



Leadership Institute

Project Update - October 2013

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Introduction

- ▶ With the help of an MPH graduate student from Montclair State University, I am working on a small community health assessment in Sussex County, NJ
- ▶ We are recruiting residents to participate in a survey and several focus groups that will provide valuable insight into issues affecting the ability to access medical and dental care in the county
- ▶ Throughout the project we are utilizing key elements from the “Appreciative Inquiry” Model by
 - ▶ Working with community health partners
 - ▶ Focusing on strengths and assets
 - ▶ Building upon previous community health needs assessments

Goals

- ▶ The goals of this project are to
 - ▶ Assess residents' knowledge of existing health care resources
 - ▶ Raise awareness of these resources
 - ▶ Identify any gaps
- ▶ *All the while focusing on the strengths and assets of the community*

Appreciative Inquiry (AI)

- ▶ Inquiry - seeking to understand through the asking of questions
- ▶ Appreciative - to value or admire highly
- ▶ AI Process:
 - ▶ Discovery
 - ▶ Dream
 - ▶ Design
 - ▶ Deliver



Sample Questions Used in Survey

(available hard copy and electronic)

▶ Do you know of any services in Sussex County that can help you address your health concern(s)?

▶ List the resources that you are familiar with

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

▶ In the past 12 months, what kind of healthcare services have you used in the community?

- ▶ Preventive (yearly check-ups, health screenings, flu shots or vaccines)
- ▶ Lab
- ▶ Dental
- ▶ Women's health
- ▶ Men's health
- ▶ Children's health
- ▶ Alternative medicine

▶ How were your experiences?

▶ If positive, what made them positive?

▶ _____

▶ If negative, what made them negative?

▶ _____

Sample Questions Used in Focus Groups

Discussion Guide

- ▶ Discovery
 - ▶ Tell me a story about...
 - ▶ Think of a time when you or someone you know was able to easily go to the doctor? What was so great about this situation? Be specific. Who was involved? What were the circumstances?
 - ▶ What is the best healthcare service you have experienced in Sussex County?
- ▶ Dream (have participants close their eyes and envision the following)
 - ▶ Imagine the type of healthcare services you would like to have available
 - ▶ Imagine how those services are offered
 - ▶ Imagine that you help people that need to get to the doctor. What would you do? How would you help them? What would you ask them to do?

Sample Questions Used in Focus Groups Discussion Guide (cont')

▶ Design

- ▶ Imagine yourself as the director of transportation? What would your transportation design include?
 - ▶ Short-term goals
 - ▶ Long-term goals
- ▶ Think about community members that should be involved

▶ Deliver

- ▶ Based on our common themes, what would our vision statement be?
- ▶ What are our top priorities?

Sample Questions to Community Leaders

- ▶ In your opinion, which available resources have been working?
- ▶ Have residents provided feedback on the resources available?
- ▶ Can you share a story where one of the programs impacted a person?
- ▶ Have the programs been community led or organization led?
- ▶ Within your organization, can you tell us of a project that you are most proud of?
 - ▶ What was achieved?
 - ▶ What made the achievement possible?
- ▶ How do you see your organization in 20-25 years from now?

Activities Completed as of October 18

- ❑ Development of hard copy and electronic surveys in English and Spanish
- ❑ Development and distribution of letter to businesses soliciting in-kind donations
 - ❑ Newton Chamber of Commerce
 - ❑ Individual businesses
- ❑ Stakeholders outreach to request assistance in identifying and contacting existing health consumer groups (i.e - support groups) that can be recruited for focus groups
 - ❑ Introduction at stakeholder meetings
 - ❑ Sussex County Healthcare Coalition, Newton Medical Center
 - ❑ Sussex County Council of Service Agencies, YMCA
 - ❑ County representatives
 - ❑ Christine Florio, Sussex County
 - ❑ Helen Homeijner, Public Health Nurse
 - ❑ Tracy Storms, Health Educator

Activities Completed as of October 18

- ❑ Organizations
 - ❑ Project Self-Sufficiency
 - ❑ Samaritan Inn
 - ❑ Center for Prevention and Counseling
 - ❑ United Way, Caregiver Coalition
- ❑ Survey completion sites
 - ❑ Project Connect - Sussex/Hamburg
 - ❑ 2013 Caregiver Expo, Branchville
 - ❑ YMCA
- ❑ Initial identification of focus groups locations
 - ❑ Vernon Public Library
 - ❑ Franklin Public Library
 - ❑ Newton - Family Partners of Morris and Sussex Counties
 - ❑ Sussex/Hamburg

Next Steps

- ❑ Confirm focus groups locations, dates and times
- ❑ Finalize focus groups recruitment flyer
- ❑ Post focus groups recruitment flyer on Craigslist and Facebook
- ❑ Finalize discussion guide for focus groups
- ❑ Develop tools to be used in Focus Groups (i.e presentation, map, calendar)
- ❑ Create a thank you letter for businesses
- ❑ Compile and analyze data
- ❑ Write final report/ create a power point presentation

Questions?

Thank you

