

Topic Area: Cultural Barriers-Communication

Goal #1: Communication

To identify methods to reach diverse audiences and communicate information in an understandable manner. (language, literacy, cultural awareness & all learning styles)

Suggested Strategies:

- Increase literacy levels.
- Increase availability of information and services available.
- Increase involvement of faith based organizations to help foster positive relationships among various cultures.

Accountability Measure(s):

1. Yearly calendar meetings/planning sessions to develop events by 2008.
2. Centralize social services resources through Tri-County Websites and hard copy materials to be circulated throughout the community by year 2008.

Topic Area: Cultural Barriers – Cultural Stereotypes

Goal #2: To decrease the cultural stereotypes as they are related to poverty.

Suggested Strategies:

- Continue educating the community at large, elected officials and service providers of the awareness of the stereotypes as they are related to poverty.
- Strengthen character education in the schools at all levels.
- Seek funding sources to present an event to raise awareness of different cultures.
- Encourage businesses, vendors to promote ongoing diversity cultural events (food, shows, tradition, etc) activities within the community.
- Advocate to have books that address different cultures and stereotypes in schools and libraries.

Accountability Measure(s):

1. Identify the number of agencies, schools, etc. that specialize in diversity training that help accomplish change with cultural stereotypes in the community.
2. Develop anonymous surveys that can be done in the home that can show the level of cultural stereotypes that can be addressed through diversity training by 2009.
3. Develop factual information that falsifies stereotypes of other cultures.

Topic Area: Cultural Barriers - Cultural Diversity

Goal #3: Increase cultural diversity training including youth (8yrs -18yrs)

Suggested Strategies:

- Stronger fundamental communication skills.
- Youth cultural diversity training (8yrs – 18yrs).
- Sensitivity training for ethnic differences.
- Increase involvement of faith based organizations to help foster positive relationships among various cultures.
- Mentoring and advocacy
- Self-reflection

Accountability Measure(s):

Promote mentoring

1. Expand the cultural diversity curriculum and mentoring programs by year 2009.
2. Establish a dinner event to show success stories of the mentoring programs at the end of the year.
3. Establish quarterly cluster committee meetings involving social services, juvenile justice system, already existing groups and out of school youth.

Ensure mentors are qualified to mentor.

Topic Area: Cultural Barriers - Education

Goal #4: Education

To support or expand the educational choices for students.

Suggested Strategies:

- Reach out to the local Board of Education to make available or expand choices for the students. (Vo-Tech, two-year community college)
- Include all members of the households in participating in mentoring programs.
- Provide more resources to the parents and students.
- Involving faith based organizations to help foster positive relationships among various cultures.
- Increase accessibility (financial, transportation, application process,)

Accountability Measure(s):

1. Increase in percent of students that graduate High School or Vo-Tech with a professional skill or attend a two-year community college.
2. Expose educational choices at the elementary level.
3. Mentoring programs that establish or collaborate with schools during career day activities.

Topic Area: Cultural Barriers – Trust

Goal #5: To develop a better trusting relationship with social organization with in the community.

Suggested Strategies:

- Involve faith base organization to share information about social organization in the community.
- Increase more community leaders and agencies to become more hands on within the community.
- Utilize existing facility (schools, etc) to be open to the public for programs.
- Increase involvement of faith based organizations to help foster positive relationships among various cultures.
- Increase comfort level with the people in the community.

Accountability Measure(s):

1. Heighten our efforts to bring our resources and expertise into the communities of a need with out fear and develop relationships and trust.
2. Establish reports that show how agencies are following up on positive outcomes with real documentation with regards to trust.