

Summary

We had a total of 47 partners in attendance representing 29 different agencies, schools and organizations. Key themes across affinity groups included: the need for more leadership opportunities for young Latinos and creating job opportunities that would increase Latino professionals to remain in Sussex County; shared training opportunities that would promote interagency staff trust and support; and community training opportunities to increase awareness of health & mental health supports available.

A —Young Immigrant Families (Chris/Margaret -David Woods, Autism DE; Maria Merma, Autism DE; Barbara Johnson, DE Readiness Teams; Pam Cranston ESL@LCOS; Lesmayra Bautista, La Esperanza)

Challenges:

1. Retention in ESL classes is a concern as many services are linked to the classes (childcare, prep for kindergarten curriculum, etc.). However, students cannot receive services if they do not remain in the course/parents cannot bring them.
2. Salary levels for ESL childcare staff
3. More community events for families, but lack staff to create the events

Opportunities:

4. Partnering together to train community members
5. Find more families who want to take action on their own, and create more support groups
6. Community- inspire people to help each other
7. Support for community ownership
8. Train some of the volunteers, encourage them to be more involved with spreading the word with their friends
9. Vroom app- activities for children for families 0-5, free book, Spanish and English
10. Train the trainer model seems to be very promising and needed throughout the community

B—Families with School-aged children – (Gemma/Erika, Candice Buchanan-Summer Collab, Alonna Berry - Bryan A Stevenson School of Excellence, Annalise Ekbladh & Ivanka Carbajal - DE Autism, Laurisa Schutt - First State Educate, Sergio Fuentes, La Esperanza)

1. Organizations and the community need a user-friendly online resource guide
2. Shared onboarding training for new hires to provide an orientation as to the available community resources
3. Parent education: We need to increase digital literacy opportunities for the community
4. Increase cultural competency training for all those serving our Latino families – this could be a shared training; sensitive qualified interpreters in schools
5. Provide advocates, case managers, and teachers/counselors with cross training at various organizations
6. Solutions for transportation issues in Sussex County

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C— Career/ college Students - Families launching young adults – (Carey/Rony; Javier Ortiz ELL/FAFSA mentor; Linda Eklund, Adult Ed ESL-GED Spanish, Groves High School; Elizabeth Crook ESL, Unitarian Universalists of Southern DE; Janice Knight, La Esperanza; Sharon Baker, Hearts and Minds) Conversation about opportunities and hurdles/challenges.

Opportunities:

1. SEED, partnerships between DOE and Higher Ed.
2. Can we connect ELL students to workforce training – Sussex Tech has a model they have piloted. Promoting non-profit and public careers for bilingual students.
3. Removing obstacles by providing childcare, incentives, credentialing

Hurdles:

4. How can we create sustainable collaborative funding structures? Follow through on the networking required?
5. Bilingual trusted staffing, GED is difficult for students, enrollment is an issue.
6. Storytelling: how can we partner with media and use social media outlets to create a platform to share more of our success stories, to foster trust and encourage the community to use available resources, aspire to academic and career accomplishments?

D—Women – (Sarah/Lesley, Erin Ridout & Marcey Rezac, DCADV, Anne Slease, NAMI, Norma Perez, La Esperanza, Crystal Timmons, SCHC, Christiana Care) Process included sharing, defining “Women’s Services”

1. How can we engage more healthcare providers around the table? i.e., SAFE PLACES – for organizations and people to meet.
2. Long-term investments in people: need for staff development, growth opportunities, support and access to other staff in similar roles at partnering organizations. Shared training opportunities, etc., to promote interagency support for direct care workers, advocates and case managers.
3. Build Community Capacity: We need more mental health workers, advocates, community workers, etc.
4. Community-based Programming: Can we partner to host “lunch and learns” in Spanish: diabetes, mental health, domestic violence, trauma, etc.

E—Family Stability- Housing-Financial Coaching (Jen/Martha, Jaime Saylor, First State Community Action Agency, Judson Malone, First State/Kimmeytown Project, Paula Puello, Stand by Me, Maryann Grau, PolyTech) Brainstorming, focused idea gathering, common areas of concern/opportunities for impact

1. How can we partner to promote economic stability for the community?
2. Housing: There is lack of affordable housing; People live in substandard housing; People are homeless; People don’t complain because of fear or legal status; There is lack of effective housing policy/enforcement; City just did a housing analysis data is not readily available; Coordinated effort to implement affordable housing; Promoting participation at town council/etc. meetings with interpretation; policy advocacy that promotes more options for housing.
3. Access to Financial Assets: education, counseling/coaching, products/services that meet needs, i.e., interpretation/translation, options related to particular status

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4. Access to basic services that promote well-being: healthy food systems, physical and mental health services
5. Organizations need to create opportunities that develop and attract young Latino professionals, promote staying in Sussex County, social mobility within the state.