



Early Years '14 Conference

Roundtable Discussion Poverty Group Notes

Bright Spots:

- Libraries - community action centers
- Home visiting - churches/faith communities
- Pre-school programs - food banks
- School/hospital social workers
- Angel tree giving opportunities
- My First Books
- Helping hearts and hands
- Food kitchen
- Offer full-day kindergarten
- Churches, volunteers, government aid
- Sharing information, referrals, resources
- Networking/marketing
- Community events – seminars - free assistance - volunteer
- Be available, accommodating, build a relationship
- Be aware of their social norms.
- Educate ourselves on poverty
- Advocacy - support needs, find resources
- Constant - be involved/accepted and carry their story across needs - remind how we solved problems
- Support - validate needs/concerns
- Educate - help them understand
- Praise - what the family is doing well
- Network - what worked for others, make connections
- Rural local schools - clothing drive, clothing swap, food drive, coat drive
- Clearwater Human needs - Facebook page, fundraisers, volunteer lead. Want/need bulletin for families, local agencies/ families donate as able.

Issues:

- No jobs
- Generational poverty
- Medical bills/financial crisis
- Unaware of available resources

- Low or no educational skills
- Laid-off
- Family trauma
- Mental illness/access to mental health resources
- Mindset that “Idaho” has services so poverty is taken care of (does not take into account smaller cities with no services)
- Poverty is complex and difficult to talk about
- Poverty is blamed on those in poverty
- How to find those in poverty (multiple families in 1 house)
- Putting money in the right place
- Bring services to the people who need it
- Educate on poverty
- Build volunteer time into benefits
- Poverty simulation
- Meet people where they are
- How bills affect children and families
- Lack of time, energy, knowledge, capacity to move upwards on Maslow’s scale
- Survival mode - must prioritize
- Shame and stigma - so much judgment, lack of understanding and compassion
- Policy: Minimum wage definition of “low-income”
- Need for communities that are educated on causes of poverty and take action to build support into infrastructure; e.g. policies, child-care, minimum wage
- Safe place for all
- Advocating for parents and students
- Homework flexibility
- Send positive notes home
- Training on how to empower parents in poverty
- Community outreach (community library) - What can we do to help you?
- Resources for afterschool programs within the community
- Easier access to help for all students.
- Need time, space, staff, funding, community awareness, jobs, and affordable (licensed) childcare
- How can we empower families to break the cycle?
- How do we reach the “oral” communicators?
- Who is the “town crier”? Churches, radio stations, etc.
- How to get all teachers trained on the awareness of poverty.
- More work opportunities
- Lack of emphasis on education/lack of family value on education
- Cycling stressors- rent, money, food, job
- Medical needs: dentist, basic health care
- Transportation to medical appointments, job, childcare, school, etc.
- Housing - couch surfing, no money for rent, down payment, or security deposit
- Legal issues- jail, conviction record

- Education, make it to school, learning
 - Nutrition: eating healthy, enough food, where to get food
 - Don't meet qualifications for assistance programs by \$1 or \$25
 - Meeting basic needs- clothing, care, laundry, showers, home.
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Resources:

- Idaho Food bank
- Dept. of Labor
- Kuna Lions - free eye care
- Rescue missions
- Food pantries and meal kitchens
- Thrift stores
- Self-rescue
- 211 care line
- Department of Health and Welfare Infant/Toddler Program
- Health and Welfare navigators
- Government programs: WIC, subsidized housing and lunch
- YMCA
- Habitat for Humanity
- Religious organizations
- School counselors
- Mental health services
- Idaho Youth Ranch
- Stevens-Henager College – free GED program
- Libraries
- WICAP – income-based childcare
- Mentorship programs
- One HUB for knowledge of resources that can help people connect
- Take advantage of round table meetings between agencies to start initiatives
- Networking with other service providers to familiarize self/organization with other resources
- Models of working poverty - reduction strategies.
- Policies created to eliminate poverty (i.e., Utah)
- Word of mouth to get information out
- “Compassion Clinic” to server those in need
- Migrant liaison in all districts
- Rescue manuals for all counties
- Pre-dental home at district health departments and childcare settings
- Book exchange - bring books to donate - take back half as many books as you bring - donate the other half.
- Free childcare

- Health care
- Transition system
- Community action:
 - ICCP
 - Tooth fairy
 - Circles – churches - 6-month host family program
- Churches let families stay there
- Community garden
- Partnerships:
 - \$ Gas voucher - medical appts., job
 - Community action - rent, utilities, coming out of poverty curriculum
 - Salvation army - shower, job training, housing
 - Boys and girls club - scholarships for children in poverty
 - Rock - laundry, food bank, clothing in 1 location