



Regional Economic Development Institute

## **Results**

### **Following are the comments and ideas resultant from the CRCRC Housing Summit Assets Team discussions in the areas of Public Safety, Housing, Education, Economic Development, and Health**

#### **Public Safety**

- 1) Equal opportunities in workshops or employment; everyone must practice love in every service, people who know information need to sacrifice by sharing w/others; mutual relationship; pre-offense work mental health; more support; making sure there are reintegration programs functioning and staffed to reduce recidivism & crime; improving the language access in the court system and police department
- 2) DHS, QPS Express, Free Clinics, Homeless shelters; more active places for kids to go and play; need organization who direct people involved to be productivity in community; organizing the people who can organize people to get work (job); MHDD, ABBE, Church, Dept. of Corrections; education on law and cultural competency on training to law officers; instead of arresting limited speaking people
- 3) DHS provide more services for the families in need; Free clinics open for more hours; Homeless shelters open more to help out the homeless; we must vote an advocate to the voiceless or a community choose a representative/every neighborhood needs an ambassador; public forums, mentoring, CASA; use interpreters to access help;
- 4) People should not be carrying weapons illegally; policies needs to inform through the representatives, instead of jumping to the conclusion in the neighborhood; school policies, expand funding for programs; understand that spanking is part of our cultural discipline measure; need of interpreters by police
- 5) It costs the willingness and dedication of everyone in the community

Comments---Linn County should support and advise in order to accomplish our crucial goals or purposes; little \$; organizers, fundraisers; in the city access information they need to add African language to their list and information package

#### **Housing**

- 1) Affordable Housing (rental, home ownership); dealing w/homelessness; safe neighborhoods, access to food, only people of color in radius;
- 2) Getting resources connected linked together; more knowledge of continuum and how to connect to additional services; neighborhoods---welcoming people of color "relateability"; Home improvement lending (access to loans); quality of housing;
- 3) Continuum of care
- 4) Create loan pool; place based "focus"; reasonable risk assessment



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### **Housing** (cont.)

- 5) Education around “how to be a good renter” provided by agencies when/where necessary
- 6) Communication, education, Housing resource center; jobs
- 7) Churches, United Ways 2-1-1, Civil Rights Commission; realtors; public/word of mouth; internet; media; housing authority; Kirkwood; Banks/Lenders;
- 8) Referrals (local/state/federal); workshops/community conversations; awareness & newsletters; new development & rehab (place-based lending for home improvements); investments
- 9) Management, higher standards, rezoning & redevelopment
- 10) Attitude is free!! Behavior & management is free!!

Comments----Fair housing---would like to see information on home ownership broken down by gender; if there is gender disparity then this may lead into discussions of wage inequality, discrimination practices, etc.; identify affordable housing in the area around CR, then finding gaps that make affordable housing outside of CR difficult---transportation & other services

Policies---discussed Nuisance Abatement (disjointed system, use of fear and control, civil rights possibly being violated)

Changing perspectives---make community more appealing--address issues identified why people leave community; have more law enforcement trained in issues & integrate into practices

### **Education**

- 1) More entrepreneur opportunities for minorities, training w/law enforcement, relationship building; Conflict?, impoverished, breakfast program at school, schools connect w/organizations, educate parents; clubs/organizations to study (tutoring, mentoring); tutoring and mentoring; level the playing field; creation of a sense of urgency--look at indicators, restorative justice programs;
- 2) Keep people talking reach out to others, tap into all resources, agencies, and exports; United Way 2-1-1, volunteer at YPN, talk to each other more, pay it forward, Mission of Hope, city leadership (elected),
- 3) Continue to communicate; volunteering, role modeling, opportunities like this to come together, find common ground, mean; use youth in workforce development
- 4) Education is where a lot of focus needs to be; building relationship w/law enforcement; putting economic development dollars into budget for community investment initiatives, eliminate zero tolerance policies
- 5) What is the cost of not doing anything?; \$200k



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### **Education** (*cont.*)

Comments---CR is on the right track!!; short term planning, longer term action

6) Focus on the positive. Spend as much time/energy promoting students who are doing well, as we spend on those who have tripped up.

### **Economic Development**

1) Starting at schools; schools access to resources, job shadowing/internships, etc.; target underrepresented groups, including people w/discipline problems, special ed, students of color, etc.; "Black Box"---review hiring and prescreening practices; transportation; Creating and attracting a more skilled workforce; Lobby legislators; eliminate barriers that minorities face in opening new businesses, eliminate language barriers in employment---by teaching English and by staffing business w/dual language management

2) Job shadowing/internships; Iowa works, ASAC, Tanager, other community groups--- Baker Boys; mentoring (in an interest area); Equal Employment Opportunity; State Government; Higher Education, Availability of jobs, RED-I; translators, help w/application processes; Catherine McAuley, Kirkwood; find other agencies, have companies translate applications into Swahili and hire managers who speak Swahili

3) Community collaboration and volunteering; think tank; Coe College and Mt. Mercy--- willing and able hands; communication and education on highly demand workforce skills; being more involved in community, educate potential clients, our responsibility to educate ourselves about other cultures; identify services and spread the word and create; expand Kirkwood program

4) Better infrastructure (transportation, sidewalks, roads)---unequal funding in different areas; use existing resources to interact w/schools regarding jobs after graduating; educating employers on discrimination, financial benefits to hiring from marginalized groups; Work Opportunity Tax Credit; Better communication between the workforce and schools to let students know and understand workforce demands; accept people of different languages into our community; ensure that our existing programs are both well presented (communicated) and well done for diverse populations

5) Time(2); grants are available

### **Health**

1) Community grows their own solutions!, community conversations---give everyone a voice, education--access, opportunity, cultural competence for all, engage parents, stop the "Hollywood" thing--not vested in kids, have alternatives, prepare our kids; more employment opportunities---solutions---publicly funded health clinics for under insured, preventative health care and access to preventative healthcare; broad knowledge of available resources, access to care, more free medical clinics, education about insurance, accessibility to information; Integrated Health Home, accessibility, culturally responsive and diverse, transportation, no credit scores to hospitals, access to healthy, affordable food as a preventative measure; promote dental care, open access, equal/affordable day-care,



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### **Health** (cont.)

start school at age 3; healthy food, public transit, buses supporting bikes, active transport, low deductibles

Long-term---0-5 education/support for kids, healthy food for 0-5 at daycare, short term---address survival mode; hiring more teachers of color, teachers should be aware of cultural identity needs, we want competent teachers, mentoring for teachers of color/and administrators; achievement/opportunity; Latino/African Americans, communication; handicap people and their services---more services; not punishing people for victimless crime; remove disproportionate sentencing; alternative discipline, support for parents; go to school w/proper attitude, DSM example; Rabbi educated vandals that showed hate on building, mentoring, achievement gap; Better awareness and understanding of the population were working w/and their needs; for example---putting ESL kids in special education or not understanding goals of the learners

2) Inter-religious Council, UW, Civil Rights Commission, good schools, Neighborhood Assoc, churches, mosques, synagogues, African American Family Preservation Council; getting community involved, free clinics, affordable health bill, schools, free health clinics and urgent cares; Feed Iowa First---non-profit organizations that work on increasing access to healthy food, county has a lot of flood ravaged land that could be used to grow food, free clinics, food pantries, hospitals, health ed/public health, childcare orgs, preschools, dental clinics; Feed Iowa First, Matthew 25, Blue Zones, NewBo; food access---a lot of land still available, 2 hospitals, health clinics, health department; making use of diversity focus, DMC board, school board, leadership circle, IMSAAC---teachers union; older students, 504, tutors, mentors; Waypoint, Abbe, Horizons, Four Oaks, all work great on their own but need more networking; EO programs; State government; governor's office, businesses, higher education---Coe, Kirkwood, Mt. Mercy, Kaplan; Kirkwood--high tech skills for high tech jobs; RED-I; United Way---ACES, outside schools, YPN, Inter-agency faith community, Corrections---court ordering (drug court), faith based repeated, court monitoring/reporting, mentoring; Diversity Focus; collaboration rather than duplication, CR school; Catherine McAuley Center

3) Start meeting based on the people involved in the education system; educate people of policies, don't disregard medical bills, educate people on options for care, get more involvement from disparity affected groups in initiatives, farm local land, require dental screening in school at "select" grades, food organizations help support schools w/breakfast for kids before school, open clinics/travel or outreach medical/dental clinics; fridge/canned vegetable food banks, healthy food traveling food banks; people form groups; communicate our concerns to community organizations and highlight need to promote change, take part in civic conversations, contact teacher's union members; more networking w/outside agencies; Community---student mentoring; impact discipline has on housing, education, military service; real life skill building; include the parents in the discussions that involve children/families; helping parents understand the importance of education/involvement that sometimes is diminished by misunderstanding culture



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### **Health** (cont.)

4) Medicare only reimburses transportation to clinics for children, a better welcome system, more systematic way to get information out, modify hospitals 1-year department policy, charge consistent amounts for same service provided, regardless of who pays

(insurance, Medicaid, patient); strengthening urban agriculture, food stores that have a balanced proportion of healthy food with convenience food, policies that improve access to active and public transportation (like allowing more bikes on buses), rules to ensure all kids have free education aged 3; modifications and public reports to special interest groups w/policies, making use of communication tools for advancements, include cultural competence to continuing education; holistic approach, agencies coming together to find the new approach; Summits are needed, get social service agencies into neighborhoods. Proactive, not reactive; create more opportunities for parent involvement; educate teachers on how to work w/parents that have limited English proficiency

5) Cost of listening=0, varies depending on policies, raise taxes to for, equally share; priceless; County needs to be more involved, end disconnect between City, County, and inter-department gaps in communication; cost of training---long term benefit outweighed by cost

### **Conclusions/Outcomes**

There is a real willingness to engage in the problem-solving aspects of these issues. Much of what each group came up with is not new information. We must wonder, therefore, if these suggestions represent strategies that have been tried and that have failed, or whether they have not been tried, OR whether they have been started and not continued. In any event, the primary conclusion is to keep talking. Re-convene, form strategy groups/sub-committees. Pay for the time it takes to organize for the long term. It would be a huge error to let the energy and good will demonstrated at the Housing Summit dissipate.