

Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas
Grant Making Committee Community Do-Tank Notes
April 7, 2009 • 8 am
CFSEK Board Room

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** Present for the Community Do-Tank: Krista Postai, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas; Sherri Stephens, Elm Acres; Nancy Hicks, St. Mary's Elementary; Janis Goedeke, Crawford County Health Department; Jenifer McDonald, Pittsburg Mother to Mother Ministry; Ellie Foster, Wesley House; Alberta Deboutez, Catholic Charities; John Kraus, St. Mary's Schools; Misty Burke, Greenbush; Cindy Pfeiffer, Pittsburg Community Middle School; Lynette Wescott, Pittsburg Community Middles School; Chuck Cook, Salvation Army; Sandy Krusich, Mt. Carmel; Jeanette Meyer-Wilson, Mt. Carmel; Kristie Watson-Bell, Mt. Carmel; Pat Lair, K-State Extension; Bob Romine, Covenant Harvest Church/King's Automotive, Pam Romine, Covenant Harvest Church/King's Automotive; Social Worker. Present for the CFSEK Grant Committee: Denise Grasso, Roberta McNay, Barbara Rhodes, Kayla Joy; also present: Stephanie Joiner, Kim Clark.

Stephanie Joiner welcomed the group to the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas the Grant Committee's Community Do-Tank. She expressed gratitude for the CFSEK on their participation and willingness to share their time and information. The purpose of the Do-Tank was for the CFSEK Grant Committee to learn about the immediate needs of the community during recent downturn of the economy. The Grant Committee will use the information gathered at the meeting to help direct the CFSEK grant-making focus for the upcoming grant cycle. Joiner explained that the Grant Committee may not be able to take all recommendations and put them into action, but would work to impact the needs as expressed in the meeting.

- 2. Community Do-Tank** – The meeting was a round table discussion with the following guiding questions. Responses have been recorded as they were shared.

a. What are the new and emerging needs?

- i. New clients coming in to receive services
- ii. Many clients have never asked for help before and are hesitant to ask for help
- iii. The needs aren't "new," they have always been present in SEK, however, the current economic status has created extra stress and higher amounts of the same needs
- iv. Many citizens are not prepared for new jobs after loosing current job (i.e. Superior) as they do not have the proper job skills for the change in profession ("they have always made wheels, they don't know how to do anything else")
- v. Citizens who have lost their job, or have transitioned into a part-time job are loosing their benefits, and therefore their doctor's care/medical home. There is a loss of the continuity of care of chronic illness.
- vi. There is an increasing number of uninsured and there is a backlog in the state department's processing of medi-care/medicade, and therefore no coverage at all.
- vii. Citizens are lacking the skill-set needed for many available jobs (clerical/office/computer skills)
- viii. Increasing number of father's taking over childcare – perhaps unprepared
- ix. As employers, agencies are struggling to find qualified employees
- x. There are not a lot options for job training
- xi. Need both economic development – to bring jobs to the area – and front line support for those agencies that are working with the unemployed.
- xii. Need to care for "hometown" 1st

- xiii. The worst is yet to come – agencies are expecting the demand to increase – “we are on the front end of the tsunami”
- xiv. Emotionally fragile community members – seeing increased levels of desperation, anger, anxiety
- xv. Fear of crime rates increasing – crimes are also changing, theft is now for the “basics”
- xvi. Concern for children in the home – in situations of high-stress
- xvii. Transportation for services not adequate – PACT bus is wonderful, but it is not handicapped accessible and it does not run enough.
- xviii. Kids are hungry – they are not eating enough because of their family’s limited resources
- xix. Kids need a place to go to be able to relax and find time away from the stress of their current family situation
- xx. There has been a decrease in outside placement of kids due to lack of state resources, thus kids are staying in stressful and potentially dangerous home environments
- xxi. Early childhood development is becoming a luxury – as family’s budgets tighten, many choose affordable childcare over preschool and educational opportunities
- xxii. Don’t know how/where to find resources

b. What would it take to create a change?

- i. Job training is needed
- ii. Job development is also needed
- iii. Basic needs of citizens need to be met!
- iv. Micro-loans – a community co-op or entrepreneurial grants
- v. Parenting classes – life skills such as cooking/caring for kids
- vi. Babysitting and first aid classes for youth caring for children
- vii. Integrating job skills courses with parenting courses
- viii. Maintain moral – come together as a community
- ix. Empower people – let them take part in the solution
- x. Intergenerational support and bonding
- xi. Utilize schools for social networking/courses/community resources – schools are respected and trusted by citizens – neighborhood schools networks

c. How can we plant the seed and collaborate?

- i. Community focused support - community gardens/neighborhood groups
- ii. Must collaborate between agencies – lose the ego and focus on greater good
- iii. Centralized services and opportunities
- iv. Find balance between long term, systemic and immediate needs
- v. Need coordinated effort

d. How might the CFSEK move forward?

- i. Focus on basic needs on an every day basis – Hunger
- ii. Require collaboration for shared expenses and opportunities
- iii. Help with locating resources – centralizing services
- iv. Help frontline agencies with upcoming increase in needs

e. Questions that need to be considered:

- i. How have truancy levels grown or changed in four counties?
- ii. How has criminal activity increased or changed (PPD)?

- iii. How to prepare frontline agencies for upcoming wave?
- iv. How can the community be prepared for the next time?
- v. Who is not receiving needed services?
- vi. What about the working poor that don't qualify for services, are they being reached?
- vii. Who is missing from this conversation? Who can be tapped?
 - 1. PPL
 - 2. 4-H
 - 3. Parish Nursing
 - 4. Ministerial Alliance
 - 5. Other Public Agencies?

3. **Needs Assessment** – Agencies felt that they have much of the statistical data for a needs assessment, they need a method or way to put it all together and need the added element of a face for the problem

a. **SOLUTIONS ASSESSMENT NEEDED!**

- b. Anecdotal information that can be qualified and applied to quantified data
- c. Information on citizens not accessing services
- d. Need to step out of the box and find unique and workable solutions.

4. **CFSEK Grant-making Review** – Joiner passed out Grantee Surveys to be completed (anonymously) and returned to the CFSEK in the given stamped envelope. Joiner expressed the CFSEK Grant Committee's desire to hear from grantees to be sure that their needs are being met, and that the CFSEK is doing all that it can as a grant maker to help agencies through the grant making process.

Joiner again thanked all in attendance for their time and their willingness to share information and resources with each other and the CFSEK.