

Carroll County United Cross-Team Meeting – May 27, 2010

The five action teams and the steering committee gathered for their first joint meeting since the formation of the teams in January 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to communicate across the teams about the action plans and determine how the plans connect and support each other and identify any issues with implications across the teams.

The five teams presented their A3 Action Plans to one another, walking through how they made the decisions to focus on their first key areas and associated first action steps.

Common themes:

- Teams interconnect with each other
- All the teams thinking evolved and became more focused over the months particularly as they were informed by various data and really thought through which action areas and action steps were critical to start with.
- The balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship team noted that the diversity of the team was a strength in terms of the mix of perspectives and skills at the table and the ideas that were surfaced and worked through over the course of the last five months.
- All agreed that it is important to have more people at the next meetings of the teams.

Cross-team conversation:

Follow a cohort of youth to track change over time.

Transportation cuts across all of the teams

- The transit project needs to succeed because it will widely benefit people in the county and support many of the goals the teams are working on.
- Alternative forms of transportation to work reduce costs and can therefore positively impact people's bottom line and improve individual and family economic stability.
- Reducing transportation costs also supports economic development/sustainability of local businesses since most people will spend those savings on food, clothing, recreation, etc.
- Transportation to health/medical appointments will improve health access for all
- What can transportation be in the future?

Seniors – what is in this for our seniors?

- While transportation cuts across the teams, seniors cut across the entire process.
- Seniors are supporting their children and their children's children, often providing childcare so parents can work, or in emergencies when kids are sick.
- Seniors are an important resource as volunteers. How do we connect this to them?
- Individual and family economic stability also pertains to seniors, though some of the first steps for goals and actions have been driven by the livable wage issue, which tends to connect more with working age.

Finding out the resources for marketing that can be tapped into such as business, marketing and media classes at the various local colleges and high schools

Media discussion - Does a negative approach in the media impact our picture of who we are as a community? Does it impact our ability to see ourselves as successful?

Lessons learned in preparation for June meeting:

- In June when people will be joining us – what will be your ask?
- Groups need to tighten up their presentations –why is each action area (measure) important and how are the actions connected to it?
- Sign-up sheets for new team members
- List of tasks by team.

Other General comments:

- Teams need to be a moving force. There's no other entity.
- It is a process to evolve to a new way of thinking - easy to slip back into old habits.
- People are excited about the process. These are truly community-driven ideas, taking incremental steps to move forward.
- Counties' needs recognized in statehouse and that there needs to be some equity before more resources/attention goes to southern part of state.
- Recruit youth – recruit youth to the solutions/actions. Youth are welcome on Action Teams but those meetings aren't necessarily the best place to engage youth
- The group wondered about the number of "invisible people" – people that are living on the edge, that are 'making it' but are one step away from falling downhill. It would make sense to be mindful of this group so they can continue to be self-sufficient.
- Positive partnerships wherever we go.

Team-specific comments/questions:

Team 1 Childhood Readiness & Success

- When kids? not ready for Kindergarten, intervening is a good place to start but have to work backwards to younger and younger ages
- Can health & wellness team help with assessment/screening? Wide variations exist in well-child/developmental and lead screenings.
- Parents' own school experience has great impact on how their interactions with schools go. How to change the equation? Empower parents to be advocate for their children? Hold key meetings in non-school settings?
- Lots of people focusing on 3rd grade achievement; may get more "bang for the buck" by focusing on readiness.

Team 2 – Aligning Education to Careers

- Looking at student success differently - are they successful after high school?
- Youth with goals – kids connected to their own futures. Involve the community, local businesses with this.
- Comment: Over 70-80% of people who graduate from community colleges stay in the state; a good place to focus efforts.

Team 3 – Individual & Family Economic Stability

- Is there a national standard for employee-friendly business practices? If yes, team could compare the local practices to that. There will be a state conference on June 7th with a report released on the findings related to this topic. Can look at their definition of employee-friendly business practices.
- RE: Buy local – the more local businesses we have, the more times local spending can multiply in the community (portion of \$ spent at local business, respent at another local business, etc.) so that the value can be more than the original dollar spent.
- Invisible population – working but struggling. Parents working 50-60 hours each can't participate in their child's school, civically or as an advocate for themselves.
- Comment/Parking lot: Are we missing affordability of housing? We could increase wages in Moultonborough area by 5-10% and people still would not be able to live in the community. If there is more affordable housing, then more families can remain or relocate to Carroll County.

Team 4 – Balancing Econ. Development & Environmental Stewardship

- Reducing energy use will result in more money for residents to spend on other expenses and an increase in business profits that can be invested in higher salaries or more employees.
- There is local talent in area for converting waste to pellets.
- Comment: Kudos to the group for the strategy to bring information to selectmen to support them in their decision-making for cable contracts as a way to expand broadband coverage. Great example of how to make it easier for elected officials to make decisions.
- Important to understand data of who doesn't have broadband and what businesses need in order to attract and/or keep businesses here. (Ex: local business person – 5 hours to download documents).
- Focusing on broadband first is a way to clear a barrier for creating jobs.

Team 5 – Health & Wellness

- 20% uninsured rate is driving this team's first actions. (Anecdotally hear that uninsured rate is as high as 40% in the valley.)
- Are representatives aware of this data? Share this data and where we are going.
- Regarding getting information into the schools – a directory of resources is easier to hand out rather than a stream of handouts. Difficult for schools to be the mail carriers for the community, which is why we see a variety of policies around that.

Parking Lot:

Affordable Housing

Recruit youth to solutions/actions

Was drug use/substance use looked at by Health & Wellness Team. Yes, first priority was focusing on accessibility across the board for health needs because it is such a large issue in Carroll County.