout free money

# Income and Asset Building

- The "unbanked" number seems low. What are we including as a bank? SoFi, PayPal, Cash App or just major banks and credit unions?
- What group(s) of marginalized individuals made up that percentage? "This is 2.4% lower than the national average, at 4.5% of U.S. households."
- County should do better investigation before handing out support to low income because a lot of them make good money but keep their relationship as single or divorced to get all the benefits

# **Physical Health**

- We've known for a long time that poverty has a direct impact on health outcomes. We also know a majority of children are born to parents without enough resources to raise them.
- Dental Care needs to be affordable. Dentistry for all levels of care and age group is too costly for a high majority. Especially for those who are covered by some defined benefit plans in the private sector. (The best coverage is available to those covered by the Federal Govt) A Medical and Dental education should include internship periods at county, city, and state facilities.
   Imagine the varied experiences available training there.
- A common need that I hear expressed is for clients with state health insurance who live with complex/chronic illness or disability. This population requires treatment from specialists and increased diagnostic work that is regularly denied or backlogged for 6-10 months at a time. This same population tends to struggle with food assistance because most food banks do not offer food for restricted diets.
- classic example of poverty, stricken people, unable to afford not only healthcare, but healthy lifestyle, foods, and alternatives
- I had a neighbor who couldn't get any help for health because he owned a house and I have seen immigrants get free full coverage because their loved one's sponsor them and then let the county take care of them. I think the sponsor is responsible. It's not fair a local American does not get help who paid all taxes and did vote the councilors instead the councilors are helping the illegal or immigrants who have never worked in the country.

## Behavioral Health

- What can the county do about it?
- I think it would be beneficial to have a list on the Clark County website of behavioral health providers who accept state insurance, and a separate list for those those who accept private insurances. Within my agency we use an excel database for this which I have spent about a

- year compiling because I commonly hear from clients about how hard it is to find a place that is accepting new clients and also accepts their insurance.
- Utilizing artificial intelligence in programs, such as ChatGPT can literally put a therapist in the
  hands of young people, or any person for that matter. I recently wrote an article on how to
  reduce recidivism within the prison population that's released.
  https://ai.gopubby.com/empowering-prisoners-and-reducing-recidivism-with-chatgpt91a5e2e2fea2
- What's happening our county is encouraging all edicts from nearby county's to move to Clark because we are providing drugs and giving special services. We are not helping our law abiding citizens instead we are increasing property taxes and making life harder

# **Support Services**

- 211 is difficult to use because all of the agencies expect you to have been referred by someone! Who was supposed to refer you?
- I did Not know about 211 referral services.
- Bring the solutions to the people in the community. Be creative in getting their attention. Utilize
  an ice cream truck with a chiming bell. But have on board a complete list of social programs that
  can help the families. Give away the free ice cream contingent on parental involvement, and
  presence. You could even give away books and other little projects that kids can do with their
  families to encourage family bonding.
- County provides bus service

## General Feedback

- Well done. I look forward to additional reports from the next meetings. Thank you for the graphics and reports. Allen & Margie Barker BHome Founation 360 970 0710
- As a visitor to your county, I would like to applaud your efforts in creating such a fantastic
  presentation. Despite the community I live in being far away, I still feel we are interconnected as
  the human community and as such, we should all embrace empathy and in Interacting with
  everyone as our neighbor, no matter the distance that separates our physical locations
- The Clark County government is elected and they should spend wisely and avoid unnecessary expenses. I saw two years ago 88th between 72nd and 94th the road was rebuilt twice. Why the county doesn't hold contractors liable. Why was jail separated from sheriffs office and now we have created more post and are paying more. Where's the accountability