

Mecklenburg Livable Communities

Safe Community Think Tank: Meeting 1

Developing the Partnership Alliance

1. What kind of atmosphere would you like?
 - a. Relaxed
 - b. Engaging
 - c. Safe
2. What can you count on from each other during our time?
 - a. Be upfront
 - b. No topics off limits
3. What do we want to do when things get difficult?
 - a. Professional
 - b. Respectful
 - c. Listening to each other's perspectives
 - d. Open-minded
4. What does success look like?
 - a. Reduce/eliminate threats (intentional or unintentional)
 - b. Safe places such as parks
 - c. New partnerships that make a difference
 - d. Changing outcomes—reducing/eliminating crime

Represented Partners & Their Current Initiative Report-Outs

Safe Kids/Safe Community

Coalition to reduce the burden of injury with children and older adults; serves as connector, facilitator, and resource finder for safety in the community; Towards Zero Program: reduce pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile collisions; child-passenger safety-seat checks; fall prevention programs for senior citizens

Cardinal Innovations

Charged with community disaster plan that addresses mental health issues; Crisis Continuum Roundtable meets on a quarterly basis to address a strategic plan, focuses on crisis prevention and early intervention

Sheriff's Office:

- Interested in creating safety alliances with more diverse groups in the community
- Partners with Safe Kids Coalition
- Inmate Programs: GED education, life skills, domestic violence education, full CMS classroom for juvenile inmates; domestic violence seminars for community organizations
- Firearms Secure Your Home Program to protect children and suicide prevention
- Safety seminars with faith-based communities (active shooter prevention seminars;

- Pathways Program: diversion program for youth offenders committing minor crimes to keep them from the criminal system

Charlotte Fire Department

- Char-Meck Alerts: a tool for reporting any emergency situations to the community
- CMS Third Grade Fire Safety Programs: visit approximately 600 classrooms each year, reward students for creating fire safety programs
- Run safety programs as their needed in the community
- CMS Fire and Burn Safety Program for Middle School: visit approximately 700 sixth grade classrooms
- Smoke Detector Program: provide smoke detectors to Charlotte residents
- Focused CPR Response Program: every first-responder in Mecklenburg is trained
- By-Stander CPR Education
- Mecklenburg Medical Alliance: will fund AED for faith-based communities and provide training

Mecklenburg County Community Support Services

- Have programs dedicated to violence prevention around human trafficking, domestic violence, youth violence
- Healthy Relationships Program at Jail North for youth offenders
- Criminal Justice Services' Criminal Justice Advisory Group
- Convener of County's Human Trafficking Roundtable
- Co-Chairing Violence Prevention Taskforce that came out of Health Department's Community Health Assessment
- Connect community members with resources to address issues of dilapidated infrastructure (streetlights, broken down cars, sidewalks, etc.)

Criminal Justice Services

- Safety and Justice Challenge: grant from MacArthur Foundation; goal is to reduce jail population and address the racial disproportionality in jails in a safe manner
- Pre-Trial Safety Assessments: from Arnold Foundation; Pre-Trial Services does risk assessment of every person in pre-trial, judges see them and determine if they can be released in the community or need a secure bond

The Relatives

- Operate crisis center as the only runaway shelter for youth
- Seek to care for unaccompanied homeless youth
- Offer parenting classes to help reduce struggles at home
- Offer 24-hour crisis hotline
- Offer Space Place Program: have approximately 480 partners throughout the County that offers
- Have resource center for young adults 18-24 years old: offer support for children who have aged-out of the foster system

- Neighbor Care: working with hospitals, foster care, and others to provide a place for kids to go who have parents with medical emergencies

Gaps & Root Cause Discussion

What gaps exist?

- Lack of respect/loss of respect for authority, loss of boundaries
- Culture of “rules don’t apply to me”
- There are many different, personal perceptions of safety
- Sense of complacency about community environments
- Lack of supervised afterschool opportunities for youth
- Income disparities
- Lack of affordable supervised summer activities for youth

Why do those gaps exist?

- Prevalence of technology
- Lack of perceptions of “community,” residents are often transient
- Lack of infrastructure (streetlights, sidewalks, flood control) and the lack of resources for building that infrastructure
- Fragmentation/silos amongst organizations
- Lack of economic mobility and economic opportunities
 - But when those economic opportunities arise, communities become more expensive and less inclusive
- Unintended consequences of certain policies (i.e. Zero Tolerance)
- People only care if it affects them

Ideas for New Collaborative Initiatives

Initiative: Bystander Training: CPR

Initiative: The Bystander Effect Public Service Announcement

Initiative: Program to Address Kids Out of School Time

Initiative: Program to Develop More Community Unity (i.e. expand National Night Out)

Ideas of Expanding Current Initiatives

Current Initiative: Domestic Violence and Active Shooter Training with Faith Community

Current Initiative Owner: Sheriff’s Office

Potential Collaborative Partners: All Towns in Mecklenburg County, Faith Community

Current Initiative: CPR in Schools

Current Initiative Owner: Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

Potential Collaborative Partners: Red Cross, American Heart Association

Current Initiative: Mental Health Counseling

Current Initiative Owner: Cardinal Innovations

Potential Collaborative Partners: Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte Fire Department, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office

Current Initiative: Inmate Programs Division

Current Initiative Owner: Sheriff's Office

Potential Collaborative Partners: Criminal Justice Services