

Dialogue on Poverty Agenda

1. Registration and refreshments
2. Welcome and Introductions Jerralynn Ness
3. Dialogue overview
 - a. Purpose of the dialogue
 - b. The principles of dialogue
4. What is your experience with poverty?--Small group discussion
5. How does poverty affect your community?--Small group discussion
6. What changes need to come about to reduce poverty and its effects?
 - a. review list of outcomes
 - b. individually, choose top three outcomes
7. What can we do to bring about these changes?--Small group discussion
8. Fill out priority sheets
9. Closing comments--where do we go from here?

Community Action Organization Dialogue on Poverty 1996

What:

A discussion about poverty and its effects on the community. Participants include a range of community members: low income people, decision makers, social service providers, business people, concerned citizens. Washington County residents will have the opportunity to come together and share with their neighbors their ideas about how poverty effects the community and what should be done about it.

The results of the dialogue will serve a number of uses. First, it will open the lines of communication between diverse members of our community. CAO will use the information we gather to assist us in our annual and strategic planning. Then, the outcomes of our Dialogues will be combined with the results of other dialogues from throughout the state, and sent to the National Association of Community Action Agencies. At a national forum "A National Dialogue on Poverty: What does America Want?" in September, the data from dialogues all over the country will be used to define strategies and bring poverty back to the forefront of national policy.

When:

During the month of June, CAO will hold four Dialogues, two in Hillsboro, one in Tigard, and one for Spanish speakers Cornelius. The locations and dates are as follows:

- Hillsboro: the "Community Action Conference Center", June 18th, 9 a.m. until noon and 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
- Tigard: Tigard Methodist Church, June 25th, 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
- Cornelius: Centro Cultural, June 12, 5:30 - 8:30 pm (in Spanish).

Who:

A planning committee of Board and Staff has been formed: Connie Sherrard, chair; Katrina Pirkle, Holly Grant, Jerralynn Ness, Carren Woods, Kristin Ludwig, Olga Lopez, and Shawna Adams-Jacobs. Planning is underway for outreach to ensure wide attendance, and logistics such as child care, food and transportation.



COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US IN

A DIALOGUE ON POVERTY

IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

*HOW DOES POVERTY AFFECT YOU, YOUR FAMILY
AND THE COMMUNITY?*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

What is poverty? Where is it? What effects does it have on our community?
AND WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

These dialogues will bring together concerned community members
to discuss poverty in our community.

COME SHARE YOUR

- EXPERIENCES
- IDEAS
- CONCERNS



Dialogues will be held:

Wednesday June 12th

Centro Cultural 1110 N. Adair,
Cornelius, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

(This dialogue will be held in Spanish.)

Tuesday June 18th

Community Action Organization
1001 SW Baseline, Hillsboro
9 a.m. until noon

Tuesday June 18th

Community Action Organization
1001 SW Baseline, Hillsboro
5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday June 25th

Tigard United Methodist Church
9845 SW Walnut, Tigard
5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Child Care and a light meal will be provided at every session.

If you want to attend a dialogue on poverty, please RSVP by calling 648-6646.



1996 DIALOGUE ON POVERTY IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Four dialogues were held, one in Cornelius (in Spanish), two in Hillsboro, and one in Tigard. A total of 109 people participated.

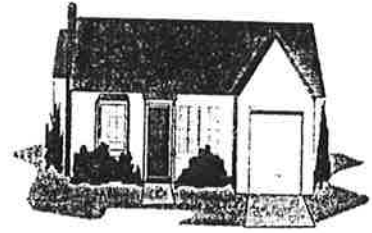
Participants were asked to list outcomes that they felt were most important to achieve in order to reduce poverty. The top priority outcomes and most commonly suggested strategies were as follows:

- 1. More safe and affordable housing.**
strategies: increase housing development; implement incentives for developers; stabilize/decrease rents & move in costs; inclusionary zoning.
- 2. More people's basic needs being met.**
strategies: increased services and access; Canadian/European style safety net programs, i.e., national health insurance, child care, family allowance.
- 3. More full-time jobs with good pay and benefits**
strategies: local public-private partnerships; public policy initiatives to create incentives for business; changes in US trade policies to keep jobs in the US; increase minimum wage; profit sharing with employees; better enforcement of labor laws; full benefits through public-private partnership.
- 4. Increased family capacity to solve problems effectively and non-violently.**
strategies: family and community education, support and prevention programs; access to drug and alcohol programs.
- 5. More people with basic skills in reading, math, and communication.**
strategies: value and emphasize education K-16; better teacher training; educate professionals to understand and respect all cultures.
- 6. Increased quality, affordable child care and other support for working adults.**
strategies: remove barriers to access to child care, i.e. through child care subsidies & sliding fee scales; public policy initiatives to create incentives for business; public-private partnerships.



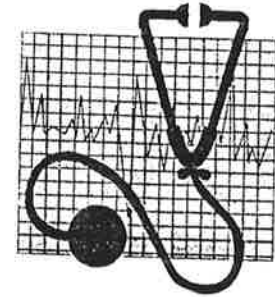
A. HOUSING AND BASIC NEEDS

- __1. More people's basic needs being met.
- __2. More safe and affordable housing.
- __3. More public transportation
- __4. Other: _____



B. HEALTH

- __5. Adequate health care.
- __6. Reduction in AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- __7. Decreased drug abuse in our community.
- __8. Decreased alcohol abuse by adults and elimination of alcohol and tobacco use by children.
- __9. Other: _____



C. INCOME AND WORK

- __10. More full-time jobs with good pay and benefits.
- __11. More self-employment opportunities for low income people.
- __12. Higher monthly payments of welfare and other benefits.
- __13. Reduced income taxes and increased tax benefits for low-wage workers.
- __14. Increased quality, affordable child care and other support for working adults.
- __15. Other: _____



D. EDUCATION

- __16. More people with basic skills in reading, math, and communication.
- __17. More people who earn a high school diploma or GED.
- __18. More people who get training and education beyond high school.
- __19. Other: _____



E. FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

- __20. Increased family capacity to solve problems effectively and non-violently.
- __21. Less need for children to be placed in foster~~care~~.
- __22. More parents making regular child support payments.
- __23. More successful marriages.
- __24. Fewer births to teenagers and other mothers who lack the resources for effective parenting.
- __25. More children who participate in sports, recreation, scouting, and other activities.
- __26. Other: _____



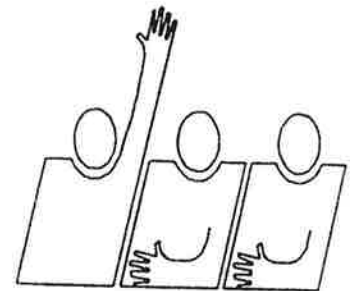
F. CRIME

- __27. More people with the ability to protect themselves from violent crime.
- __28. Less crime
- __29. Rehabilitation for criminals.
- __30. Less fraud, especially fraud that preys on older people and low-income people.
- __31. Other: _____



G. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION (CITIZENSHIP)

- __32. More participation in community organizations
- __33. More people who vote.
- __34. More people serving on boards and commissions.
- __35. More volunteerism.
- __36. Other: _____



H ANTI-DISCRIMINATION and INCLUSIVENESS

- __37. Less discrimination
- __38. More tolerance, and appreciation, for other cultures.
- __39. Other: _____



I. OTHER: _____

- __40. Other: _____
- __41. Other: _____

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY

- Communicate and community come from the same root word
- Principles of authentic communication are the same for building true community
- People do not naturally know how to truly communicate—they are taught therefore; the laws and rules of genuine community are not automatic and must be learned, too
- Principles of communication and community can be simply taught and learned with relative ease—allowing practical application later

Adapted from M. Scott Peck's *The Different Drum*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987.

GENUINE COMMUNITY

“Genuine community is a group of two or more people who regardless of the diversity of their backgrounds (social, educational, ethnic, economic, political, etc.) have been able to accept and transcend their differences, enabling them to communicate effectively and openly and to work together toward goals that are for their common good.”

Adapted from M. Scott Peck's *The Different Drum*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987.

THE PRINCIPLES OF DIALOGUE

LISTEN... DEEPLY

- To yourself, to others and to the collective
- To hear and to understand

ALLOW FOR DIFFERENCES

- Hold back judgement
- Let go of defensive and reactive responses

HONOR OTHERS' VIEWPOINTS

- Avoid the need to be right
- Suspend certainty

BE AWARE OF YOUR ASSUMPTIONS

- Ask yourself: "Why do I have this reaction?"
- Ask yourself: "What assumptions am I making?"

SPEAK FROM WITHIN

- Speak when you are compelled to speak
- Add to the collective knowledge
- Don't be afraid of silence