**Oshkosh Collaboration Workgroup - Improving the Health of the Community Focus - 2013**

Chris Kniep  
Family Living Educator/Department Head  
Winnebago County

**Situation Statement:** The Oshkosh Collaboration Work Group started in 1993 and has met continually since then, on a monthly basis (Sept. – June). Attendance at meetings ranges from 30 – 60+ agency representatives. When this faculty member joined the leadership group for this effort in 1999, contributions focused on understanding and working toward collaboration, program planning and organizational assessments.

Since 2008, this faculty member has provided leadership to the planning group and identifying the annual “theme” for meetings. Initially the focus was linked to the Local Indicators For Excellence (L.I.F.E.) Report. The Oshkosh Self-Sufficiency Project Barriers Team approached this faculty member in the summer of 2012 regarding partnering with the workgroup to address poverty issues affecting our community during the 2012-13 year. The success of this focus has lead to the 2013-14 focus of Improving the Health of the Community.

**Response:**
1. This faculty member worked with the planning team for the Collaboration Workgroup and the Barriers team to re-focus the monthly workgroup meetings.
2. This faculty member developed a template for 2012-2013 meetings that would focus on agencies promoting self-sufficiency and best practices for working with those in poverty.
3. This faculty member developed a template for the 2013-2014 meetings that would focus on health related issues ranging from financial health to mental health to physical health.
4. Continued annual organizational survey and presentation of findings with membership and leadership group.
5. Continued to serve on the leadership team for the Work Group, providing leadership to the group since 2008.
6. Serve as organization “structure” monitor, to keep the group focused on the organizations goals and focus.

**Results:**
1) Meetings have been more focused and attendance has remained steady
2) Additional community resources have been introduced to the Work Group, expanding the organization and creating greater awareness of the group.
3) The Leadership team has a workable plan for the entire program year, with measurable outcomes vs. month by month planning.
4) Annual Membership Survey indicates the Work Group:
   a) Brings together agencies and individuals service providers to view the community needs and services.
b) Provides a time and place to learn about community resources – educational opportunity and community issues.

c) Networking – bringing together different organizations that help [agencies] reach common goals, meeting other professionals.

d) Promotes a sense that together we can make a difference.

e) Meetings are responsible for collaborative community efforts such as Hunger Task Force, 1st Mental Health Task Force, neighborhood initiatives, work on the LIFE study issues, poverty plunge, self-sufficiency group, sharing content and feedback on the LIFE Study.

f) Survey data related to question: Your participation in the Oshkosh Collaboration Work Group may have increased your personal knowledge, interest, or skills. Please circle one number for each item below to indicate any increases in your knowledge, interests, and/or skills as a result of participating in the Oshkosh Collaboration Work Group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Increase</th>
<th>Small Increase</th>
<th>Moderate Increase</th>
<th>Great Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) My understand of the community’s needs……………</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) My motivation to help establish programs and services for our community…………………………………………</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) My sense that together we can make a difference………</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) My ability to network with others to achieve a goal………</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) My understanding of others’ perspectives………………</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) My leadership in addressing the needs of the community</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>g) My ability to solve community problems…………………..</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence:
1) Attendance at Work Group meetings has remained strong 30-60+ individuals a month, with some members reporting attendance since 1993.
2) Annual Member survey reflects movement from networking focus toward greater partnering/collaborating focus.
3) Agencies seek time on the agenda vs. being sought to fill the agenda.
4) Information of poverty shared with workgroup members has been requested by other community groups: League of Women Voters, Churches, and agencies.
5) Collaboration members connect to community initiatives vs. initiating duplicative efforts.
6) Neighboring communities have requested assistance in forming similar groups.