



LEXINGTON, KY

SOCIAL SERVICES

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

REPORT

Lexington-Fayette County, Kentucky

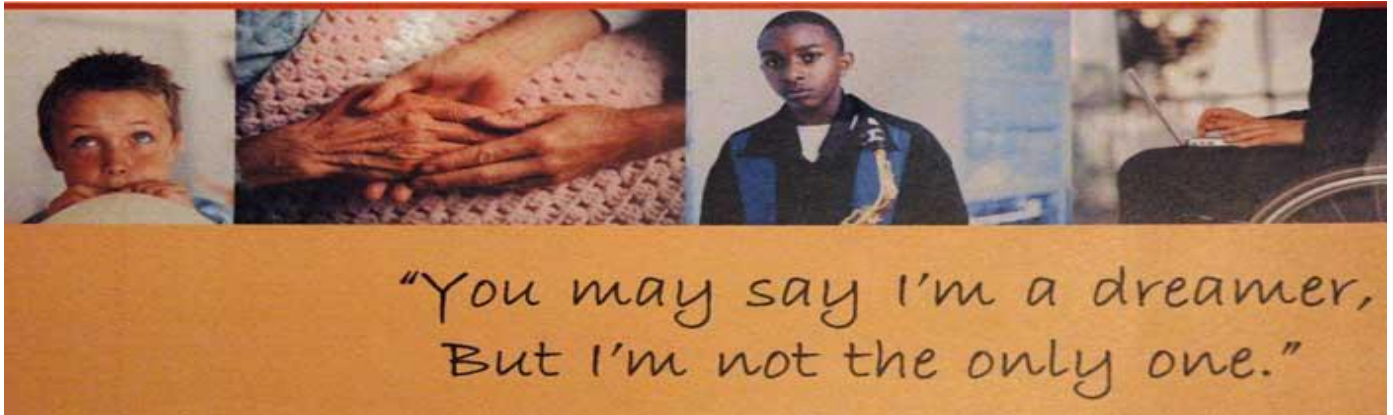
April, 2008

Social Services

Needs Assessment

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Assumptions/Givens	3
Guiding Questions	4
Leadership Team Members	5
Key Findings	6
Top Recommendations (Ideal Outcomes)	7
Honorable Mentions	9
Work Team Briefs	10
Adults	11
Cross Cutting Issues	16
Housing	22
Special Needs	27
Young Children	31
Youth	36
Next Steps	40
Appendices	41
(A) Lexington-Fayette County Demographics	42
(B) Housing & Homeless Statistics	52
(C) Social Services Needs Assessment Evaluation	60
Brazilian Proverb	65



Executive Summary

Dream, dream bold, dream big. This was the premise as over 300 individuals from the community and representatives from over 80 service agencies gathered on a balmy summer evening in August 2007 for the first ever "Community-Wide Social Service Needs Summit". Mayor Jim Newberry thanked those in attendance for the task they were about to undertake and urged them to dream with passion and develop a blueprint for the future of social services in our community. Experienced community leaders also spoke that evening echoing the enormity of the undertaking, the seriousness of the work and their own joy in helping to frame this important conversation and the outcomes. This report then, reflects the essence of the participants' vision, hope and commitment in helping to care for and serve the community of Lexington.

Providing a safety net as well as support and services to those in need is fundamental to a vibrant and progressive community. This basic premise formed the foundation of the recommendations contained herein. Those involved sought to identify service gaps, as well as best practices and new trends, reduce duplication wherever possible, and recognizing that planning for any successful endeavor might require reallocation of current funds and in some instances the securing of new finances.

Six focus areas were identified and anchored the work teams' assignments. From these areas, team members were able to frame the issues and define their work. Each area work team utilized community volunteers as leaders and facilitators and each was assigned a department employee as a staff liaison. In addition, technology was utilized to ensure rapid and consistent communication among groups. The focus areas considered were titled only in general terms: 1) Adults, 2) Cross Cutting Issues, 3) Housing, 4) Special Needs, 5) Young Children and 6) Youth.

Each work group had the latitude to broaden and further define their focus area from the original designation. All community participants self selected their work group.

To ensure a successful outcome a leadership team did extensive planning before, during, and after the team meetings. All of the work was facilitated by Department of Social Services staff who attended the various team meetings supplying information, resources and support. In addition, staff worked to secure research about Lexington demographics, as well as review trends and best practices that might enhance each report. A brisk schedule was outlined for the project to ensure work completion within an eight week period.

Throughout the needs assessment process and in all groups we confirmed among other premises that:
Lexington-Fayette County has a tremendous array of social service providers with a rich and enviable history of excellence.

Quality social services are required if a community is to be healthy, vibrant and progressive.

The needs of our citizens and the best practices in social service delivery have changed in multiple ways from past times and for multiple reasons. As many of these as possible should be considered in our planning.

Our work should compliment and build upon the work of other major community initiatives put forth by Fayette County Schools 2020 Vision and the United Way of the Bluegrass's Strategic Planning.

A report to the Mayor and community as well as a formal evaluation of the process and outcome would help to bring our work full circle. Much appreciation and recognition to each individual and work team for their efforts, commitment and tenacity toward this first major step.

Lexington is our community. Some of the recommendations and dreams for our community are amazingly bold. Some are obvious immediate needs echoed by community leaders. The top nine recommendations, some honorable mentions and potential new areas of focus for the Department of Social Services are briefly highlighted on pages seven through nine with the remaining recommendations and the full text of the top nine described in this report and/or in the comprehensive reports of each work team posted at <http://www.lfucg.com/summit/index.asp>.

This report solidifies that Lexington has a profound history of excellence in meeting the social service needs of our community as well as a promising future.

Assumptions/Givens

- A vibrant, healthy community ensures quality social services are available for all.
- Lexington-Fayette County has a tremendous array of social service providers.
- The potential for a more comprehensive, well communicated social service provider network is tremendous.
- The social service needs of a healthy, vibrant community are ever changing.
- The Lexington Fayette Urban County Government has a documented history of commitment and responsibility to both the provision and support of social services.
- Our community has work to do to ensure that the basic social service needs all children and adults deserve are provided.

Guiding Questions

1. What social services should the Lexington-Fayette County Community ensure are provided to all residents?
2. What are the consequences of not ensuring these social services are provided?
3. What are the current gaps in social service offerings in our community?
4. Based on identified gaps, what specific recommendations can be made to ensure that social service needs within our community are met?



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

TEAM	NAME	Affiliations	POSITION
Adults	Bob Voll	Valvoline (Retired)	Leader
	Karolyn Kell	One Community One Voice	Facilitator
	Lindsay Mattingly	Cardinal Valley Center	Liaison
Cross Cutting Issues	Nancy Rawlings	Former DSS Commissioner	Leader
	Chris Groeber	Ches Solutions	Facilitator
	Kiyon Massey	Fayette County Schools	Facilitator
	Kevin Edmonds	Adult & Tenant Services	Liaison
	Stephanie Jackson	Youth Services	Liaison
Housing	Janice James	Hope Center for Women	Leader
	Shannon Stewart-Smith	Ky. Conference for Community & Justice	Facilitator
	Vivian Lacey	PEP (Peers Educating Peers)	Liaison
Special Needs	Virginia Sturgeon	Cabinet for Families & Children (retired)	Co-Leader
	Claudia Blaylock	Volunteers of America	Co-Leader
	Marilyn Clark	WorkSmart	Facilitator
	Harmony Little	LexLinc	Liaison
Young Children	Allen Siegel	Child Development of the Bluegrass	Leader
	Martha DeReamer	Matrix Group	Facilitator
	Laura Johnson	Family Services	Liaison
Youth	Roger Cleveland	Morehead State Univ.	Co-Leader
	Roszalyn Akins	Faith Community	Co-Leader
	Jock Gum	Fayette County Schools	Co-Leader
	Freddie Brown	YMCA	Facilitator
	Sherry Coles	Fayette County Schools	Facilitator
	Mattie Morton	Gainesway Center	Liaison
	Jae Underwood	Youth Services	Liaison



“Never underestimate that a group of thoughtful caring people can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Key Findings

- The issues of housing, transportation, and mental health were vibrant threads and seen as ever important “needs” throughout each of the six focus areas.
- There is a great need for ease of accessibility of the multitude of services available within our community.
- Enhanced awareness of 2-1-1 is strongly encouraged to facilitate easy access to information and services.
- Implementation of a one stop model such as the “Neighborhood Place” concept was seen as a crucial step in coordinating service between state and local governments and other community service providers as well as unifying “what services are offered and how.
- A “Service Provider” Summit held on an annual basis would be a “best practice” tool helping to unify, clarify, and identify the social services available within the community. This would also help to connect providers, especially those new to the community and /or those with new services. The Summit would allow for service gaps and resolutions to challenging issues to be quickly identified and bolster the formation of new collaborations and partnerships.
- Services such as “rental and utility assistance” were identified as great needs, as currently many faith based and other agencies/entities offer support in this area often with limited and inconsistent connectivity and interaction.
- LFUCG is seen as having a major responsibility to not necessarily provide many of the needed services, but to help identify those services and then to convene the community service providers to discuss, strategize and deliver.
- LFUCG’s goals and priorities are highly regarded and are often used as both a guide for the annual work plans for local service providers and a tool for its own Social Service Department in setting priorities and determining strategies.
- Research and statistics for Lexington-Fayette County should be gathered analyzed and discussed regularly as they relate to social service needs and the changing demographics of service users.

Top Recommendations (Ideal Outcomes)

Youth Development Director (YDD)- Create a position of Youth Development Director. The YDD would have a major responsibility for the community's youth programming. This position would include a focus on research and needs assessment, gap analysis, development, training, fund procurement and allocation, grant writing, and the coordination and implementation of positive youth programs throughout the community. This office would also ensure that a directory of services be developed as well as be the lead in public awareness and advocacy. The office would be a convener and a resource for on-going as well as new youth programs and would work closely with the local schools, state and local government agencies, religious organizations and other civic and community groups. (p.39)

“One Stop” Social Service Model- Institute a service delivery model similar to the “Neighborhood” concept currently operating in Louisville. The “one stop” model was one of the needs identified in almost all of the six work teams as being a great need. The one stop model provides ease of use and enhanced accessibility to a variety of social services in one location. Each Neighborhood Place is by design different in that each meets the needs of the particular neighborhood in which it is located. (p.19)

Rental Assistance- Establish a centralized and fully integrated community housing system to serve as a one-stop shop. This system would enable rental assistance and various other “emergency housing” efforts to be coordinated and efficient. This system would be coordinated and comprehensive inclusive of a uniform policy, single application and standard eligibility requirements. Convene, with Bluegrass United Way, all current providers, faith based, civic and public entities and work toward developing a rental assistance program that minimizes duplication of efforts, streamlines the application process and maximizes community resources.(p. 25-26)

Service Provider Summit- Convene, on an annual basis, a gathering of local, regional and state “service” providers to showcase, highlight and review the current status of social services. This annual gathering will allow for the timely sharing of new and on-going programs as well as help to identify service gaps and opportunities for grant and other collaborations. This convening might also serve to provide information about the upcoming focus of funding support from the LFUCG and others. (p. 29)

Independent Living- Advance the support of programs and services for those with disabilities and special needs. Independent Living and accessibility should be considered a cornerstone and focus of the Department of Social Services in conjunction with other partner agencies with a similar mission. This issue is one that is increasingly becoming a defining element of a progressive 21st century community. (p. 29-30)

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services- Increase the offering of mental health and substance abuse services for adolescents and families. A walk in mental health crisis clinic is proposed as is a mobile team that might be formed and utilized as needed to address mental health and substance abuse crises. Almost every work group identified mental health as being a growing yet fully unmet need in our community. New types of mental health issues appear to be emerging such as “hoarding” and substance abuse and other mental health issues involving youth/adolescents appear to be increasing. LFUCG’s Coleman House Concept is promising and perhaps is poised for expansion upon further study and documentation of the needs and current availability of services. Coleman House is considered a one stop type service model for youth and has received favorable comments from the legal system and users. (p. 18)

Navigators and Enhanced Use of Case Management- Establish a “Navigator” system on a pilot basis. Navigators perform a combination of services that extend beyond traditional “case management”. Navigators increase access to social services by providing cultural linkages between communities and providers. Navigators focus on the unique needs of the individual and extend beyond their agency to facilitate assistance in a most expedient manner. This system could also be a prelude to a more coordinated system of case management by DSS as recommended by the management audit of 2007. (pgs. 26, 29)

Unity Council, Diversity and Sensitivity Programs- In recognition of the changing demographics of our multicultural community a “Unity Council” would be formed. DSS would work with others within local government and in the community to facilitate dialogue and help explore trends and best practice programs and policies to help ensure the vibrancy and healthy well-being of our community. (pgs. 12, 20-21)

Affordable Housing- Affordable Housing Trusts and Land banks are recognized as the up and coming method for ensuring, with intent, the availability of affordable housing within a community. This is an issue that surfaces in the most affluent and the most typical of communities and many have to resort to extremes to provide this most basic and sacred of needs. The housing report provides an array of examples of these types of programs which are easily replicable. Land banks and housing trusts showcase a community’s intent to ensure a livable city for all regardless of income and circumstance. The South End Urban Village Park affected by the Newtown Pike Extension will be Lexington’s first official and comprehensive foray into this concept. (pgs. 14, 26))

Honorable Mention

- Enhanced Awareness and Advocacy – Suggestions include increased promotion of 2-1-1 and more public relations from the Department of Social Services and other providers regarding “service” availability. A social service newsletter reflective of a cross section of services and providers perhaps distributed quarterly, GTV-3 programming directed at various community social service partner agencies and a resource fair that might easily be combined with the annual service providers summit are just a few of the ideas considered. (pg. 30)
- Use of the “plain language” concept to provide a more user friendly atmosphere for clients and service users. Providers are encouraged to continue to make customer service a top priority. (p. 25)
- Youth Programming-the issue of positive youth programming that is coordinated, timely and sustained was strongly iterated and is seen as a must. The possibilities are limitless and the time is now. (p. 39)
- Transportation- especially for those with special needs and seniors. Para transportation and other transport services with limited wait times and ease of use by those with mobility supports also received much discussion. (p. 15)

Specific New Areas for Discussion and Research for the Department of Social Services (DSS)

- It was also recognized that our community must be better prepared to assist those preparing to return to mainstream society after a period of incarceration. DSS and other social service agencies must gear up to work with our public safety and judicial officials in helping to provide intensive case management and other support mechanisms to help decrease recidivism.
- Development of new programs and services to meet the ever changing needs of the growing “senior” population such as “Aging in place,” a fairly recent concept related to baby boomer seniors. Issues such as adult day care, adult children and others with responsibility for “kin care,” the new Senior Citizens Center Concept, seniors and employment, seniors as volunteer workers, and grandparents as 21st century parents (raising grandchildren) are all issues warranting greater attention.

Work Team Briefs*

Adults – Page 11

Cross Cutting Issues – Page 16

Housing – Page 22

Special Needs – Page 27

Young Children – Page 31

Youth – Page 36

*The complete text of each work team is available at: <http://www.lfucg.com/summit/index.asp>

Adults



Every 8.4 seconds another baby boomer turns 50. From 1990 to 2020, the elderly population is expected to increase to 54 million persons.

Fayette County's age 65+ population is 10% and is expected to double by 2030

*"Aging is not "lost youth" but a new stage of opportunity and strength."
-Betty Friedan*

Priority Areas:

- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Health and Well Being**
- **Housing**
- **Transportation**

Adults Work Team

Executive Summary

Adults Work Team Process: Members of the Adults Work Team came together during the first two meetings to brainstorm five broad areas they felt should be addressed to ensure a quality of life for all adults and to increase the vitality of our community. It is noted that members of the Team were representative of the Lexington community.

Before working on consensus on five broad areas, the Team felt it important to define the age range for adults to be considered in this assessment. Using 2000 census information for Lexington-Fayette County, there were 260,512 people, 108,288 households, and 69,915 families residing in the city. The age distribution was: 21.3% under the age of 18; 14.6% from 18 to 24; 33.2% from 25 to 44; 20.9% from 45 to 64; and 10.0% who were 65 years of age or older. This Report takes into consideration all adults 18 years of age and older.

The third meeting focused on reaching consensus on the identified five priority areas: Education; Employment; Health and Well Being; Housing and Transportation. Team members were then asked to select one of the five topics for which they wanted to provide their expertise, resources, and passion; and to begin their discussions in selected small groups.

During meetings four, five and six, and between meetings team members continued to work in small groups of their choice to develop visions for each topic, ideal outcomes, best practices and recommendations, and the role of government. While individuals worked in small groups after the first two meetings, their ideas and recommendations were shared with all Team members to ensure that others could add to, or suggest revisions to individual small group recommendations.

The Team also agreed on several overarching concerns that should be taken into consideration when evaluating the five Priority Areas:

- Access for individuals with limited English proficiency
- (Emergency) Financial Assistance
- Access to information and referrals
- Diversity and sensitivity training
- Social services oversight and accountability

- Grandparents raising grandchildren
- Work life

The following data demonstrates the need to give focus to the five priority areas identified by the Adult Work Team. Additional data supporting the needs is outlined within each Priority Area of the Report.

Education

According to the Kentucky Department of Economic development, 14.5%, or roughly 30,000 of the adult population of Fayette County do not possess a high school diploma.*

Ideal Outcome:

- Encourage Bluegrass Workforce Investment Board to pass idea or to revise its internal policy to enable people without high school diplomas or GEDs to obtain occupational skills training using WIA funds.

Employment

The average income for the community is between \$40,000 and \$49,999: 26% of households have income less than \$30,000: 7% of households were determined to be below the federal poverty level, given household size and income, and 19% of households were determined to be working poor or below, given household size and income.*

Ideal Outcomes –

- Provide a central location for employment needs (Neighborhood Place)
- Provide initial employment (30 day temp jobs)
 1. Pre-Employment Training – basics and provide incentives
 - ✓ Make career training classes in High School more meaningful
 - ✓ Coordinator volunteer coaches and mentors for High School seniors and first time employees
- Provide transportation vouchers
- Provide liaison, coordination between job seekers and employers

Health and Well-Being

18% of respondents rate their household's overall physical health as fair to poor. "Further, the assessment found that when the respondent was asked to think, overall, about himself or herself, their household, and the issues of the survey, reported their perceived situation in life: 6% responded they were "in crisis or at-risk."*

Ideal Outcomes

- Create affordable long term care options, such as timely access to in-home care and access to assisted living and personal care for persons of all income levels.
- Create a variety of options for 24/7 respite care, including in-home, community based, and institutional services.
- Set policy to notify ombudsman of changes in care.
- Structure volunteerism into its worker base to help provide services.
- Take lead to develop partnerships and fund sources for health care.
- Provide funding and incentives for programs.

Affordable, Safe Housing

9% of households report their overall financial situation to be in-crisis or at-risk: 6% of households report having had an urgent basic need such as food, shelter, or paying a bill such as gas in the past 12 months.*

Ideal Outcomes

- Social Services would be weighted to the demographic makeup of the area i.e. young families and children, older families with elderly family members, and ethnic background.
- Services would be provided in a one-stop manner.
- The service would support neighborhoods and communities by enrich in the lives of the residents.
- Form a Housing Authority Partnership.
- Adopt a Social Service and resource delivery for neighborhoods.

Transportation

Several anecdotal sources used, including a recent photographic article in the “Town Meeting” publication on the poor pedestrian crossings at several locations in the county. In addition, a common need cited in and by human services agencies is “transportation” that is available and affordable.

Ideal Outcomes:

- Optimize and coordinate transportation resources
- Launch public community awareness campaign

While the Report takes into consideration all adults, ages 18 and older, residing in the Lexington Community, the recommendations are focused on and designed to assist the most vulnerable members of our community: senior citizens; the unemployed, underemployed and unemployable; those with health concerns; and those who need housing and transportation to establish independent living. It is recognized that many programs and services currently exist to address the needs of the adult population. However, the Team members who assembled this Report suggest that several of the Report recommendations would serve to make current programs and services more comprehensive, and would provide models for new programs that would have greater outreach to all adults in the community

Cross Cutting Issues



*15 % of the adult population has some
form of mental health issues
2/3 need treatment
less than 1/3 actually seek it.*

*“We all want to believe that the key to making an impact
on someone lies with the inherent quality of the ideas we
present.”*

M. Caldwell



Priority Areas:

- **Living Wage/Employment/Workforce Development**
- **Mental Health Services Families**
- **Family Violence/Out of Home Care**
- **Community Safety and Sense of Community**

Cross Cutting Issues Work Team

Executive Summary

The Cross Cutting Issues work group was tasked to address issues in the Fayette County community that are underlying causes for major issues that affect residents of the area. The group met with close to 50 concerned citizens who identified 30 issues they considered cross cutting. On average approximately 25 people attended each of the 5 meetings. Present at each meeting was a Family Court Judge, the County Sheriff and representatives from local social service agencies. The group also maintained an ethnically and socially diverse representation throughout the process.

After group discussion and a consensus process at the initial meeting, the group identified four major areas of concern that encompassed most of the 30 issues identified. Of the four major areas; Living Wage/Employment/Workforce Development, Mental Health, Community Safety and Family Violence.

There are “5 C’s” that are overarching components that the group agreed were consistent and pressing needs that must be met in order to achieve optimum success in Social Services in the Lexington-Fayette County community.

The 5 C’s are:

1. Collaboration: it is imperative that all major social service agencies agree to physically come together and agree to work together in order to provide the best possible service to the community. Meeting once a month to discuss issues is no longer an acceptable form of addressing those that affect our community. It is important to our residents that agencies realize the comprehensive need of families that requires multiple responses from community agencies to meet best possible outcomes for not only those families, but the community as a whole.
2. Communication: Residents agree that all agencies need a system that is linked so that comprehensive services can be provided without repetition of information dissemination. It is also imperative that agencies are staffed with people who are able to meet the clients on their level. Staff should be able to communicate with clients in their native language and assist them regardless of their educational or cultural background.
3. Convening: In order for a comprehensive social service system to be established, all major stakeholders must convene and agree to work together to achieve the overall goal of providing holistic services to those in need. Major stakeholders identified by the group are Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, Fayette County Public Schools, Department for Community Based Services, Bluegrass Regional Mental Health- Mental Retardation Board Inc., (Comprehensive Care), Fayette County Health Department, Lexington Fayette County Judiciary representatives, Department of Corrections, Fayette County Sheriff, and other community representatives as chosen by the Commissioner.
4. Collection of Data: An obstacle that most groups faced in obtaining supporting data for their major issue is data collection. Currently data collection in the area is done mainly on a regional level. It is difficult to obtain specific, outcome based data for Lexington-Fayette County for specific populations served by social services. The group agrees that Lexington Fayette Urban

County Government should be the warehouse for all local, outcome based data for specific populations served. Data collection should be outcome based, not simply “outputs”.

5. Co-location: To best meet the needs of the residents in the community, there should be several locations throughout the county that house coordinated, streamlined, efficient services provided by the major stakeholders. Group members would like for residents to be able to access services that are responsive to client and community needs in one location in their neighborhoods. If all services are not able to reside in one location, then a link to those services should be available within the center.

Living Wage/Employment/Workforce Development

Ideal Outcomes – An alternative educational program that meets the needs of individuals and families, especially those in poverty that will ultimately stabilize the client and will provide educational outcomes that will improve the workforce

The ideal program will include:

- A holistic, home based approach to service
- A neighborhood “one-stop shop” for all who need services
- Support staff that can address basic and pressing needs of individuals and families, i.e. food stamps, domestic violence, counseling, etc.
- Financial incentives for families/individuals to remain in the program
- Services for adult education and opportunities to gain skills that will help them succeed in the workforce.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse

Ideal Outcomes – Walk in Crisis Mental Health Center which features:

- Open non-traditional hours
- Ability and resources to make emergency hospitalization a reality
- Can prescribe medications
- Crisis phone line when not open
- No fee
- Focus on Community Safety
- Located in an accessible area
- Utilize University for student placement
- Utilize relationship with the University to get Med School to Provide free psychiatric residents
- Work with PD and Sheriff’s office to address mental health complaints rather than jailing (do cost benefit for Council on potential savings of treatment vs. incarceration)

Family Violence/Out of Home Care

Ideal Outcome – A Caring Community

A one stop shop for addressing the issues of violence and related, allowing for case management etc. Prevention of Violence, focused on family safety.

There are resources for family safety in Fayette County that are national models. There are however gaps and shortages of resources. These services are unknown to many people in need as well as unknown to many service providers. Examples of services include Sunshine House, Chrysalis House, The Hope Center and Metro Group Home. Out of home care with long term resources for victims of neglect and abuse are needed as well as more resources for perpetrators. The group recognized the need for senior services especially for the elderly. Preventative services such as more day care are also needed.

- **Neighborhood Places – Implementation of a One Stop Model for Social Services:**

- ✓ **What**

Neighborhood Place is a partnership of public sector agencies that have come together to create a network of community-based “one-stop” service centers. The purpose is to provide blended and accessible health, education, employment and human services that support children and families in their progress toward self-sufficiency.

- ✓ **Mission**

The Neighborhood Place works with communities to provide blended and accessible health, education, employment and human services that support children and families in their progress toward self-sufficiency.

- ✓ **Goals**

To improve economic self-sufficiency among families who receive Neighborhood Place services.

To improve the health status of mothers and babies who receive Neighborhood Place Services.

To reduce violence within families who receive Neighborhood Place services

To improve the level of student participation in school among children who receive Neighborhood Place services

To provide citizens with timely access to an array of health, education, employment, and human services.

To provide services that are coordinated.

To work in concern with communities.

- ✓ **How**

Neighborhood Place brings together staff from multiple agencies in one readily accessible location under a single team leader to work respectfully with families in their own neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Place centers are built on a shared vision that includes the following:

- All Fayette County would be served by a Neighborhood Place Center
- The size and constellation of services will vary from center according to the needs and scope of the existing service network of the neighborhood.

- The core services at each Neighborhood Place will include health, mental health, juvenile services, school-related services, financial and housing assistance, and child and adult welfare services.
- Providers of these core services will share a commitment to prevention, community

The Desired End Outcomes

- Coordinated streamlined, efficient services.
- Partnership and participatory planning.
- Responsiveness to client and community needs.
- Primary goal to be prevention (seven habits of healthy families)
- Focus on Families and Safety
- What is needed: Citywide acceptance/endorsement, accountability, and culturally compatible.

Community Safety and Sense of Community

Ideal Outcome – Unity Council

The Unity Council would be formed in response to the on-going issues of racial tension, classism, intolerance, and misinformation that lead to crime in the community. The role of LFUCG Department of Social Services would be to serve as a facilitator, convener, possibly reallocate some current staff resources to assist this community in strengthening the continuum of safety so our community is indeed a united safe place to reside. The Department of Social Services would partner strongly with police, sheriff, courts, parks and recreation, code enforcement, agencies, and neighborhood associations.

- The Council would consist of individuals from all ethnic and socio-economic groups, religious groups, agencies, academic institutions, the business community, as well as community leaders and adolescent community members.
- Function of the council would include, but not be limited to:
 - ✓ An assessment of all Fayette County sorting data according to neighborhoods, zip codes, and collecting data from many domains...police, courts, jail, churches, mental health providers, medical providers, and educational institutions
 - ✓ Promote Education/Respect within each group about other minority groups and cultures
 - ✓ Promote unity centered around common issues (poverty, employment, etc...)
 - ✓ Community Activities/Festivals (involvement and participation across racial/cultural lines)
 - ✓ Education for new residents (safe neighborhoods, churches, etc. relevant to one's background/preferences). Also ensure that all information and literature is culturally sensitive and in languages that reflect the population of the community (especially victim's rights, traffic, and other law, ordinances, and emergency procedures).
 - ✓ Ensure that translators are competent, trained in the area of expertise required and available.
 - ✓ Promote public awareness to combat misinformation
 - ✓ Parent Education (truancy prevention/gang prevention/violence and crime prevention.
 - ✓ Look at best practices of programs such as the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Stabilization in St. Louis, the Boston Police Department Community Disorders Unit, and the Cedar Valley Diversity Appreciation Team in Waterloo Iowa.
 - ✓ Facilitate LFUCG to partner, coordinate, and expand direct community services with Social Workers, U.K., public schools, law enforcement and other entities for statistics

describing the population of Lexington-Fayette County needs, services gaps in continuum of care services to provide a factual basis for initiatives and task force planning.

- ✓ Promote a plan for Social Workers to partner with law enforcement, parks and recreation, and other divisions to better serve Missing/Exploited Children, Victims of Domestic Violence, and gang prevention.

Housing



“Home is the place where boys and girls first learn how to limit their wishes, abide by rules, and consider the rights and needs of others.”

-Sidonie Grenberg

- Section 8 has a waiting list of 1096 applicants and the waiting list has been closed since August 2005
- The waiting list for public housing through LFUCG Housing Authority is 1765 applicants.
- Lexington Habitat for Humanity (LHFH) has identified over 33,000 families who may qualify for their demographic target of 30% to 60% area median income. 90% of the families that apply to LHFH are disqualified based upon poor credit.
- In Fayette County there are 45,766 renter-occupied housing units. Of these 20,642 households (45.1%) pay more than thirty percent of their household income on their rent. HUD identifies this group as marginally housed. 6,691 of all renter households in Lexington (14.6%) are paying more than half their income to put a roof over their heads. HUD identifies this group as extremely marginally housed.

Priority Areas

- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Rental Assistance
- Affordable Housing

Housing Work Team

Executive Summary

The HWG identified 44 issues related to housing in which there exists an unmet need in Lexington. **The HWG wants to emphasize that the current programs that the LFUCG and Social Services are currently financially supporting are critical to helping the citizens of Lexington achieve affordable, safe and appropriate housing. The HWG was instructed to “dream big” and these 44 items have been identified as additional needs with the understanding that existing program support will be maintained.**

Ideal Outcome: It was agreed that the ideal outcome is for all Lexington-Fayette County residents to have affordable, safe, and appropriate housing.

The priority areas were identified by a ranking process includes:

- Transitional Housing
- Emergency Rental Assistance
- Affordable Housing (More Public Housing is a component of Affordable Housing)

The HWG clarified the following working definition for each key topic:

Transitional – temporary housing and emergency shelters that include supportive services. An Affordable Housing Trust Fund to develop rental housing, expand public housing with supportive service, and develop additional special needs housing. Central coordinating system.

Emergency Rental Assistance – assistance provided to (low income) renters with security deposits, utilities, etc. Increase funding by 60% from \$270,000 to 432,000. Fund case management component to accompany assistance (1:24 case load) Central coordinating system.

Affordable Housing – housing costs (mortgage, rent, and other housing costs, utilities, etc. below 30% of adjusted gross income) Efficient, Safe Housing. Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Case management. Payee services. Central coordinating system.

The HWG stated that it is most important to recognize that the three key topics operate on a continuum and that unmet needs or provisions of additional resources in one area have a domino effect on the other key topics. Emergency Rental Assistance prevents homelessness. Emergency and Transitional Housing provide temporary housing that addresses problems that contribute to homelessness. Appropriate, safe, affordable housing allows people to live at their maximum level of self-sufficiency without falling victim to high rents and mortgages that result in eviction and foreclosure.

Consumer Input:

In an effort to include consumer input, focus group input from the 10-year Plan Draft to End Homelessness was reviewed. Seven focus groups were held in 2006 with 49 participants (25 were consumers who were homeless at the time). These were the themes identified by the focus groups as housing needs:

- Increase the amount of affordable housing
- Connect those in crises to resources by utilizing United Way's 2-1-1 program
- Increase public awareness of homelessness
- Expand transitional housing options
- Expand the Section 8 housing program
- Use a "one stop" model to ensure easy access into the supportive service system before homelessness begins
- Provide more services, including financial assistance (for rent and utilities) to the marginally housed

The needs identified by the focus groups were similar to the three key topics identified by HWG.

HWG discussed the need for additional consumer input and an opportunity presented itself on October 10, 2007. S. H. O. W. (Supportive Housing Opportunities for Women) sponsored a housing fair on this date for women who reside with Hope Center Recovery Program for Women, Chrysalis House, Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, and Virginia Place. S. H. O. W. is a collaborative partnership between these four agencies and all the Lexington organizations that assist individuals with obtaining affordable, safe, permanent housing. (S. H. O. W. is an example of a one-stop shop for housing opportunities for women who complete a S. H. O. W. program.) All participants were asked to identify their top three concerns out of the original 44 issues identified by HWG. The top issues selected on 101 appropriately completed surveys were as follows:

1. Affordable Housing 51
2. Housing for Felons 38
3. More low-income Home Ownership opportunities 30
4. Emergency Rental Assistance 19
5. Homeless Services 18
6. Transitional Housing 15
7. Assistance with Utilities 11

All seven of these issues are contained in the three Key Topics identified by the HWG. It should be noted that it is estimated that at least 50% of the women who completed this survey have felony convictions which account for the high-ranking of "Housing for Felons." The main objective is to have affordable, safe, appropriate housing for all Lexington residents, but additional barriers do exist for people with felony convictions

Ideal outcomes for all three Key Topics

1. That there would be assistance for every request for assistance.
2. That the information consumers want is available, understandable (plain language), useable/user friendly, accessible and reliable.
3. That all service providers would be informed about other available services.
4. That consumers would receive the help they need to “find” appropriate available services.
5. That there would be multiple entry points (methods) for consumers to access information and/or services.
6. That there would be a sufficient number of case managers to support safe and affordable housing.
7. That all individuals would successfully attain the highest level of (housing) self-sufficiency.
8. That there existed means to mitigate barriers for populations with special needs, i.e., criminal records, evictions, poor/bad/no credit, etc.

Recommendations for action in meeting unmet needs:

As was stated previously, our three key topics operate on a continuum and improvements in one area should also improve the services to citizens in the other areas. They are so interrelated that two of our recommendations apply to all of our key topics. They are as follows:

- Establish a centralized and fully integrated community housing system to serve as a one-stop shop. This system would enable rental assistance and various other “emergency housing” efforts to be coordinated and efficient. This system would be a source of data collection creating a data base for an on-going needs assessment process with data analysis. An updated handbook with the ability to be updated continually with resources for all Key Topic areas (Emergency Rental Assistance, Transitional and Affordable Housing) would be available electronically and interactively. This centralized office (and related sites) would be located in the community where the consumer lives; for example, where the consumers shop, etc. (One-Stop-Shop)”
- Public transportation should be offered to affordable housing areas and social services- especially as affordable housing is developed. Public transportation availability should be included in planning-and review of current available public transportation.

Rental Assistance

Recommendations for action in meeting unmet needs:

- More money made available for rental assistance and increase the amount disbursed. The amount of assistance to each individual should be increased as well as the funding available for emergency rental assistance. Based on the current deficit identified by Adult and Tenant Services and other rental assistance resources 60% increase is recommended from the current amount of \$270,000.

- Secure a sufficient number of case managers (1:25 staff ratio) who are qualified and receive ongoing training. Make an assessment for case management mandatory for clients who receive rental assistance and provided case management services if needed. Landlords would also be able to refer a tenant exhibiting “risky behavior” that might lead to problems. Case managers should have access to legal consultation/advocates regarding evictions, tenant rights, etc. to assist the consumer.

What currently exists? The following agencies, organizations, churches, etc. provide some level of emergency rental assistance: Community Action Council, Adult and Tenant Services, Black Church Coalition, Sonshine Ministries, Southland Christian Church, Lexington Rescue Mission, Red Cross, Winburn Neighborhood Center, and Bluegrass Regional Mental Health Case Manager Program. Appendix E and Appendix F provide more information about the rental assistance programs and approximate yearly funding.

It is also believed that the following agencies provide some rental assistance but they have not returned calls to confirm this information: Catholic Social Services, ROSM, Maxwell Street Church, Christian in Community Services, Cross Ministries, and Lexcare.

Affordable Housing

Recommendations for action in meeting unmet needs:

- Create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund that could be used for rental assistance, development, construction and client service.
- Establish land banks

Urban land banks were created in the context of a growing inventory of abandoned tax delinquent properties in inner cities. One of the great strengths of land banks as a tool for community redevelopment is the ability to adapt its form, structure and function to meet a city’s character, culture and crisis. The Cleveland Land Bank mirrors St. Louis, The Louisville Land Bank mirrors Dallas and the Genessee (NY) Land Bank builds upon on four.

Special Needs

“Know the person, not the disability, in fact look past the disability and you will see a person, a person who has the same thoughts and feelings as anyone else”.

Author Unknown



- There are 42,433 individuals with disabilities in Fayette County over the age of five.
- This figure represents 15-20% of the county population, almost all of who will need to access services at some point in their lives.

Priority Areas

- Navigators/Advocates for Individuals with Special Needs
- Availability of In-Patient and Out-Patient Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
- Strengthen Linkages Between Agencies
- One-Stop/Co-Location Model
- Educational Awareness

Special Needs Work Team

Executive Summary

Meaningful access to services regardless of special needs is the primary goal of the special needs work group. The work group's definition of special needs includes a wide range of people. In reaching a consensus on what population can be defined as having special needs, our definition is: any person/group who experiences difficulty accessing social services due to their circumstances which may include, but is not limited to:

- Disabilities (physical, cognitive, mental and/or emotional)
- Elderly
- Single parents
- Teens
- Homeless
- Economically disadvantaged
- Language barriers
- Abused

This report includes findings and recommendations of five needs related to special needs:

1. Provide navigators/advocates for individuals with special needs to access & utilize services.
2. Increase access to and increase availability of in-patient & out patient substance abuse & mental health services for individuals with special needs.
3. Strengthen linkages between agencies, community experts & faith community working with individuals with special needs.
4. Develop & implement physical one-stop-location model of key resources & services for individuals with special needs.
5. Promote self advocacy rights & educate larger community about issues related to individuals with special needs using the person centered (people first) approach.

Focus groups conducted by several of our group members with persons who have special needs affirmed that our primary issues were on target and addressed their needs. The majority of those surveyed in the focus groups related that they felt underserved, misunderstood and a general lack of respect from the community-at-large and more distressingly from social service providers.

Our report and recommendations include the input of the consumers who participated in the focus groups and the insight and expertise of the dedicated members of the special needs work group.

In addition to the finds and recommendations outlined in this report, it is important to recognize other efforts taking place in Lexington and Bluegrass Region relevant to special needs and their recommendations. It is our goal to have all of these efforts compliment each other.

- United Way of the Bluegrass Needs Assessment
- Commission for Citizen's with Disabilities
- Bluegrass Area Development District Task Force on Disabilities
- Human Development Institute, University of Kentucky

Provide navigators/advocators for individuals with special needs to access and utilize services.

Ideal Outcome - Meet the needs of those seeking services through a navigator for a period not exceeding 18 months per participant with continuing access/assistance through a computer based navigator system.

Navigators perform a combination of services that go beyond traditional case management associated with social services case management, such as outreach, eligibility determination, health promotion, referral, advocacy, facilitation of service coordinator, and education about how to navigate the system and advocate for own needs. Navigators increase access to social services by providing cultural linkages between communities and providers. Navigators are focused on the person and family and look beyond the system where they are located to ensure full navigation through the system. Clients often go to different agencies before locating the appropriate service. With a navigator, a client would be taken to the right agency/agencies, depending on their need more rapidly, while being educated about accessing services to meet their needs in the future; thus moving forward instead of going through the maze of services looking for the right match.

Increase access to and increase availability of in-patient and out-patient substance abuse and mental health services for individuals with special needs.

Ideal Outcome – All individuals will have complete access to all available substance abuse and mental health services. Consumers should be able to choose services based on their needs, regardless of their income or insurance status. In addition, those individuals who may have language barriers due to a disability or national origin should also be assured the right to services through an interpreter or other resource that fits their need.

Strengthened Linkages between agencies, community experts and faith community working with individuals with special needs and others.

Ideal Outcome – With improved linkages, individuals with special needs could access all of the services they need through a seamless, uncomplicated, unduplicated delivery system. The community would have an up-to-date picture of gaps in services, duplication and unsatisfactory service delivery. The linkage may be strengthened by hosting an annual Services Provider Summit which is open to the public one day and open only to service providers on the second day to network and to learn about each other's services.

Develop and implement physical one-stop/location model of key resources and services for individuals with special needs throughout Fayette County.

Ideal Outcome – Lexington will be a city in which key support services are easily accessible and readily available to its most vulnerable and marginalized citizens. This will be achieved through continued and enhanced active partnerships, and strategic planning with agencies and citizens. This will allow for coordination and, efficient services.

Individuals with special needs will be able to go to their local neighborhood empowerment center to apply for an array of services and to inquire about supports within the community. A uniform intake form will be utilized by trained staff at each location. The uniform intake will include general information as well as questions about disability or other family members with special needs. This form will serve as the intake form for all participating agencies, thus reducing the need for applicants to repeat their name, phone number, and other personal information (their story). Staff will be cross-trained retroactively and as a part of all new employee orientation training to help a citizen identify areas where resources may be needed. Staff will be aware of local services, will utilize 2-1-1 to help an individual identify helpful resources, and will help to complete paperwork/application forms.

Ideally each neighborhood center could serve as a One-Stop, where individuals could inquire about and apply for a wide range of services for all ages (housing, transportation, food, employment, support groups, mental health crisis, recreation, etc.) without having to report information and travel to multiple offices all over town.

Promote Self Advocacy Rights and Educate Larger Community about Issues Related to Individuals with Special Needs Using the Person Centered Approach

Ideal Outcome – Every citizen participates as a valued member of our community sharing their gifts and talents. Fayette County is recognized as the leader in Kentucky in providing a welcoming community for every citizen regardless of social economical, physical cognitive or mental needs.

Fayette County currently has several service organizations and advocacy groups promoting Self Advocacy for their respective populations (i.e.: cognitive disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health, cancer, etc). There does not appear to be any coordinated or centralized awareness or point of access beyond the current 211 information services.

Additionally, each community service organization and advocacy group typically relies upon their own individual initiatives in community awareness and community education. For those agencies fortunate enough to be supported through United Way of the Bluegrass, UWBG does an excellent job of sharing information with the community on the impact made by their funded agencies. However, it is commonly recognized that the ability to afford any major coordinator public awareness campaign is well beyond the budgets of most all local non-profit organizations and grassroots advocacy groups.

Young Children



“If we don't stand up for children, then we don't stand for much”.

Marian Wright Edelman

As of October 4th, 2007 there are 224 licensed child care providers in the Lexington Fayette Urban County Area. Of these only 35 have a 2-STAR, or higher rating. (highest possible rating 5)

There are 22,000 children in Fayette County under the age of 6; 21% are living at or below poverty level.

Demographic Data for Fayette County

Total Population-260,512

Total Population under 5 years old-6.5%

Children under 5 years below poverty line – 18%

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21000.html>

Priority Areas

- **Quality Childcare and preschools for ALL children**
- **Parenting Support**
- **Health Awareness for Children**

Young Children Work Team

Executive Summary

At a conference held in December, 2003, Jack Shonkoff of the Heller School at Brandeis University stated there is an “unacceptably wide gap between what we know and what we do to promote healthy development in young children.” This dire observation was followed by a sharing of the things we do know that can close the achievement gap. These included making sure that at-risk children attend preschool, moving the schools to an all-day kindergarten model, and allowing children to stay in the same schools through the early grades. This last step assumes a flexible transportation system.

The members of this conference, who included Noble Laureate James Heckman and Art Rolnick, Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, senior vice president and director of research, concluded the following:

1. The time has come to invest more resources in the development of young children.
2. We have to think in terms of all children, but we need to recognize that some are needier than others.
3. There’s a clear understanding that whatever steps are taken, earlier is better than later.
4. The benefits of wise investments in young children will be substantial, and the consequences of poor investments will be costly.
5. Whatever the investment, it must be driven by knowledge. (But we also have to confront the fact that values trump knowledge in the political arena every time.)
6. The return, on investment in young children will depend on the extent to which we match programs and services to needs, and there must be ongoing movement in the knowledge base.

This effort, from an arena other than social services, shows that services for young children can impact the entire fabric of our community in dramatic ways. Our team recognized this impact and worked to create ideas that would help to close the gap between where we are and where we want to be.

The Young Children’s Team identified three key topics they felt needed to be addressed in greater detail. In these three areas, twenty-five (25) subtopics were further outlined. Through the nominal process, four of the most critical subtopics were pulled out for further discussion.

The following reflect the highlights of the ideal outcomes and the recommendations for action in meeting unmet needs:

Ideal Outcome

Quality and affordable childcare and preschools for ALL children

- ✓ All children enrolled in preschool regardless of family financial status
- ✓ Child care available 24 hours a day
- ✓ Education requirements and salary compensation for childcare providers is increased.
- ✓ A seamless transition from preschool to elementary school is the norm.

Recommendations for Action in Meeting Unmet Needs:

1. Consider creating a sales tax or tax levy that would be dedicated to meeting the needs of young children in the LFUCG area.
2. Establish a comprehensive grant awarding agency to coordinate quality and accessible childcare programs and preschools using the funds collected through the sales tax or property tax levy.
3. Fund programs that assist providers to improve services.
4. Use the funds to provide tuition subsidies to families so all children have equal access to quality childcare and preschool programs.
5. The IHDI has created a program that supports the seamless transition of children from preschools to kindergarten. There are numerous programs in Kentucky that are implementing part or all of the initiative. This effort needs to be continued.

Note: After hours childcare is recognized as a need but not one that the LFUCG should take on. Companies that work second and third shifts should be encouraged to address the childcare needs of their workers.

Ideal Outcome

Parents will have access to solid and timely information and support so as to make informed decisions.

• Parenting Support

- ✓ HANDS/Home Visitation Program for first time parents is expanded.
- ✓ Community services regardless is provided of immigration status.
- ✓ Parents and other family who are raising small children are supported and fully aware of available resources.
- ✓ Parenting education programs that are culturally sensitive, appropriate are provided in multiple delivery systems.

Recommendation for Action in Meeting Unmet Needs:

1. Create partnerships with United Way to implement United Way of America's Born Learning Campaign (bornlearning.org) to share parenting information. Promote the programs in the community to create greater awareness of the resources that are available to parents. Involve recognizable community leaders, local media personalities and public officials. Programs to be aired on local cable access, city website, GTV3, and KET, and FCPS's channel 13.
2. Identify a central resource for parents of young children to access information, services and programs in the Lexington community.
3. Train Parent Advocates to focus on early years when experiences and guidance are so important. Advocates representing all cultures, ethnic and income groups share information through Faith Community, neighborhood involvement, library activities, schools, etc. Advocates also organize parent support groups based on ages and special needs of children.

Ideal Outcome

All children regardless of income or ethnicity would have access to quality, ongoing and timely healthcare and health education.

- Health Awareness for Children
 - ✓ Nutrition and exercise information and activities is provided
 - ✓ Access to mental health services is enhanced.
 - ✓ Obesity prevention services is shared.
 - ✓ Access to acute and preventive care (physicals, immunizations, dental care etc.) is made available.

Recommendation for Action in Meeting Unmet Needs:

1. Educate the community on Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) eligibility to assure that all eligible children are enrolled
2. Implement "We Can!" This national program is designed for families and children. It focuses on three important behaviors: improved nutrition increased physical activity and reduced screen (computer, television) time.
3. Expand Behavioral Health access to ensure that screening, assessment, treatment; referral and care coordination is available for children who require mental health services.
4. Create partnerships with Parks and Recreation, YMCA, hospitals and businesses to offer obesity prevention programs for young children, youth and parents.

Conclusions:

Many low income families and children lack access to childcare which is high quality and affordable. A quality early childhood experience is the key to academic success.

There is no community wide, broad based program for Parent Education in the critical early development years for children

There is no one central information source a parent can turn to when they need information, services or support in parenting.

There are a lack of programs and resources directly targeted to parents.

With any program implementation targeted to young children and their parents, particularly due to the increasing diversity of the Lexington population, it will be, extremely important to develop a plan to create community awareness that reaches across all cultures and socio-economic groups.

Research shows that parental involvement is a crucial ingredient in successful outcomes for children. With coordinated messages and targeted outreach strategies, communities can help parents understand that the early years matter and that their actions make a difference.

Access to health and mental health services, and healthy lifestyle information is critical to school readiness and academic success.

The community has a responsibility to promote the healthy development of ALL children.

Youth



*40,949 or 15% of the Lexington population are youth,
between the ages of 5 and 17*

*"How far you go in life depends on your
being tender with the young,
compassionate with the aged,
sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant
of the weak and the strong. Because
someday in life you will have been all of
these".*

-George Washington Carver

Priority Areas:

- **Education Issues**
- **Safety and Health Issues**
- **Youth Needs Issues**
- **Community Based Issues**

Youth Work Team

Executive Summary

Lexington is the second largest city in Kentucky with a population of 270,789. Of those 40,949 are youth between the ages of 5 and 17. Our community recognizes the importance of youth and the need to nourish and develop their talents. As a result over 50 participants from the community met at the Community Needs Assessment in August for the Youth component. The charge of the Youth Community Needs Assessment team was to identify the needs of these school age youth and suggest how programs and services can be improved. The group met six times. Initial needs were identified and ranked as followed:

- **Education Issues**
 - Dropout Prevention (16)
 - Coordinate Truancy Prevention Services (11)
 - Promotion of higher education for all students (8)
 - Test-Taking skills (7)
 - More opportunities for same sex classes (7)
 - Out of school suspension program (5)
 - Learning Disorders: Environment Toxicity (2)
 - After school programs that serve special needs kids (2)
 - Tutoring programs: in and out of schools (2)
 - Scholarship information (2)
 - More opportunities for parents: lack of parental involvement (1)
 - School Preparation Training ()
- **Safety and Health Issues**
 - More safe and free activities for children (28)
 - Health issues: adequate mental health (24)
 - Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco abuse (16)
 - Suicide education and Prevention (10)
 - Supervised housing (10)
 - Pregnancy Prevention (9)
 - Obesity epidemic (8)
 - Gangs (6)
 - Harassment Awareness Prevention (3)
 - Affordable residential treatment centers (3)
 - Understanding the detrimental effect of TV & Video Games (2)
 - Changing Mentality (1)
 - School awareness for sexually abused children ()
- **Youth Needs Issues**
 - Troubled youth/Special needs (18)
 - Year round park services (13)
 - Self-esteem and self-worth (11)
 - Positive role models: Mentors (9)
 - Diversity issues (8)

Life preparation (6)
 Positive Direction (5)
 Issues concerning sexuality (4)
 Social skills/Relationship skills (3)
 Recreation for youth at all times (3)
 Independent living skills (2)
 Sense of belonging (1)
 Readiness skills ()
 Leadership skills ()
 Hour Activities out side of the education system ()

- **Community Based Issues**

Coordinating youth services: county based (18)
 Partnership with faith based communities (18)
 Assess ability to services (9)
 List of current service providers in the community (9)
 Continue effort to involve our youth in the community (7)
 Employment education through job shadowing (7)
 Neighborhood based services (6)
 Intense service to foster care homes (3)
 Central Organization Group: to continue work ethic (3)
 Poverty (3)
 Data resource Manual (1)
 Coordinate with FCPS 20/20 vision ()

At the second meeting the team narrowed our focus to four issues:

- More safe and free year long activities
- Mental health and wellness programs
- Troubled youth
- Integrated systems approach

Definitions:

- Youth: Any youth between the ages of 5 – 17 years old
- Integrated Systems Approach: Removing duplication of services and increasing effectiveness and efficiency
- Troubled youth/special needs: Youth who fall in any of the following: mental health issues, behavior problems, court involved, middle or high school dropout, truant or educational needs that are not being met.

Fayette County has a total of 895 truancy cases filed with the courts so far during the year of 2007. This count does not include the delinquent, runaways or beyond control population. In 2006, Fayette County reported an estimate count of 42,539 children between the ages of 5 – 17 year olds. This was released by the US Census Bureau on August 9, 2007.

Integrated Systems Approach:

There are programs for youth in Lexington but the services do not always meet the needs of the youth; the organizations working to serve youth do not always work effectively together; there are not enough preventive activities; youth are not being utilized in the planning process and due to lack of collaboration we do not know the effect of the services being provided. There is a need for some youth focus groups. There are probably many successful services for youth in Fayette County but due to the lack of a city wide collaboration system it is unclear of who they are and what services they offer.

Ideal outcomes:

- To have a youth development director that will coordinate the existing youth programs and services.
- For the youth development director to organize a directory of services on line that is available for agencies to view and print.
- The youth development director will work with other youth providers and all the agencies have a shared vision and an outcome based system.
- The youth development director will organize on-going training for service providers to train agencies on this shared vision and develop outcome measures.

Youth Development**Ideal Outcomes:**

- More alternative educational programs.
- Expand the summer youth employment program.
- Parks and Recreation offer year around programs and longer hours.
- More funding for successful existing programs.
- Expand existing programs and service hours with a full-time employee to operate and coordinate activities.
- Include youth on staff to ensure programs maintain effective youth focus.
- Need a larger vision to encompass all services together

Next Steps

What next is often the question posed at the conclusion or reporting point in initiatives such as this. We could go after the quick fix, the low hanging fruit, simply accept the report and continue to operate as current or do none of the above as this report could appear to be quite overwhelming. There is often much consternation over the ramifications of a domino effect a single action included in a recommendation might cause or whether the action or program will lead us where we want or need to go. The possibilities for “what next” we all know are endless, however a next step is critical.

It is at times like this we are reminded perhaps even confronted by what the great statesman and orator Frederick Douglas once offered, “Men may not always get what they pay for in this world, but they inevitably will certainly pay for all they get”. In other words, to move forward one must pause to reflect and ponder, to identify the issues and challenges, secure the data and supporting documentation/input and then set out to determine a plan of action understanding that to do nothing is actually doing something.

On the warm summer evening of August 28, 2007, three hundred strong gathered “to do something.” Our convening spoke loudly of the desire, the need, and the interest to move forward the quality of life for all in Lexington. We were uncertain about the future, unconcerned about costs and policy, domain or turf, bolstered by the undeniable that at last we had come together to begin, to dream and imagine and to take that next bold step often discussed, suggested, hoped for and thought about yet never done.

Recommendations, ideas, best practices and latest trends are to a great extent included in this work. The dreaming was both hard and easy, the work both challenging and yet inspiring, and now we must set our determination to not allow this report, to join so many others albeit on a host of other topics and issues to adorn a shelf or consume space in a drawer, but to become a living testament to the “greatness” of Lexington. It won’t be easy or swift but the race always goes to those who stay the course unaffected by the clock or calendar. Rabbi Abraham Heschel put it oh so perfect: “We are not all equally guilty but we are all equally responsible for building a descent and just America”. Let us take the next steps.

The next steps will include the Department of Social Services developing a strategic plan, inclusive of revisiting its mission, programs, policies and organizational structure and refining its vision to reflect this report. DSS will then identify a small number of recommendations to focus on each year as part of an annual work plan. The Department will outline an annual work plan inclusive of measurable goals and outcomes and develop a budget reflective of this ideal. The Department will also suggest annual themes and focus for funding partner agencies, aligned with the goals of the Urban County Government, as we work in collaboration to serve the community.

Before stepping forward we pause to express our many thanks and much appreciation to all of the individuals (you know who you are), who played a role large or small in helping to ensure this work was done. Your input whether in twenty meetings or one, whether in hours or minutes, whether in a work team, focus group, letter or attendance at the Summit it was all good.

A very special note of thanks to the following for their incredible support, patience and work efforts Susan Straub, Gail Hayden, Cynthia Bryant and the GTV3 Crew.

Appendices

(A) Lexington-Fayette County Demographics	42
(B) Housing & Homeless Statistics	52
(C) Social Services Needs Assessment Evaluation	60

Lexington

Our Community

Kentucky Demographics

- 2006 Population Estimate – 4,206, 074
- Under Age 5 – 277,601 (6.6%)
- Ages 6-18 – 723,445
- Ages 65 & Older – 538,377 (12.8%)

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21000.html>

2006 KY Race Breakdown

- Caucasian, Not Hispanic – 88.4%
- African American – 7.5%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native – 0.2%
- Asian – 1%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - Unknown
- Hispanic/Latino – 2%
- Reporting 2 or More Races – 1%
- <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21000.html>

Fayette County Demographics

- 2006 Population Estimate – 270,789
- Under Age 5 – 18,685 (6.9%)
- Ages 6-18 – 41,159
- Ages 65 & Older – 28,433 (10.5%)

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/21/21067.html>

2006 Fayette County Race Breakdown

- Caucasian, Not Hispanic – 76.2%
- African American – 13.9%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native – 0.3%
- Asian 3.2%
- Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander – 0.1%
- Hispanic/Latino – 5.3%
- Reporting 2 or More Races – 1.4%

2004 Median Household Income

- Kentucky - \$37, 046
- Fayette County - \$41,602

2004 Persons Below Poverty

- Kentucky – 16.3%
- Fayette County – 14.2%

Youth Stats

- Children in Poverty (KY, 2006) – 23%
- High School Dropout Rate (KY, 2006) – 9%
- Teen Not Attending School & Not Working (KY, 2006) – 10%
- Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment (KY, 2006) – 37%
- Children in Single Parent Families (KY, 2006) – 33%

http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter/profile_results.jsp?r=19&d=1

Youth Stats, Continued

- Monthly KCHIP Enrollment (2006) – (KY) 47,845, (Fayette) 1,691
- Children Receiving SSI (2006) – (KY) 27,244, (Fayette) 1,153
- Child Poverty Rate (2004) – (KY) 22.2%, (Fayette) 18.2%
 - Fayette Ranked 19th of 120 in state
- Children Receiving Childcare Subsidies (2007) – (KY) 78,779, (Fayette) 6,585

http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=KY&areaid=35

2000 Census Data Education Level

- **All for people ages 25 & older.
- High School Graduate (Including Equivalency) – (KY) 33.6%, (US) 28.6%
- Some College/Associate's Degree – (KY) 23.4, (US) 27.4
- Bachelor's Degree – (KY) 10.3%, (US) 15.5%
- Master's, Professional, Doctorate – (KY) 6.9%, (US) 8.9%

<http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/educLevel.php?locIndex=18>

What Age is Considered Senior Citizen?

- No consensus on exact age.
- Most considered when eligible to retire.
- Ages were seen in four groups: 50, 55, 60 & 65.
- Most based around state's eligibility for programming.
- Demographically – 65 years old.

Housing & Homeless Statistics

Defining the Problem

- In Fayette County, it is estimated that approximately 900 individuals (at any given time) are living in housing programs provided by homeless service providers. Another 50 to 200 individuals are living on the streets.*



* Central Kentucky Housing & Homeless Initiative. 2006 Continuum of Care Application. May 2006.

Understanding Homelessness

- Homelessness is best understood as a continuum.



What is meant by “homelessness”?

- How we define a problem usually dictates how we attempt to solve it.
- HUD, in its major homeless program (Continuum of Care), defines a homeless person as “an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is either (i) a supervised temporary living shelter, (ii) an institution that provides temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or (iii) a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings” .
- HHS, DOE and other government entities use different definitions. Even HUD uses slightly differing definitions for its other programs (like ESG).

Causes of Homelessness

- There are two broad trends occurring in the United States that have significantly contributed to the rise of homelessness over the past 25 years:
- A growing shortage of affordable rental housing and
- Stagnation of wages and an increase in poverty.*

National Coalition for the Homeless, Who is Homeless? June 2006.

Income and Housing

- Between 2003 and 2005, the median *renter* household income in Lexington increased 5.5% from \$27,298 to \$28,811.*
- During this same two year period the fair market rent of a two-bedroom apartment in Lexington increased 10%, from \$565 to \$622 per month.*
- The hourly wages needed in Lexington to *affordably* rent this apartment increased from \$10.87 to **\$11.96 per hour**.*

➤ National Low Income Housing Coalition. Out of Reach, 2003 and 2005. Accessed at www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2003 and www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2005.

Housing Insecurity

- In Fayette County there are \$45,766 renter-occupied housing units.*
- Of these, **20,642** households (45.1%) pay more than **thirty percent** of their household income on their rent.*
- Even more alarming, 6,691 of all renter households in Lexington (14.6%) are paying more than **half** their income to put a roof over their heads.*

* Statistics from the 2005 LFUCG Consolidated Plan

Solutions

- *Every study that has researched solutions to homelessness has found that **access to affordable housing** is the single most effective means of reducing homelessness.*

Social Services Needs Assessment Survey

Needs Assessment Project Evaluations

Please answer the following questions pertaining to the four topic areas covered in the workshop.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Average
The needs assessment project was timely.	2.9%	6.8%	50.5%	39.8%	3.271845
The needs assessment project was valuable to me as participant.	5.9%	14.9%	51.5%	27.7%	3.009901
The needs assessment project was valuable to the community.	5.0%	13.0%	45.0%	37.0%	3.14
The needs assessment project was a good use of my time.	8.0%	19.0%	44.0%	29.0%	2.94
The Needs Assessment Project should occur on a more regular basis.	7.1%	9.2%	45.9%	37.8%	3.142857

Needs Assessment Team Meeting Evaluations

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Average
The meetings I attended were productive.	4%	17%	54%	25%	3.0
The meetings I attended were well organized.	4%	16%	52%	28%	3.0
My facilitator was always present and prepared.	3%	11%	52%	34%	3.2
The group leaders attended the meetings and made valuable contributions to the process.	4%	14%	43%	38%	3.2
My group worked well together as a team.	7%	10%	52%	31%	3.1
The committee work was evenly distributed throughout the group.	6%	23%	52%	19%	2.8
My team liaison kept us informed about meeting times and topics.	4%	3%	44%	49%	3.4

Please indicate how much you agree with the following statements, using a rating scale where 1 means that you strongly disagree with the statement, and 4 means that you strongly agree.

Examples of open-ended comments regarding why respondents chose to participate in the Needs Assessment Process

"I think that it's important to know what services are needed and what is already being provided. It helps all of us to be able to better serve our clients."

"I wanted to be a part of the solution to the community's concerns. I also wanted to teach my daughters the importance of activism and the need to be a part of the solution and not just whine about things that can be changed."

"I devoted my time to this project because I believe that it is necessary in order to understand the needs for the people in the community and the lack of needs being meant. There are serious problems facing our people and if we don't grab a hold of the now it will only get worse. We as a people need to take care those who are less fortunate than others, plus it is the right thing to do. This data is the first step in how to look at the needs and from that we can determine if what we do it working or not. To be able to touch on the problems that have not been address and creatr a fix for them."



Respondent Characteristics

Your participation was as a/n: (Please check all that apply)

	Percent	N=
Agency Representative	65.0%	67
Citizen	38.8%	40
Service user	4.9%	5
Community Board representative	11.7%	12
Other (please specify)	12.6%	13

Brazilian Proverb

When we dream

alone

it is only a dream.

But

when we

dream

together

it is the beginning

of

reality.