

**Clearfield County
Human Services
Needs Assessment**

***Getting to Know
Clearfield County***

June 2008

Prepared by

**Collective Impact, LLC
www.collectiveimpact.com**

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Overview

A diverse group of stakeholders in Clearfield County conducted a human services needs assessment to identify the needs and assets of the human services system. This assessment was funded by Human Services Development Funds (HSDF), supported by the Clearfield County Board of Commissioners, and administered by Central Pennsylvania Community Action, Inc. Collective Impact, an independent consulting firm, was engaged to facilitate the assessment process.

The needs assessment project was completed to do the following:

- ✓ Evaluate county human service resources.
- ✓ Identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities of the human services system.
- ✓ Develop priorities and recommendations to improve the human service system.

For the purpose of the project, the term *“human services”* was defined as *“a combination of government, for profit and non-profit organizations meeting individual and group needs of the community.”*

The needs assessment project was the first time that a broad examination of human service assets and needs was conducted in Clearfield County. The project was carried out from July 2007 through June 2008. It included discussion group sessions with human service providers and consumers of services, as well as an online survey. As part of the assessment, a diverse team of stakeholders came together to guide the process. The Assessment Team was comprised of representatives from various human service organizations.

“Human Services” was defined as a “combination of government, for profit and non-profit organizations meeting individual and group needs of the community.”

The needs assessment is considered a starting point to help key stakeholders in Clearfield County understand the assets and needs in the community and shape the future direction of human services in the county.

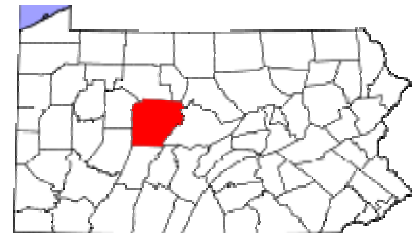
Acknowledgments

For making this project possible, many thanks to the Clearfield County Board of Commissioners for their support of this effort. Additional thanks goes to the staff and Board of Directors of Central Pennsylvania Community Action, Inc. - especially Stacy LoCastro and Lisa Kovalick - for their tremendous leadership of this effort. Exceptional gratitude to the Clearfield County Assessment Team members for providing ongoing guidance, leadership, and hard work throughout the project. A very special appreciation for the many human service providers, consumers, and community residents in Clearfield County who offered their expertise and experiences by participating in discussion groups and completing surveys. Their input has been essential to understanding the human service issues in Clearfield County and to the shaping of recommendations within this report. Finally, thanks to *Collective Impact* and their team of consultants for compiling the needed information, researching the issues, and moving the Assessment Team forward throughout the process.

Overview of Clearfield County

Clearfield County is located in west central Pennsylvania. The latest available population estimate for the county is 82,442 people (2006). Sixty eight percent (68%) of these people live in family households and twenty-eight percent (28%) live alone. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the population is White.

Almost eighty-six percent (85.6%) of the population over age 25 years has attained a high school diploma. This is a little higher than the percentage for the overall population of the United States (84.1%). Eleven percent (11%) of the county population age 25 or over holds a college degree, which is much less than the national figure of 27%.



Employment in Clearfield County is found in the services and retail trade sectors. Nearly one quarter (23%) of the employed population over age 16 years works in the areas of education, health care, or social services, and an additional 15% are employed in retail trade. The manufacturing and construction sectors accounts for a total of 22% of employment.

Over a thirty-six year period (1970 to 2006), farm employment has accounted for 500 to 550 jobs, while non-farm employment has steadily increased from about 25,000 jobs (full and part time) in 1970 to over 42,000 jobs in 2006. Manufacturing jobs have declined over the period, while total jobs in the education, health, and social services have increased. Average earnings per job have increased steadily over the period 1970 to 2006 from \$6,727 in 1970 to \$32,348 in 2006.

Median household income in Clearfield County in 2006 (adjusted for inflation) was \$33,590. This is lower than the median income for Pennsylvania (\$46,259) and for the United States

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(\$48,451). Seventeen percent (17%) of the families with children in Clearfield County have annual incomes below the federal poverty line, and 35% of female headed families (no husband present) are in poverty. These poverty rates are comparable to the state and national figures - 13.7% of Pennsylvania families with children and 17.9% of families with children nationally are in poverty. 36.9% of female headed households with children have incomes less than the poverty level for both the state and the nation.

Clearfield County Assessment Team

A diverse team of stakeholders came together to guide the human service needs assessment process in Clearfield County.

The Assessment Team was comprised of the following:

Stacy LoCastro (*Team Leader*), Central Pennsylvania Community Action, Inc.
Lisa Kovalick, Central Pennsylvania Community Action, Inc.
Ellie Fenton, Central Pennsylvania Community Action, Inc.
Rex Read, Clearfield County Commissioner
Sue Kordish, Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
John Kordish, Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Francis F. Kuhn, Clearfield County Children, Youth and Family Services
Susan Ford, Clearfield Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission
Mary Lash, Clearfield Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission
Marie Seaburn, Clearfield Jefferson Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program
Collette Dushac, Clearfield Jefferson Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program
Ella Crawford, Clearfield Jefferson Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program
Jodi Brennan, Clearfield County Planning
Denise Keltz, Clearfield Area School District

The Assessment Team was instrumental in engaging stakeholders to participate and helping to plan and implement project activities. The team reviewed the project findings and made recommendations for areas of improvement.

See the Appendix for additional information on the history, mission, and services provided by the organizations represented on the Assessment Team.

“Can cities and counties ensure that their communities are “livable” for all ages – not only good places to grow up, but good places to grow old?”

- Assessment Team Member

Needs Assessment Process

The human services needs assessment project was conducted from July 2007 through June 2008. Collective Impact facilitated the assessment process and provided planning, data collection, data analysis, and report development services.

A total of five (5) planning sessions were held with the Assessment Team. These were facilitated sessions held in July, September, and December of 2007 and in January and April of 2008. A final session (June 2008) is planned as a *Human Services Forum*. At this session, the needs assessment report and recommendations will be reviewed by local stakeholders and discussions held about strategies that might impact the findings and recommendations presented in the report.

The needs assessment relied on three (3) principal sources of information:

- ✓ Knowledge and guidance from the local Assessment Team,
- ✓ Information gathered through discussion groups with primary stakeholder groups, and
- ✓ Data collected through an Internet-based survey of Clearfield County residents, including consumers and providers of human services.

Discussion group sessions were held November 1, 2007. Three (3) discussion groups were held with different audiences in Clearfield County. These audiences represented primary human service stakeholder groups and included:

1. Consumers,
2. Direct service staff, and
3. Administrators/supervisors.

A total of 52 people participated in the three facilitated sessions, including twenty-five (25) administrators/supervisors, nineteen (19) direct service staff, and eight (8) consumers. Participants discussed issues regarding the human service system in Clearfield County and identified perceived strengths and challenges within the system.

Each discussion group was facilitated by the consultant team from Collective Impact, and ideas, suggestions, and comments were recorded. A summary of each individual discussion group was prepared, as well as an overall summary that identified common themes and issues across the different perspectives represented by discussion group participants. Each group was asked about current strengths, challenges, and gaps within the human services system. Each group was also asked about how families receiving services from more than one agency or organization experience the system – what was good about the experience, what could be improved, and ways organizations can work together to assist families in Clearfield County. Finally, each group engaged in a visioning exercise to identify what they would like to see in the human service system ten years into the future.

An extensive survey was designed with input from the Assessment Team to gather relevant data about the Clearfield County human services system. The survey was designed to capture

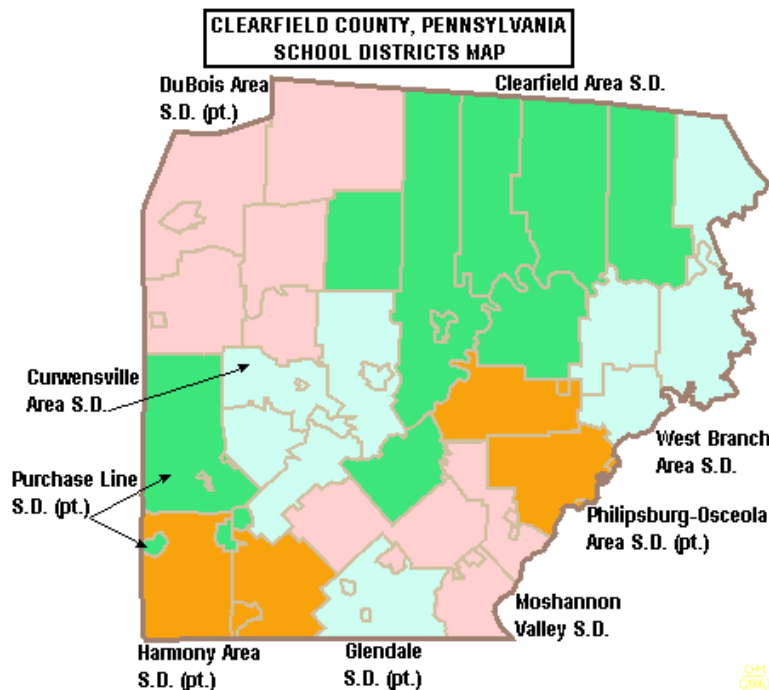
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information about how human service providers, consumers of services, and residents of Clearfield County view human services, including:

- ✓ Issues related to the need for different types of services in the county,
- ✓ Service availability and accessibility,
- ✓ Preferences about how service related information is received,
- ✓ Barriers to receiving services, and
- ✓ Interagency working relationships.

The survey was accessed by local residents, including consumers and providers of human services, over the Internet during February and March of 2008. In addition to analysis of overall survey responses, data was captured that allowed for the survey responses to be reviewed and analyzed by:

- ✓ Place of residence of recipients - The Assessment Team selected school districts as the unit of analysis, and
- ✓ Type of respondent - Respondent types included county residents not receiving services, current consumers, direct service providers, and administrators/supervisors.



By sorting survey responses by school district, variations in responses could be analyzed to determine if people living in one part of the county perceive human services issues differently than those in another part of the county. See map for description of school districts in Clearfield County.

Similarly, analysis of survey responses by type of respondent allows for some conclusions about how different types of stakeholders see human service issues. For example, do consumers see human services issues differently than providers?

A total of 428 people responded to the online survey. The *Summary of Results and Findings* provided as a separate report to the Assessment Team should be reviewed for information about the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and more detailed analysis of survey findings.

Project Domains

In order to provide a structure for examining the complex system of human services in Clearfield County, two (2) major components of the human services system and eight (8) domains were identified and agreed upon by the Assessment Team. The two major components of the human services system include:

Component 1: Services and supports that contribute to family and community well-being

Key Questions:

- ✓ What are the current conditions within the human services system that support family and community well being?
- ✓ What types of improvements would enhance the human services system?

Component 2: System effectiveness in delivering services and supports

Key Questions:

- ✓ How well does the system support positive change in current conditions?
- ✓ What capacity does the current system have to achieve greater effectiveness?

For each of the two (2) major system components, a number of domains were identified in order to provide a framework for analysis of the needs assessment data. A domain is defined as a significant area of influence affecting the system of human services in Clearfield County. A total of eight (8) domains were examined. Each domain has a significant influence over either (1) the current system of human services, or (2) the systemic issues that define how that system serves the people of Clearfield County. The framework (outlined below) was used to organize the findings and recommendations within this final report.

Family and Community Well-Being

Domain 1: Early Learning and School Success

- Childcare
- Preschool
- After school
- Youth development

Domain 2: Family Stability

- Family violence (child, elder, and partner abuse)
- Housing and shelter
- Homelessness
- Crime
- Juvenile delinquency
- Parenting

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- Life skills (time management, stress management, budgeting, credit, etc.)
- Senior supports and services

Domain 3: Economic Security

- Employment
- Adult education
- Job training
- Vocational rehab
- Financial education

Domain 4: Physical and Behavioral Health

- Maternal and child health
- Teen pregnancy
- Health insurance
- Mental health/mental retardation
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Dental

Domain 5: Community Support

- Recreation
- Socialization
- Volunteerism and community services
- Faith-based supports

Service System Effectiveness

Domain 6: Access and Awareness

- Access to services (transportation, hours of operation, location, etc.)
- Awareness of services (promotion, branding, media, communications, etc.)
- Outreach
- Point of entry
- Information and referral
- Intake
- Screening/assessment

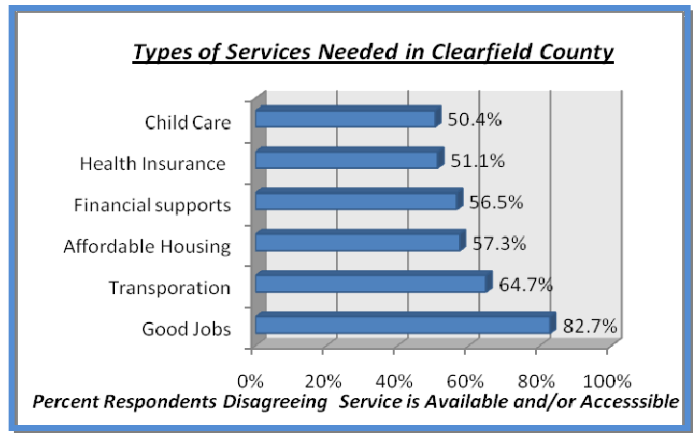
Domain 7: Service Provision

- Assessment/evaluation
- Planning
- Delivery
- Case management/care coordination
- Follow-up/Aftercare
- Outcomes measurement/evaluation

- Domain 8:** **Agency Interaction (Social Capital)**
- Networking
 - Communication
 - Cooperation
 - Coordination
 - Collaboration

Clearfield County Needs

Needs are defined as problems or issues to be addressed or conditions to be changed. Needs within the human services system in Clearfield County were identified by analyzing information gathered through the discussion groups, survey, and meetings of the Assessment Team. The chart at right reflects types of services needed in Clearfield County that were identified through the survey of stakeholders.



Major findings related to human service needs in Clearfield County are summarized below and organized by domain.

Family and Community Well-Being

Early Learning and School Success:

- ✓ Affordable, high quality childcare is an identified need in many areas of Clearfield County.
 - Child care is identified as a need by all respondent groups, but a higher percentage of community residents not receiving human services see child care availability as a problem.
 - Respondents from the Phillipsburg – Osceola and Curwensville areas identified the lack of affordable high quality childcare as a need at a higher rate than other areas of the county.

“Southern Clearfield County doesn’t get the services.”
- Human Services Agency Supervisor

- ✓ There appears to be a greater need for after school programs in the DuBois area than in other areas of the county based on survey responses.

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Family Stability:

- ✓ Affordable housing is seen as a need in Clearfield County.
- ✓ Juvenile crime appears to be more of a problem in the Clearfield area than in other parts of the county.

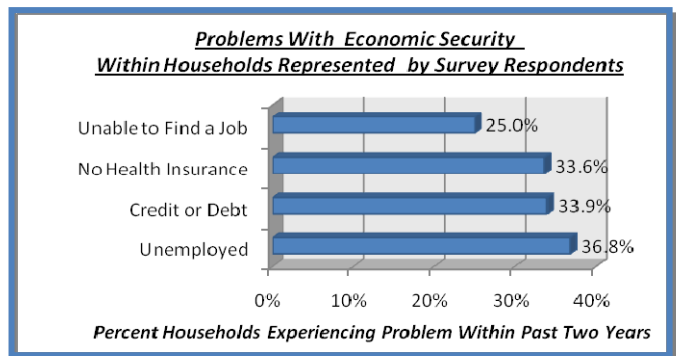
Economic Security:

- ✓ The most significant need identified is the lack of “good jobs.”

- Availability of good jobs with health benefits was identified as a significant problem by all respondent groups and in all areas of the county.

- ✓ Programs focused on financial education and financial support for low income families were identified as a need in the county.

- Residents of the Moshannon Valley area see financial education as a greater need than other parts of the county.



Physical and Behavioral Health:

- ✓ The use and abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs (ATOD) was identified as a “big problem.”
 - Additional programs and services to address ATOD issues may be needed.

- ✓ Health insurance is a need for many Clearfield County residents.
 - Non-provider groups, including general county residents and current consumers of human services, identified health insurance for some children as a need.
 - All respondent groups identified jobs with health care benefits as a need.

- ✓ Dental care is needed by low income families in the county.
 - There is a shortage of dentists who will see persons receiving Medical Assistance (Medicaid).

“There is only one dentist in the county to provide services to Medical Assistance families.”

-Clearfield County Consumer

Community Support:

- ✓ Additional recreational opportunities for families were identified as a need.
 - Two thirds (67%) of the survey respondents indicated there was a lack of family activities in the county.

- There appears to be a greater need for family activities in the Phillipsburg-Osceola area than in other areas of the county.
- County residents not currently receiving human services identified family activities as a need at higher rates than other groups.

Service System Effectiveness

Access and Awareness:

- ✓ Transportation services are a need in the more rural parts of Clearfield County.
 - Lack of transportation was the most significant barrier to accessing needed services identified by survey respondents.
 - Transportation needs in rural Clearfield County was identified by discussion group participants as a current challenge for the human services system
- ✓ There is a need to educate the public about what human services are available and how to access them.
- ✓ A community newsletter was identified as a way many county residents would prefer to get information about human services.
 - Nearly one-third (30%) of all survey respondents indicated they would prefer to get information through a community newsletter.
- ✓ Categorical eligibility requirements are perceived as a barrier to receiving services based on discussion group comments.

“Consumers do not know where to go for the most basic services.”

- Agency Administrator

Service Provision:

- ✓ Discussion group participants believe there is a need for agencies to get together and develop common service plans for families.
- ✓ There is a need to share information across agencies so families do not have to provide the same information at each service location.

Agency Interaction:

- ✓ Improved coordination of services and programs across human services agencies and organizations was identified as a need.
- ✓ Joint planning by local agencies and organizations to identify and fill gaps in the human services system is needed.

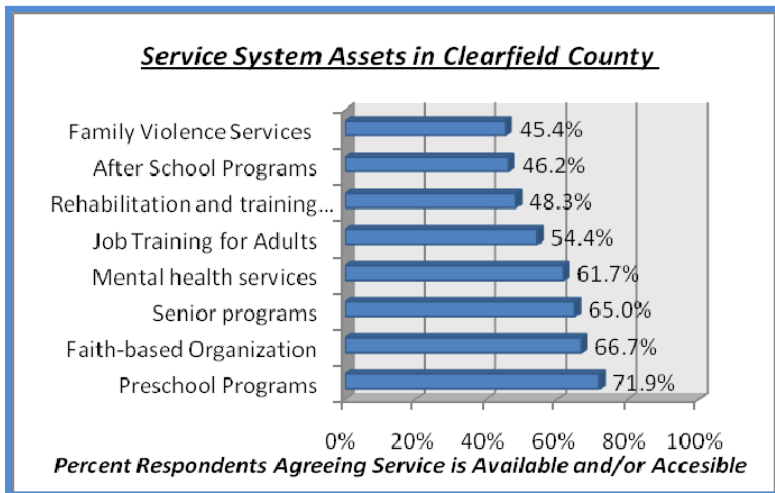
Residents of the Moshannon Valley area are much less likely to think local agencies and organizations work together well to assure consumers receive the services they need.

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- ✓ Improved communication about services provided is needed in order to refer consumers and link them to services and programs throughout the human services system.
 - Half (50%) of all survey respondents believe service providers don't know much about the services outside their agency.
- ✓ Additional social capital needs to be built in order to effectively engage in collaborative practices across human service agencies and organizations.
 - Only 25% of survey respondents believe people in Clearfield County trust one another to do what is best for the common good.
 - Half of all survey respondents think competition among human services agencies is a barrier to serving people in Clearfield County.

Clearfield County Assets

Assets are defined as the resources that are available to address problems, issues, or conditions to be changed. It is important in any assessment project to consider the assets that exist within a community so that there is an understanding of what is available to address the identified needs.



Assets within the human services system in Clearfield County were identified by analyzing information gathered through the discussion groups, survey, and meetings of the Assessment Team. The chart at left identifies the types of services viewed positively by survey respondents. Although these services may not be available in all parts of the county, they are generally seen as strengths of the current human services system in Clearfield County.

Participants in discussion groups identified the overall scope of services available and options for choice of provider as strengths within the current human services system. The dedication of service providers and their interest in working together were also mentioned as assets of the system by discussion group participants. Major findings related to human service strengths and assets in Clearfield County are summarized below and organized by domain.

Family and Community Well-Being

Early Learning and School Success:

- ✓ Preschool programs providing early education and child care are identified as a significant asset in Clearfield County.
 - Seventy-two percent (71.9%) of the survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that preschool programs were available throughout Clearfield County.

“The county has skilled providers willing to go the extra mile to help people.”
- Clearfield County Consumer

Family Stability:

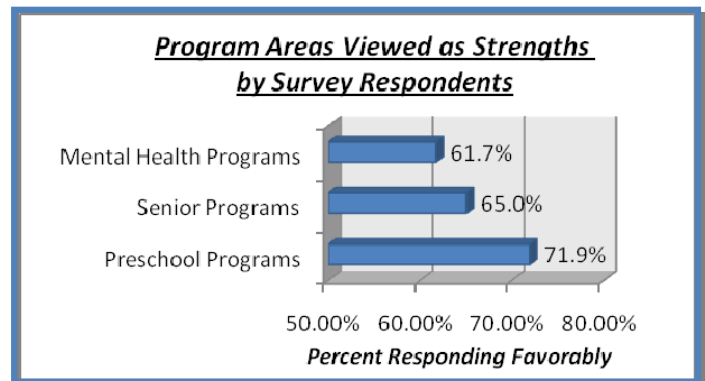
- ✓ Programs and services for senior citizens appear to be available in Clearfield County.
 - Sixty-five percent (65%) of survey respondents believe senior citizens are supported through a variety of programs and services to meet their unique needs.

Economic Security:

- ✓ Rehabilitation and training programs for people with physical and mental disabilities are generally viewed positively.
 - Nearly twice as many survey respondents (48.3%) believe good quality rehabilitation programs are available in the county as compared to those who do not (24.8%).
 - Direct service providers see rehabilitation programs more positively than do other respondent groups.

Physical and Behavioral Health:

- ✓ Mental health services for people dealing with crisis situations are seen as an asset by survey respondents.
 - Residents of the DuBois area identified mental health services as an asset at a higher rate than was the case in other parts of the county.



Community Support:

- ✓ Faith-based programs appear to make a significant contribution to the human services system in Clearfield County.

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- Two-thirds (66.7%) of all survey respondents indicated they believe faith-based organizations play an important role in supporting families in the county.
- ✓ A wide range of human services are available for all age groups.
 - Discussion group participants identified the diversity of services available in the county as a strength of the current human services system.

Service System Effectiveness

Access and Awareness:

- ✓ Discussion group participants indicated human service providers try to accommodate the schedules of consumers as much as possible.
- ✓ Newspapers were identified as an effective means of communication to provide information about human services to the public.

Service Provision:

- ✓ There appears to be interest among providers of human services to work toward a collaborative service system in Clearfield County.
 - Administrators and supervisors participating in discussion groups support the creation of a “Collaboration Board” where interagency issues are addressed.

Agency Interaction:

- ✓ There is a good relationship among human services agencies and organizations in Clearfield County.
 - Survey responses indicate a belief that local agencies and organizations communicate well with one another about services provided and work together to meet the needs of families and individuals.

“We are starting to lose the turf issues between agencies by working together.”

- Agency Administrator

Recommendations

Suggestions for further action to address service needs and improve service system effectiveness in Clearfield County are offered for consideration below. Recommendations are provided for each of the domains identified by the Assessment Team. Some of these recommendations are focused on service development, some call for a more in-depth analysis of a specific issue, and others are related to building the trust and connectedness among stakeholders that is necessary to develop a more collaborative human services system in Clearfield County.

An ongoing process of broad citizen engagement in each school district may be beneficial as the needs assessment information is used to develop plans to improve local conditions.

The recommendations offered below flow directly from the information gathered through the needs assessment process. In many cases, priorities for a particular locality or school district within Clearfield County may vary from one area to another. An ongoing process of broad citizen engagement in each school district may be beneficial as the needs assessment information is used to develop plans to

improve local conditions. Local implementation teams working closely with some type of county-wide collaborative council may be a useful structure for organizing efforts to improve the human services system. Such a structure would not only provide assurance that local priorities were incorporated into county-wide planning but would also build social capital throughout Clearfield County.

Family and Community Well-Being

Early Learning and School Success:

- Availability and access to high quality child care services should be increased in the more rural areas of Clearfield County.
- Families residing in the DuBois school district should be engaged in planning additional after school programs that would be seen as valuable and used by families.

Family Stability:

- The need for affordable housing in the county should be further assessed to determine the level of need, geographic areas of greatest need, and types of housing needed.
- Homelessness appears to be a “hidden issue” in the county that needs to be further explored.
- Local professionals within the juvenile justice system in the Clearfield area should be consulted about the need for additional programs and services to prevent juvenile delinquency and build youth assets.

Economic Security:

- Human services agencies and organizations may wish to join forces with community and economic development professionals, local government, and citizens of Clearfield County to increase the number of “good jobs” available in the county.
- Additional attention should be paid to developing services that contribute to the financial education and support of low income residents.

Physical and Behavioral Health:

- Services for the prevention and treatment of the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs should be an area of focus in Clearfield County.

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- Further research on the number of people in Clearfield County without health insurance is indicated.
- Local leaders may want to work with state and federal officials to increase access to health care coverage for county residents.
- Access to oral health services for persons receiving Medical Assistance should be increased.

Community Support:

- The array of family and recreational activities available in the county needs to be identified.
- Family activities and recreation should be promoted county-wide with particular attention paid to more rural areas.

Service System Effectiveness

Access and Awareness:

- Public transportation should be enhanced in rural parts of Clearfield County based on a county-wide transportation plan.
- Local community newsletters should be considered as a way to increase residents' knowledge about human services in the county.
- Best practices related to establishment of a county-wide, web-based services directory should be examined.
- The degree to which categorical eligibility requirements exclude county residents from receiving needed services should be further studied.

Service Provision:

- Collaborative information management systems that allow for more efficient sharing of client information among human services agencies should be reviewed to determine if such systems might improve intake and service planning for consumers.

Agency Interaction:

- Additional social capital should be built among and between human service providers, local government officials, and county residents to increase trust, connectedness, and shared values about the human services system in Clearfield County.
- Strategies for increasing the knowledge of direct service providers about the array of human services available throughout the service system should be developed and implemented.
- A collaborative structure that promotes long-term planning for human services and engages local citizens in all areas of Clearfield County should be established and maintained.

Vision for the Future

Discussion group participants were asked to imagine that it is ten years into the future (2017) and they were then asked to describe the human services system in Clearfield County as they would like to see it at that time. This future visioning exercise provides additional information about human services issues and desired goals for the service system that is useful to help shape long term planning in Clearfield County.

Themes that emerged from this exercise in all discussion groups describe a human services system that:

1. Uses the most modern technology,
2. Is easy for consumers to access,
3. Is family-centered and well managed, and
4. Is available to all in need.

Universal access for all Clearfield County residents to all needed services and supports is the vision for the future.

Discussion group participants envision a greater use of web-based services to provide families with information about human services. Stakeholders would like to see web-based applications for streamlined service applications, service planning, and referral used in the future. Their vision is a more integrated and collaborative system of human services. This system would be made up of “one stop” service centers and more integrated service delivery defined by family-based service plans that coordinate all services provided to the family. Discussion group participants also envision a service system where access is not based on categorical requirements such as diagnosis, disability, and income. Universal access for all Clearfield County residents to all needed services and supports is the vision for the future.

Sources of Data

The primary sources of information shaping the final report and recommendations are documents developed specifically for the Clearfield County Human Services Needs Assessment and include:

- *Clearfield County Human Service Needs Assessment - Discussion Groups - Summary and Observations (November 2007)*
- *Clearfield County Human Service Needs Assessment - Summary of Consumer Discussion Group (November 2007)*
- *Clearfield County Human Service Needs Assessment - Summary of Direct Service Staff Discussion Group (November 2007)*
- *Clearfield County Human Service Needs Assessment - Summary of Administrators/Supervisors Discussion Group (November 2007)*
- *Clearfield County Human Services Survey – Summary of Results and Findings (April 2008)*
- *Clearfield County Needs Assessment Planning Session Summaries (July 2007, September 2007, December 2007, January 2008, April 2008)*

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Other sources of information reviewed for the report section titled Overview of Clearfield County include:

- *American Communities Survey – U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2006*
- *Quarterly Workforce Indicators – U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2007*
- *Bureau of Economic Analysis – U.S. Department of Commerce, 2007*
- *Bureau of Labor Statistics – U.S. Department of Labor, 2008*

Appendix

Clearfield County Assessment Team Organizational Information

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Helping People – Changing Lives

Agency Background

Community Action was initially established on November 14, 1965 and was incorporated as Central Pennsylvania Community Action, Inc. (CPCA) on December 14, 1967. The organization embarked on providing services to families and individuals with low to moderate incomes in Centre and Clearfield counties. Today, we have six outreach office locations: Clearfield, DuBois, Bellefonte, Houtzdale, Philipsburg and Millheim. With locations throughout the two counties, CPCA is able to provide our programs and services to the communities, families and individuals we support.

Mission Statement

Strengthening communities in Centre and Clearfield Counties by helping families and individuals to become self-sufficient.

Services

Last year, CPCA served over 16,000 unduplicated individuals through our vast array of services. CPCA's primary services include housing services, rental housing, case management, food services, heating and utility assistance, employment and training, consumer information and referral, and transportation services. The following programs and services are offered through the following programs in Centre and/or Clearfield:

- Weatherization, Crisis and LIHEAP emergency services
- PA Accessible Housing Program (PAHP)
- HOME Rehabilitation
- Earned Income Tax Program (EITC)
- Prom Closet
- Housing Assistance Program (HAP or RAP)
- Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP)
- Supported Work Program (SWP) and Supported Engagement (SE)
- State Food Purchase Program - 13 Food Pantries
- FEMA
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Congregate Meal Program – Houtzdale
- Customer Assistance Program (CAP)
- USDA loan/grant processing
- Youth on the Rise
- Family Savings Account Program (FSA)
- Millheim Thrift Store
- Houtzdale Community Closet
- Human Service Development Fund (HSDF) – Home Delivered Meals, Homemaker Services, Chore, Kidney Dialysis transportation, Life Skills Education, Housing Counseling, and Case Management..
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Rural Housing and Economic Development grant
- HOME Ownership
- Lawrence Park Village
- Park Avenue Towers
- Moshannon Valley Apartments
- Management of the Dimeling Senior Residence
- Scattered site housing throughout both counties

*Please contact us if you would like any information on our programs and services.

The services of Central PA Community Action, Inc. are financed (in part) by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Clearfield Jefferson Drug and Alcohol Commission

Since 1975, the Clearfield-Jefferson Drug & Alcohol Commission has been designated and authorized, by the Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs as the Local Authority for the alcohol and other drug systems in Clearfield and Jefferson Counties. The agency is governed by a thirteen member governing board representative of the population of the two-county area. The Commission is responsible to assess the need for addiction services and based on that assessment to develop a plan, coordinate and/or implement community alcohol and other drug prevention, intervention, and treatment services in the two-county area.

The Commission believes that alcohol and other drug problems affect the entire population and that an individual community's involvement is essential to the development of an effective response. The Commission seeks to work with representatives of the community to determine needs and solutions for this service area.

The Commission supports the disease concept of addiction recognized by the American Medical Association and believes that addiction is a treatable illness. It is the intent of the Commission to provide programs, either directly or through sub-contract, which promote social responsibility and a commitment to a healthy lifestyle. Funding for addiction treatment is targeted toward the indigent or public client.

The Commission offers the following services: prevention, tobacco control programs management, Drug Free Communities management, Student Assistance Program Commonwealth Training, and case management services.

Mission Statement

The Clearfield Jefferson MHMR program will assure access to a comprehensive array of quality mental services that are reflective of the needs of the residents of the two county area. The services are effectively managed and responsive to a changing community.

History

The Clearfield Jefferson MHMR program was established in July of 1996. The purpose of the C-J MH/MR Program, as an office of county government, is to assure mental health and mental retardation services are available to individuals of Clearfield and Jefferson Counties.

Services are provided directly or through contracts with various local agencies. Many services are funded through the states medical assistance program, some are covered by private health insurance, and others are available to individuals free of charge or based on the individuals ability to pay.

Services are provided to any individual without regard to sex, age, race, creed or other distinction.

Mental Health services for children and adults

Advocacy
Information and referral
Mental health case management services
Home based, supported living services
Vocational rehabilitation programs
Child and adolescent service system program (CASSP)
Student assistance program
Community support programs (CSP)
Consumer satisfaction team (CST)
Drop in center
Mobile crisis system
Housing support services
Representative payee

Mental Retardation Services

Support coordination for persons with developmental disabilities
Community residential living
Family driven/family support
Adult socialization program
Adult developmental day program
Early intervention service coordination
Home and community based support
Supported living

supported employment
programs
OBRA specialized services



“Enhancing Quality of Life”

Mission

The Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is a charitable, non-profit corporation dedicated to providing a comprehensive array of the highest quality health and human services to residents of Clearfield County. We will accomplish this mission by committing to our Guiding Principles of *Integrity, Coordinated Community Partnerships, Best Service, Progressive Attitudes, Professionalism, Teamwork* and *Investment in our Employees and Volunteers*.

Vision

The Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. and its team of staff and volunteers will be widely regarded and consistently ranked as the premier resource, advocate and coordinator of services and information for residents of Clearfield County.

Services

Our services are designed “to enable residents to remain in the setting of their choice for as long as possible at the highest level of functioning as possible.”