LPA Brainstorming Meeting

Here's some information about a process your LPA might consider doing to help develop a comprehensive list of local resources for families affected by WorkFirst changes due to budget reductions. This information was modified from a session conducted by the Clallam County LPA.

Agenda

Name of LPA
Date and time (plan for a 3 hour meeting)
Location

- Welcome and Introductions
- Revisiting the purpose and goals of WorkFirst.
- Why are we here?
- What services will we will be able to continue to offer?
- What have we lost?
- Where are the projected gaps? How do we compensate for these gaps?
- A "plan" for the plan!
- What's next?

LPA Meeting Information

(Facilitator - Lead/Co-Lead Information)

<u>A few weeks before the meeting send out invitations to all existing partners and potential partners.</u>

I. Introductions

II. Why are we here? We have several significant program changes affecting low-income families in our community, many due to budget issues. These changes will affect some of our community members in substantial ways. We're hoping to put together a comprehensive list of local resources that may be available to help fill the gaps.

Leave here with:
1. The starts of a comprehensive list of resources
2. A "skeleton" of additional ideas that we may want to work on as an LPA.

III. Have DSHS, the College, Employment Security, and Commerce Contractors talk about what's going on with their programs and what they're working on in relationship to the changes. Do any others want to give an update?

IV. Create a community resource list for those who may need help after they leave TANF as well as those affected by other cuts that have been taken. Talk through what each flip chart posted around the room means. See below

for details. Then ask the group "Did we miss anything?" before starting the group activity. If so, add additional charts.

GROUP ACTIVITY: Give participants markers and have them go around the room and list resources they know about under each "header" chart - What is available. What services are you still able to offer those on TANF? How about those exiting TANF? Also is there someone else offering a particular service that you know about who's not here today?

Logistics for Group Activity
Hang "header" charts around the room titled:

- Housing Help (Emergency, transitional, permanent)
- Gas/Transportation/Repairs
- Clothing
- Heating/lights
- Education
- Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Childcare (days/evenings/weekends/sick)
- Laundry/hygiene
- Life Skills
- Food
- Medical Services (can't find a provider)
- Gaps *(put off to the side – use at the end of the session)*
- Parking Lot *(put off to the side – have available during discussions to write ideas that may come up for future discussion)*

After the initial list has been crafted, go through what ended up on each chart with the group, add additional thoughts, and check for potential gaps. Then, type it up and email it to as many other partners (and potential partners) as possible to see if anything was missed. Remember to think outside of the box as you consider potential partners. [If someone shows up needing the services listed above, what, if anything, might you be able to do to help?]

Things to Bring to the Initial Meeting

1. Name tents
2. Completed chart templates
3. Blank charts
4. Markers for charts
5. Tape
6. Relevant handouts