

**EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE #2
CLEARFIELD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
OCTOBER 5, 2005**

ATTENDEES

Jodi Brennan, Director of Clearfield County Planning Office
Meredith Krejny, Planning Specialist of Clearfield County Planning Office
Justine Bolam-Wright, Appalachian Wood
Barbara Harer, South Hills Business School
Bonnie Caldwell, Clearfield County League on Social Services
Kelly Pisarchick, North Central regional Planning & Development
Carolyn Grecco, CIU 10- Development Center for Adults
Scott King, Harmony Area School District
Richard Synder, Glendale Area School District
Robert Dospoy, Harmony School District

INTRODUCTIONS

Those in attendance gave a brief introduction of themselves and whom they were representing.

REVIEW GOALS OF LAST ROUNDTABLE

County Planning Director, Jodi Brennan, asked participants if there were any additions or modifications to the last roundtable minutes. She asked specifically if there were any additional goals that we should add. An additional goal provided by participants was to provide an emphasis on early childhood education

DEVELOP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR TOP 5 GOALS

Participants were provided a list of the top five goals that were prioritized by participants at the first roundtable. They were asked to assist in developing an implementation strategy for achieving those top five goals.

Following is a summary of the feedback provided by those participants by goal. Time was available to also address the new goal , “Emphasis on Early Childhood Education”.

Goal #1 Equalize Education Funding:

- Establish foundation level of funding per student
- Less use of tax-free zones for businesses
- Lobby legislators to educate them about our needs and to get them to represent our interests
- Increase awareness of benefits of a public education (impact on everyone’s quality of life)
- Educate legislators about burden of unfounded mandates
- Develop consistent funding sources
- “Sin tax” on snuff, smokeless tobacco

Goal #2 Bring Good jobs to avoid Brain Drain:

- Less use of tax – free zones
- Improve 219 (with roads come jobs)
- Improve municipal infrastructure (including broadband capacity)
- Develop affordable housing options
- Promote our technology education programs to attract better – paying high – tech jobs
- Establish scholarships for students in computer related fields to attend local colleges
- Community service education programs / projects

Goal #3 Instill Life Skills:

- Relate education to students lives (show them how it's relevant)
- Hold career fairs
- Job shadowing, cooperative programs
- Emphasize project – based learning
- Teach more critical thinking skills
- Buddy system: take younger students to school with older students to see what next level is like
- Instill life skills at higher levels (can't assume it's been taught)
- Parents need to be more responsible for their children's education
- Parent Education

Goal #4 Get Local Officials to Support Education:

- Need to have organized approach (present studies to back up demands)
- Hold forum with county and state officials (show them how education ties into their other interests / projects etc.) need to get public politicians and media involved in these meetings
- Hold workshops / meetings / teleconferences on certain education topics

Goal #5 Mass Transit:

- Work with ATA and Dufast to alter schedules based on needs
- Pursue additional funding sources for transportation for after school programs / activities and during school hours

Goal #6 Emphasis on Early Childhood Education:

- Educate community on how elderly child education affects everyone
- Pursue local, state and foundation funding sources
- Offer more in school programs including child care
- Raise professional development opportunities for early child education providers
- Improve transportation options for parents and providers
- Raise public officials awareness of problems related to early education

Participants were thanked for participating and were informed that the comprehensive plan update will continue into next year, so there is still time for additional goals to be submitted to the planning office. Minutes will be prepared and sent to participants in the near future. Minutes from all minutes will also be made available on-line at the county's planning website.