

Final Report
Sheridan County
Community Survey
Needs and Services
2009

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What Are We Trying To Find Out

- Extent of Poverty in County
- Factors Support the Creation of Poverty
- Factors Exacerbate Impacts of Poverty
- Services and Resources Currently Available to Offset Creation or Impacts of Poverty
- Priorities for Meeting Needs
- Barriers to Services
- Significant Changes from 2006 to 2009

Four-Pronged Strategy

- Community Surveys
- Focus Group Interviews
- Review of Relevant Quantitative Data
- Public Comment

Survey Population

- 250 Random At-Large Community Members
- 760 Agency clients of current Community Service Block Grant agencies
- 84 Human Service Agencies
- 14 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Agencies

Survey Results

Number Returned

- 66 Random At-Large Community Members
- 147 Agency Client
- 19 Human Service Agencies
- 14 CSBG Agencies
- 245 TOTAL SURVEYS RETURNED
22.1% RETURN RATE
- 2006, 55.9% Return Rate

Survey Demographics

Surveys were compiled according to City/Town/Area of Residence and Age groups.

- **Every community had respondents:**

Sheridan – 171 (80.2%); Big Horn – 3 (1.4%); Dayton – 14 (6.5%); Ranchester – 2 (.9%); Story – 9 (4.2%); Other 14 (6.5%)

- **Every age group had respondents**

No Age: 4; Less than 18: 4; 18-29: 29;
30-39: 32; 40-49: 30; 50-59: 37;
60-69: 29; 70-79: 24; 80+: 24

Who Responded?

- Teens
- Single Parents/Single Mothers
- People who have been homeless/live in shelter
- Disabled
- Senior Citizens

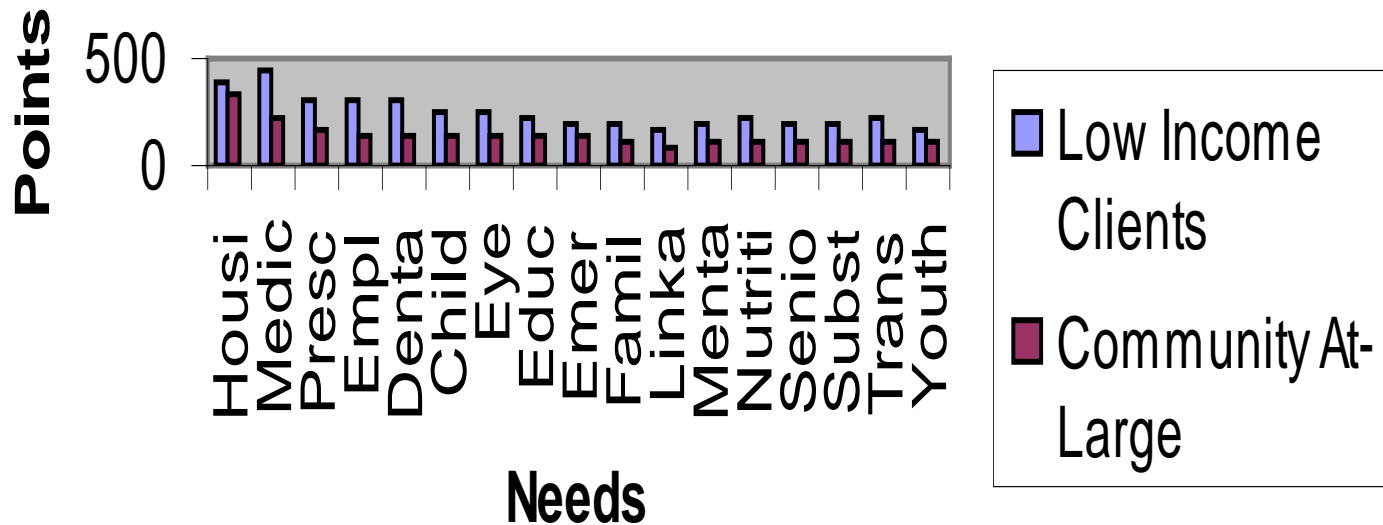
Some Demographic Generalities

- Majority were white (191) and female (138)
- Majority achieved high school (84) but a number had their Associate's degree (43) and their Bachelor's degree (32)
- There were 54 one person households and 52 two persons households and 30 had no responses
- Majority had 0 child (42), 1 child under age 18 (23) and 107 provided no response.
- Majority have lived in Sheridan County for over 21 yrs.(80)

Some Demographic Generalities

- Majority earn \$0-\$9,999 (58) and 29 earned between \$10,000 - \$19,999 and 21 earned over \$80,000.
- Majority own home(105)
- 139 out of 209 or 66.5% cook
- 130 out of 199 or 65.3% shop

Comparison Needs - Agency Clients & At Large Community



Changes in Past 3 years That Would Affect How Much Money Individuals Have

Agency Clients: Yes, 82 No, 51

Community At-Large: Yes, 34 No, 23

Explanations:

Loss of employment/Not as much work/Not paid enough to stay at job/no raises even though cost of living is on rise 31

Taxes and cost of living going up 20

Poor economy/recession 16

Lack of Availability of affordable housing/high prices of housing for rentals and real estate 14

Poor economy/recession 16

Utilities have increased 4

Aging and declining health/increase in cost of prescriptions and health care 4

Fuel prices 5

Got a raise at my job/household income increased 3

Expenses greater than income 2

Inflation 2

Loss of savings through investment 2

Banking system has failed us/Stock market crash 2

Know Of Individual/Family

- Needed New Services in Past Three Years
 - Agency Clients: Yes- 45, No-87
 - Community At-Large: Yes-20, No-41
- Requested Assistance from Local Agencies in Past 3 Years
 - Agency Clients: Yes – 52 No-82
 - Community At-Large: Yes -21 No-43

Services Currently Receiving That Are Helping You To Become Self-Sufficient (Low-Income)

- **None:** Agency Clients-20; Community-31
- **Free Clinic:** Agency Clients-13
- **Food Stamps:** Agency Clients -10
- **Parenting Class:** Agency Clients- 9
- **LIEAP:** Agency Clients-5; Community-3
- **VOA Homeless:** Agency Clients-7
- **Residential/Housing/Low Income Rental Assistance:** Agency Clients-7
- **Title 19/Equality Care:** Agency Clients-7
- **Child Daycare:** Agency Clients-6; Community-1
- **Employment & Training:** Agency Clients-5
- **Medical:** Agency Clients-5
- **Medicare:** Agency Clients-2; Community-2
- **Mental Health Counseling/Play Therapy:** Agency Clients-4
- **WIC:** Agency Clients-3
- **Social Security:** Agency Clients-3
- **Prescription Help:** Agency Clients-3
- **YMCA After School Program:** Agency Clients-3
- **Meals on Wheels:** Agency Clients-3
- **Senior Center Lunch:** Community-3



Two or More Agencies Providing the Same Service

- Agency Clients: Yes -11, No – 119
- Community At-Large: Yes – 7, No - 50

Vulnerable At-Risk Population

- **Seniors/Elderly:** Agency Clients-15; Community-17
- **Minimum wage earners/unemployed/not enough jobs they are willing to do/unskilled worker/ 30-65 underemployed with no employee benefits:** Agency Clients-9; Community-10
- **Those in Poverty/Low Income:** Agency Clients-13; Community-3
- **Young Families:** Agency Clients-5; Community-6
- **Teenagers Not Having Enough To Do/Troubled Teen:** Agency Clients-10; Community-2
- **Single Parents/Single Moms:** Agency Clients-4; community-7
- **Those that have drug abuse:** Agency Clients-4; Community-4
- **Poor that don't qualify for assistance like Title 19, and uninsured:** Agency Clients-5
- **No/None:** Agency Clients – 7
- **Young Adults 17-25:** Agency Clients-5

Help Offered in Sheridan County

- **More affordable housing/housing/rent control:** Agency Clients-25; Community-7
- **Medical Services/Healthcare/Medical Bills:** Agency Clients-12; Community-4
- **More jobs/Higher paying jobs/ Job training/skills training including reading and writing :** Agency Clients-4; Community-5
- **Transportation to work/gas/bus:** Agency Clients-8; Community-5
- **Dental:** Agency Clients-7
- **Childcare and healthcare for those that don't meet all requirements:** Agency Clients-4
- **Eye Care:** Agency Clients-3
- **Youth Services:** Agency Clients-3
- **Property Tax Relief:** Community-3

CSBG & Human Service Agencies

- **Majority are Not for Profit**
 - CSBG Agencies-14
 - Other Agencies - 7
- **Part of a Larger Organization:**
 - CSBG Agencies – No, 10
 - Other Agencies – Yes, 10
- **Employees:**
 - CSBG Agencies, FT: 1-220, PT: 1-70 Volunteers: 11-100's
 - Other Agencies, FT: 1-120, PT: 1-20, Volunteers: 2
- **People Served:**
 - CSBG Agencies: 2008, 6-2,000+
 - Other Agencies: 2008, 14-20,522
- **Low Income Served: CSBG, 6-600+; Other Agencies, 14-19,496**
- **Age Groups:**
 - CSBG Agencies:Adults(8), All(6), Seniors (6), Adolescents (4), Families (1) and Infants and Children (1)
 - Other Agencies: Adolescents (7) Adults -6, Seniors (6), Families (4), Infants and children (3), All (2) and Other (1)

Human Service Agency Demographics

- **Majority serve**
 - CSBG Agencies: Sheridan/Sheridan County (10), Sheridan/Johnson County(2), Rocky Mountain Region (2)
 - Other Agencies: Sheridan/Sheridan County (4), Sheridan/Johnson County (4) and N.E. Wyoming- Sheridan, Johnson, Crook, Weston and Campbell Counties (3)
- **Criteria to Receive Services:**
 - CSBG: Problem/diagnosis (11), Age (6) and Income(4)
 - Other Agencies: Problem (6), Age (8), and Income (5)
- **Majority of Services**
 - CSBG: Family (8, 1 referral), Employment (3, 1 referral), Medical, Transportation, Education and Youth, Senior and Prescription Drugs (assistance)(all 4), Nutrition (3), Affordable Housing (2), Transportation (1), Other – Adult Day Care, Family Caregiver Services, Activities, Community Outreach-Assistance with Low Income Energy Assistance, Elderly & Disabled Tax Rebate, Health Screening and More (1)
 - Other Agencies: Housing, Education & Youth (5), Medical, Nutrition & Other (4), Child Care & Family (3)

Comparison of Five Highest Ranked Needs (Human Service Agencies)

- Housing – 78 pts.
- Child Care – 70 pts.
- Transportation – 55 pts.
- Employment/Training and Medical Services -53 pts.
- Prescription Drugs – 49 pts.
- Dental Services – 43 pts.

Changes in Past 3 years That Would Affect How Much Money Clients Have

- 18- Yes
- 5- No
- Explanation
 - Cost of Living (food, gas, housing)-4
 - Loss of jobs, loss of insurance benefits - 4
 - Slowing of job market -2
 - Rental unit prices increases – 2
 - Increase in child care – 1
 - The economy . . . Has created a new group of people in financial distress. Investment income has diminished significantly in recent months. Many supplemented their social security with investment income.

Services Requested By Clients in Past Three Years That You Were Not Able to Provide

- 14-Yes
- 6-No
- 4- No answer
- ? - 2
- Explanations:
- 5Lack of available slots for child care.
- 4Affordable housing.
- 4Medical services/Medical care not covered by Medicare.
- 3Dental services that require extensive care and not provided by Medicaid. Local dentists do not appear willing to work with the low-income population on a payment plan.
- 2Rental assistance.
- Eyecare.
- Transportation.
- Substance abuse service.
- We have new clients daily.
- Waiting list for in-home services referrals. Families needing respite services have not been served.

Know of An Individual/Family That Requested Services/ Services Clients Receiving That Are Helping Them To Become Self-Sufficient

- 16-Yes
- 2 – No/None
- 8 – Not Answered
- 1 – Not Applicable

Explanation:

- 6 Medical care, and basic diagnostic tests/Health care costs even with insurance has wiped out savings and leaves no money at the end.
- 4Referrals to Other Agencies/information about resources.
- 4Food/food box/commodities/Harvest program.
- 4Transportation/Senior Bus.
- 3Daycare assistance.
- 3Prescription medications/patient assistance programs through pharmaceutical companies.
- 3Low income housing/utilities.
- 2Lifeskill Classes.
- 2Shelter/transitional housing.
- 2Literacy/GED Tutoring.
- 2 Good jobs/job.
- 2New clients daily/Have worked with many, many families in the past 3 years.
- Outreach, emergency services and in-home services.

New Services Does Community Need to Provide

- 4No Answer.
- 3Moreaffordable, low income housing.
- 2Help for low income individuals access appropriate resources and referrals.
- 2Transportation.
- Child care.
- We have great community services. Funding is the issue.
- Better coordinated support for non-profits.
- Affordable dental care.
- Advocacy group to held educate community and minimize resistance to people with disabilities.
- Increased access to health care.
- Green house living for Sheridan – new type of nursing home.

Duplication of Services

- 3-Yes
- 16-No
- 2 No Answer
- Sheridan work together well.
- Could be partnerships between agencies with like services to help individuals negotiate the various resources. Could potentially reduce operating expenses because some costs could be shared.
- Several organizations helping families obtain affordable housing.
- Food distribution - I am sure there are other. Sheridan seems like no one works together at times.
- RENEW, Easter Seals, Jodi's Heart, Salvation Army & Food Bank.

Vulnerable At-Risk Populations

- 2Immigrant population with lack of language skills.
- 2Those in low-paying jobs with no benefits.
- 2 Young families.
- 2Those with mental health issues.
- 2Families in need because it's hard for them to maintain work that covers all needs. Sheridan is on the way to the wealthy and poor. No middle class.
- 2 Children – school-age children who are left at home/difficult economic times put kids at risk of child abuse and neglect and family violence.
- 2Youth – no services to keep them occupied and healthy. Transient youth because they can't afford housing and they are our homeless.
- 2Low- income population is being left behind. There needs to be a community conversation on poverty in Sheridan County.
- Elders (low income) on fixed incomes with no opportunities to earn income

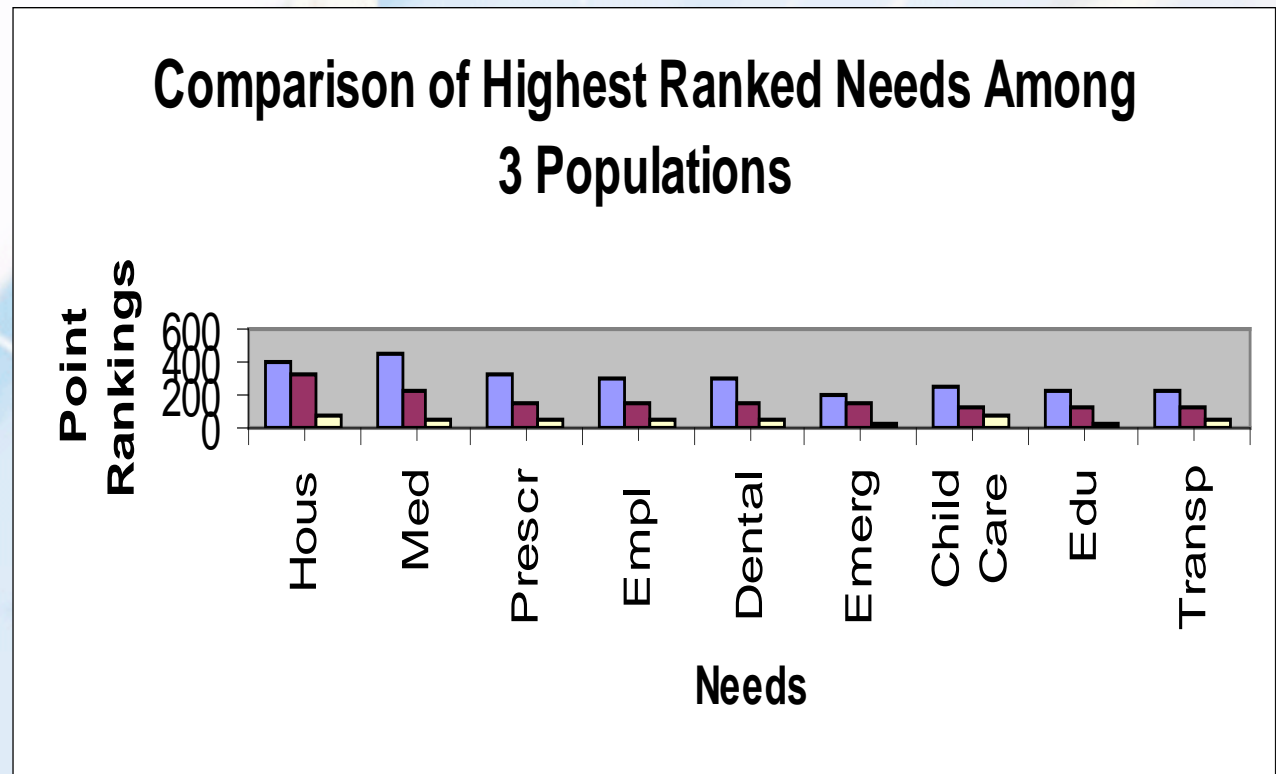
Kind of assistance Sheridan County Tri-Partite Board can provide to better serve clients

- **5Continue block grant funds.**
- **3Child Care.**
- **2Funding.**
- **2Housing.**
- **2Affordable medical care for all.**
- **Training opportunities.**
- **Continued rental funds.**
- **Funds for prescriptions.**
- **Meetings to discuss zones.**
- **Tripartite Board to initiate a community conversation on poverty in Sheridan County.**
- **After-school care.**
- **Materials of funding support.**
- **Dental and eyecare.**
- **More psychiatrists/psychologists, wider variety of doctors.**
- **Youth services.**
- **Continue senior citizen transportation and other senior programs.**
- **More employment opportunities.**
- **Recession would help.**
- **Bus service.**
- **Nothing at this time.**

Comparison of Highest Ranked Needs

- Affordable Housing (810)
- Accessibility/Affordability to Medical Services (724)
- Accessibility/Affordability of Prescription Drugs (516)
- Employment & Training (489)
- Accessibility/Affordability to Dental Service (482)
- Child Care (457)
- Accessibility/Affordability to Eyecare (415)
- Education (393)
- Transportation (393)
- Emergency Services (379)
- Mental Health Services (337)
- Nutrition (336)
- Senior Services (335)
- Substance Abuse Services (315)
- Family Services (304)
- Youth (296)
- Linkages to Other Services (272)

Comparison of Highest Ranked Needs Among 3 Populations- Agency Clients, At Large Community and Human Service Provider

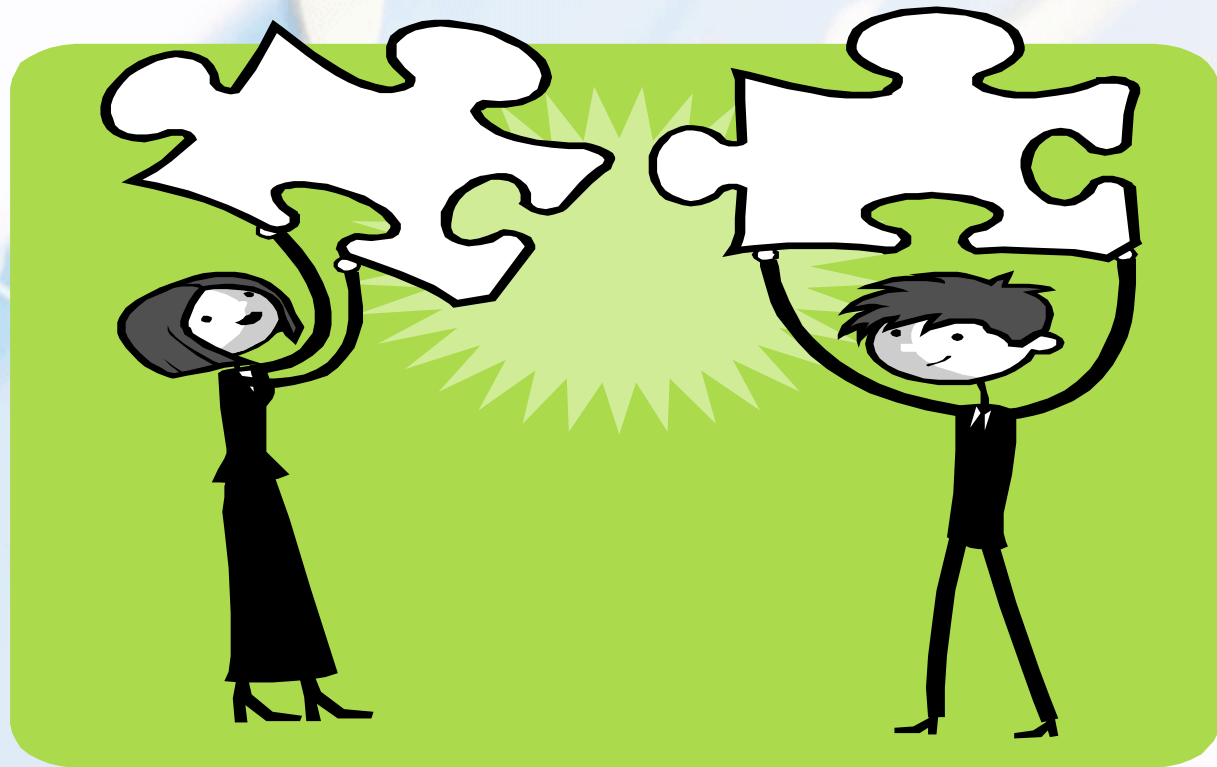


Survey Data Comments

- 43 agency “clients” that are exceeding the 2009 Poverty Guidelines:
 - Less than 18: 1
 - 18-29: 6
 - 30-39: 14
 - 40-49: 9
 - 50-59: 2
 - 60-69: 2
 - 70-79: 7
 - 80+: 3
- Seniors: Possible mixed sample of CSBG clients with other agency clients
- Very important for agencies to screen families for family income
- Appropriate allocation of meager CSBG funds

Questions about the Surveys??

May I take questions?



Focus Group Interviews

- Thursday, April 2, 2009, Community At Large & CSBG Clients 7:00PM, 7 participants
- Friday, April 3, 2009
 - 7:30AM Human Services Block Grant Agencies, 5 participants
 - 9:00AM CSBG Agencies, 15 participants
 - 10:30AM VOA Homeless Shelter, 10 participants
 - 12:15PM Senior Citizens, 7 participants



Purpose of Focus Groups

- What human services are in Sheridan County?
- What are most important needs?
- What are least important needs?
- What do you think would help to get out of poverty and become self-sufficient?
- Any other comments?
- Do the comments verify information in survey?

Services Available in Sheridan County

- *5Senior center, lunch and frozen meals, use senior bus, many senior activities*
- *4VA services & prescription, emergency services.*
- *4Salvation Army food boxes, 4 regular meals*
- *3Medical services*
- *3Eyecare*
- *3Prescription drug*
- *2Dental,*
- *2Education and child care at the YMCA, All services on the list.*

Most Important Human Need in Sheridan County

- **15** *Accessibility/affordability to Medical Services*
- **14** *Affordable Housing*
- **11** *Accessibility/affordability to Prescription Drugs*
- **11** *Accessibility/affordability of Eyecare*
- **11** *Transportation(those with disabled services)*
- **9** *Employment and Training – Counseling, job training, work clothes*
- **9** *Accessibility/affordability to Dental Services*
- **7** *Senior Services*
- **6** *Emergency services*
- **4** *Nutrition Services*
- **3** *Linkages to other resources*
- **3** *Mental Health Services*
- **3** *Substance Abuse Services*
- **2** *Education – Adult Basic Education, GED, English as a Second Language, Literacy*
- **2** *All*

Least Important Human Need in Sheridan County

- **11 Child Care**
- **9 Education – Adult Basic Education, GED, English as a Second Language, Literacy**
- **9 Youth Services**
- **6 Nutrition Services**
- **6 Senior Services**
- **5 Linkages to other resources**
- **4 Transportation**
- **4 None, they all are important**
- **3 Accessibility/affordability to Medical Services**
- **2 Mental Health Services - well taken care of**
- **2 Substance Abuse Services – well taken care of**

What would help you or clients to get out of poverty and become self-sufficient?

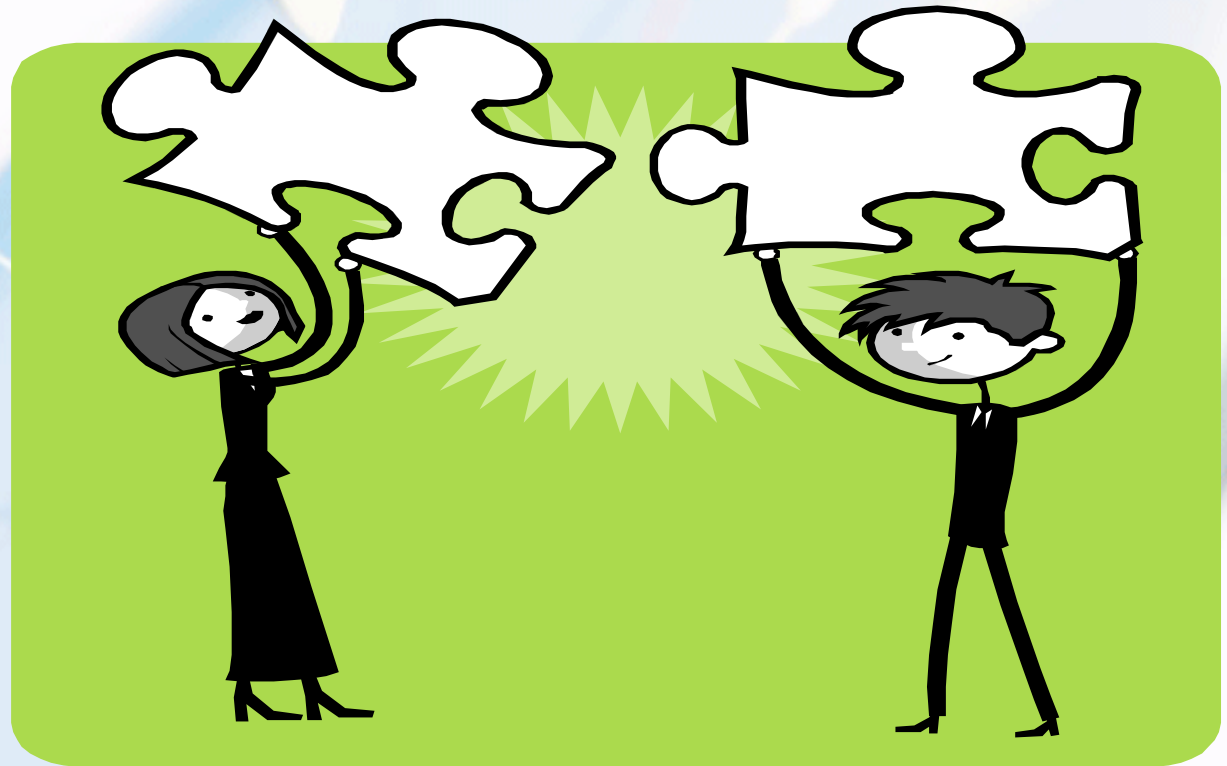
- *13 Education ,job training and mentoring.*
- *7 Higher/living wages*
- *7 Affordable housing*
- *7 Young families have the mindset that they should have it better than their parents. They need to be educated in a different mindset. Reeducating and re-orienting in high school so that they learn about economics and budgeting.*
- *4 Jobs*
- *4 Have a job, be ambitious and positive self-esteem and don't drag along.*
- *3 Health*
- *2 Utilize the food bank.*
- *2 Families need to not buy something until they have the cash in hand.*
- *Community that is educated and understanding what it is to live in poverty. Giving the support, the connections and relationship.*

Focus Group Comments

- *Development of a resource directory would be good.*
- *Don't have the hearing aids on the list.*
- *Lump medical, dental, prescriptions, and eyecare under health services. Funding for health services is a concern of non-profits in a survey conducted by Scott Foundation.*
- *Consider adding handicapped as a grouping.*
- *From agencies there is a need for more training on the grant application process. Don't always have the information that I need to complete the grant application.*
- *It is important to build effective partnerships when funding is scarce. This is different from referrals. It makes sense to partner with other agencies. Not sure why that doesn't occur and how effectively do that.*
- *Comments pretty much parallel the needs as ranked in the survey with the exception of child care (Is that because child care is being taken care of by the new building project?)*

Questions on Focus Group??

May I take questions?



Quantitative Data

- Demographics
 - Population: From 2000 (26,560) to July 2008, (27,985) or 3% increase. Highest category of increase is 25-29 years old with a 38% increase or 2,279 and 2nd highest category of increase is 0 to 4 with a 29.7% increase. The largest age category by number is 50 to 59.
 - Race and Ethnicity (July 2008):
 - 26,800 White, and of these there are 764 Hispanic/Latinos which represents a 18.3% increase
 - 117 Black/African American which represents a 129.4% increase
 - 467 American Indian which represents a 36.5% increase
 - 116 Asians which represents a 12.6% increase
 - 36 Native Hawaiian which represents a 9.1% increase
 - Two or more races which represents a 40.5% increase

Quantitative Data

– Income:

- Median Family Income – \$59,934 compared to \$56,700 in 2006. Wyoming was \$69,400
- Nonfamily households earn a median wage of \$28,969
- Median earnings for male is \$38,369 and for a female is \$29,335 (23.5% lower than male)
- 6,815 families and 5,114 non-family households in Sheridan County.
- Of these families, 176 families earn less than \$10,000/year, 35 families earn between \$10,000 to \$14,999.
- 181 earn from \$150,000 to \$199,999 and 177 earn \$200,000 or more.
- Headwaters Economics states, " Average earnings per job, adjusted for inflation, have fallen from \$32,813 in 1970 to \$32,679 in 2005.

Quantitative Data

- Income:
 - 2,426 persons (8.4%) live below the poverty level
 - 211 families (3.1%) of 6,815 live in poverty
 - Of this number 4.1% have related children under 18 years of age
 - » Of this number 18.5 have related children under 5 years only.
 - Of 211 families, only 1.8% or 4 families are married couple families, and 15.2% or 32 families are female household with no husband present.
 - Free or reduced lunches are:
 - Sheridan School District #1, 25.4%
 - Sheridan School District #2, 29.8%
 - Sheridan School District #3, 45.6%

Quantitative Data

- Number of households in Sheridan County 11,848 (2005)
 - 0-30% Of Median Family Income: 1,739
 - 31-50% of Median Family Income: 1,873
 - 51-80% of MFI: 2,262
 - 81-95 of MFI: 894
 - 96+ %: 5,080
 - Largest increase of percentage is 96+ %ile

Quantitative Data

- **Employment**

- Sheridan County's Labor Force increased by 230 persons to 15,681 in 2007.
- Employment increased by 257 persons.
- Unemployment decreased to 3% rate in 2007 compared to a 4% rate in 2000. State rate us 3.9%.
- Average weekly wages in Sheridan County increased from \$476 in 2001 to \$679 in 2007.
- Headwaters Economics states, 66% of new jobs, were in wage and salary employment (people who work for someone else).

- **Housing**

- Housing units increased 9.49% between 2000 and 2007 from 12,577 to 13,771. Statewide is 8.5%.
- Average apartment rent (increase of 1.37%) from \$597 in 2007 to \$608 (2nd quarter 2008) with vacancy rate of 4.7% compared to 2.23% three years ago.
- Rents for mobile homes on a lot increased by 25.77% from 2nd quarter 2007 to 2nd quarter 2008
- Average sales price of existing, detached, single family home is \$240,779.
- Headwaters Economics states, "Housing has become less affordable in the last decade."

Quantitative Data

- Cost of Living – The cost of living for Sheridan County is fifth highest in the State with a ranking of 105. (Teton County, 134 and Platte County, 85). food, housing, apparel, transportation, medical, recreation and personal care.
 - Food is the highest of any other county;
 - **Apparel is the highest ranking** and is tied with Sublette County.
 - Housing is the 5th highest and ranked the same as Carbon County.
 - Medical is the **fourth** highest in the State and tied with Teton County.
 - Recreation and personal care is the second highest and tied with Campbell County.
 - Transportation is lowest in comparison to the rest of the State.

CSBG Poverty Factors (ARRA)

- Community Services Block Grant Poverty Factors for the new ARRA (low income, unemployed, food stamps, Medicaid, POWER, applications for state assistance, and SSI)
 - Sheridan County ranked 7th highest of all counties or 2,353(5%) of the State Low Income Population among all counties.
 - Unemployed people are 435 (5.4%) or 7th highest of all counties.
 - People on Food Stamps – 2,172 (8.3%) or 4th highest of all counties.
 - People on Medicaid – 15,314 (5.4%) or 7th highest of all counties.
 - Applications Received for Assistance – 2,547 (5.5%) or 7th highest of all counties.
 - People receiving social security – 281 (4.9%) or 6th highest of all counties.
 - Categories reflect 4.9%-8.3% of the corresponding State population.

Quantitative Data

- Health and Mental Health
 - 21.1% of the N.E. Wyoming population as compared to 17.3% of the statewide population have no health care plan. Increase of 4% over 2006.
 - Teen Birth-The teen birth rate decreased significantly from 31 in 2007 to 12 in 2008.
 - Births – Decreased from 2007 to 2009 by 129 births. In 2006 86 mothers (22.6%) smoked during pregnancy births had mothers who smoked while Wyoming average is 19.7%.

Health and Mental Health

- 11% of N.E. Wyoming population reported their mental health, i.e., stress, depression, and problems with emotions was not good for 14 or more of the past 30 days. (8.8% statewide).
- 12.7% reported taking medicine or receiving treatment from a doctor/health professional for a mental health condition or emotional problem.
- 16.1% also reported they are binge drinkers and 4.4% reported they were heavy drinkers.

Children and Youth Concerns

- **Children & Youth in Poverty**
 - 981 children or 15.3% of children below federal poverty level
 - 353 children or 5.5% of children in extreme poverty (less than 50% of federal poverty level).
- **Drop-out Rates**
 - Sheridan #1 – 2.31%
 - Sheridan #2 – 7.41
 - Sheridan #3 – 0%
- **Suicides** – years of 2005 and 2006 ten teens committed suicide in Sheridan which represents both 11.6% of the statewide population of teens suicide in 2005 and 8.6% in 2006. Sheridan County ranked fourth of counties in 2005 for teen suicide.

Quantitative Data Comments

- Statistics parallel needs in other strategies.
- Was unable to get current statistics for children living in poverty.
- Statistics haven't caught up with current economic slump.

Questions on Data Analysis?

May I take questions?



Summary of Needs Assessment

Extent of Poverty:

- 5.0% (2,353/47,182) of statewide population in poverty
 - 2,426 persons (8.4%) live below the poverty level
 - 211 families (3.1%) of 6,815 live in poverty Of this number 4.1% have related children under 18 years of age
 - » Of this number 18.5% have related children under 5 years only.
 - Based on 2006 assessment 44.2% (93) of these families are single mother families, and 18.8% (40) population are single-father families
 - 15.3% of children live near or below the poverty level
 - » 5.5% who live in extreme poverty (less than 50% of federal poverty level)
 - 20.2% of children have free or reduced lunch

Factors Support Creation of Poverty:

- The cost of living for Sheridan County is fifth highest in the State with a ranking of 105. (Teton County, 134 and Platte County, 85). This includes food, housing, apparel, transportation, medical, recreation and personal care.
 - Food is the highest of any other county;
 - **Apparel is the highest ranking** and is tied with Sublette County.
 - Housing is the 5th highest and ranked the same as Carbon County.
 - Medical is 4th highest in State (same as Teton County)
- A 23.5% difference in median earnings for males versus female (Male- \$38,369, Female-\$29,335.)
- Difficult to make ends meet when average rental cost is **\$608 and most jobs are service related.**
- Headwaters Economics states, "Average earnings per job, adjusted for inflation, have fallen from \$32,813 in 1970 to \$32,679 in 2005."

Factors Exacerbate Impacts of Poverty

- Very Expensive housing
- Service jobs with poor wages and no benefits
- There were some good paying jobs but many of them have disappeared due to economic downturn.
- High cost of food

Services and Resources Currently Available to Offset Creation or Impacts of Poverty

- Excellent services available
- Good linkages/referrals among various providers of services and resources
- Gaps in service: youth services/youth center
- Question: Do clients know of the many services? Do they know how to request the services?

Priorities for Meeting Needs

- Affordable Housing Accessibility/Affordability to Medical Services
- Accessibility/Affordability of Prescription Drugs
- Employment & Training
- Accessibility/Affordability to Dental Service Child Care
- Accessibility/Affordability to Eyecare
- Education
- Transportation
- Emergency Services
- And while Food, Youth and Senior Services are not highly ranked, they are the focus of CSBG funds. If funding is eliminated for these needs, the problem could be exacerbated.

Barriers to Services

- Community has lack of knowledge of financial/budgeting management skills
- Resource Directory for clients (short and sweet)
- Community knowledge of “affordable housing”
- More funding (local, state, federal) to non-profits

What's Next?

- Based on public comment and results the Board will determine the Community Action Plan
- Advertise Community Action Plan and have Public Hearing
- Prepare Request For Proposals for CSBG grant that align with Community Action Plan.
- Receive Proposals and allocate resources.
- Submit Application To State
- Full report of the needs assessment can be found on <http://cvc.sheridan.edu> or <http://www.sheridanmedia.com>

Community Action Plan

- Funding should be allocated according to the 2009 needs assessment findings
- Submitted with Sheridan County Tripartite Board application
- At minimum, funding should be directed to
 - Housing
 - Medical, Dental Services, Prescription Drugs, and Eye care
 - Child Care
 - Transportation
 - Education
 - Employment & Training
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Don't forget about food, senior and youth services for decreasing funding will only exacerbate the need.

Questions on Community Action Plan and What Happens Next?

May I take questions?



Thank You!

- Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this Needs Assessment.
- Thank you to Board of Directors for Sheridan County Tripartite Board for sponsorship of this needs assessment including Terry Cram, Darlene Elliott, Lester A. Engelter, Mike Nickel, Tom Ringley, Sheila Sales, Fay Symons, Dr. Juanita Unhoch, and Colleen Rolston.
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