

January 3, 2008  
Dialog 1

TOPIC:	<b>NEIGHBORHOODS / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</b>
KEY ISSUES:	<i>Lack of family friendly social activities – free, low cost Foster home’s impacts on neighborhoods and schools Drugs and criminal behavior Neighborhoods are community – rebuilding neighborhoods rebuilds the community Generally disengaged citizenry – limited civic core Cynicism toward government Inability of east county cities / communities to provide resources for infrastructure and safety.</i>
ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	<i>Limited amenities- parks, public meeting spaces are too few. Graffiti- getting neighbors engaged in getting rid of it. Perceptions of crime vs. reality of crime Keeping seniors in their homes- addressing accessibility and code. Democracy ‘is gov. for people by people’ so people distrust government means they do not understand democracy. Media, talk radio, blogs, local press foster cynicism</i>
COMMUNITY BASED SOLUTIONS	<i>Holding block parties and meetings so that neighbors can support one another. Pride-building programs / ideas causing neighbors to come together – award recognition programs Opportunities to be involved in neighborhood activities – increase activity infrastructure (e.g. community gardens)</i>
FUTURE VISION opportunity improvement.	<i>Neighbors know and support one another and have the to recreate and become engaged in neighborhood</i>

**03 April 2008**  
**Community Dialog 2 at Fairview City Hall**  
**DRUGS / MENTAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES**

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**(1) Gathering the Facts**

**What is available / happening with these issues now?**

- Meth and the effected numbers are up
- More teen addiction – marijuana

- Underlying mental health conditions – self medicating
- Links to criminal activities

**What are the contributing factors to the crisis?**

- Gang influences on drug use
- Isolation within the community – lack of community recreation programs
- Services [CFAR, Cascadia Behavioral, Morrison] all grant dependent
- Light rail = mobility and access to negative elements
- Lack of opportunity – low paying services jobs

**Who is does this effect (specifically)?**

- Every level of the community

**What’s needed?**

- Low cost mental health services for Latino families
- Organized activities – green spaces and places to go
- After school options instead of no parks and recreation
- Intervention for those failing in school
- Healthy families – guidance and involvement to children.

**(2) Getting reactions and making associations**

**What are the authority structures that keep us apart?**

- Message of hopelessness about Meth may not help.
- Community action; discourage use in the public areas and it can be effective.

**How does this problem relate to me personally?**

- Safety concerns; needles in the park, at churches in open areas.

**Who benefits and how – if this problem is tackled well?**

- Everyone

**What makes you the most doubtful or what is the most difficult?**

- Fear impedes action and that is constrictive
- You don’t hear stories of recovery
- Difficulty finding housing / employment for those in recovery.

**(3) Articulating the values and implications**

**What is our moral landscape compared to the political will?**

- Recognition – government can and should be competent to address needed services.
- Build expectations for neighborhoods and personal involvement in addressing issues would community organizing help?

**What is the central problem area?**

- What are the strategies that would motivate people to spend / allocate taxes for services?

**What are some of the underlying issues – elephants?**

- We react to CRISIS not prevention strategies
- Stories of success are not attended to by the media
- Effective models – individual and family based (e.g. prevention vs treatment) not specialty modes of services.

**What makes us the most afraid to act?**

- Collaboration integration needed between agencies -Competition for resources fosters the status quo.

**(4) Decision making; looking at the options for action.**

**What are the criteria we would judge any solution against?**

- Organizing local neighborhoods to sense needs and develop action plans
- May require expanding the sense of ‘what is my neighborhood?’
- Ownership and accountability for results rest with ‘us’

**What are the alternatives to doing nothing?**

**What are the discoveries this group made?**

- Cultural awareness is important to community understanding

**Is there a resolve to act?**

- Involve agencies, churches, schools and cities in community organizing.
- Communities must sound off on selection of priorities needing funding /policy development.