



Community Needs Task Force  
Report  
August 2015

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## 1. Executive Summary:

The 2015 Community Needs Task Force was assembled by the San Juan Island Community Foundation to follow up on the work of its Critical Needs Task Force in 2009, and to engage community leaders and stakeholders who serve and strengthen our community. Workgroup meetings facilitated roundtable discussions that would identify the most current and pressing community needs and seek strategic sustainable solutions to those needs.

The primary purpose of the project was to inform the Community Foundation, its major donors, and the community at large of the most pressing community needs over the next five years.

Individual workgroups were formed to address the areas of Housing, Food Supply, Education: Secondary-College, Emergency Preparedness, Social Services, Education: Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 6), Environment and Community Service. Additional areas of need, including Transportation, Healthcare, the Arts, and Recreation were addressed by utilizing recent independent needs assessments and/or by interviewing individuals and other groups working in the respective areas. Each workgroup produced a prioritized list of perceived needs and suggested strategies to meet those needs.

The results provide a broad view of our community needs. These findings do not imply in any way that the Community Foundation will develop solutions and/or find funding for those solutions. Many of the strategies are long-term and will require local organizations and dedicated citizens to spearhead further action. The Community Foundation will assist in the coordination of those activities.

The following is our summary of prioritized needs and suggested strategies as identified during workgroup meetings.

HOUSING	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Affordable rental housing	Consult and update the 2011 County Housing Assessment. Collect additional data to quantify demand. Facilitate conversations with core organizations (San Juan Community Home Trust, OPAL Community Land Trust, and San Juan County Public Health Department) to address needs.
Substandard housing	Organize local volunteer efforts to make repairs to substandard houses. Consult Hearts and Hammers program.
Homelessness/emergency housing	Meet with San Juan Island Family Resource Center to identify needs more specifically. Assess potential resources.

OUR FOOD SUPPLY	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Community commercial kitchen at Fairgrounds	Build a community kitchen that can provide space and equipment for classes, support business opportunities and serve as a community gathering place.
Cold Storage Unit	Establish a cold storage facility to act as a hub for distribution of local food to food bank, grocery stores and restaurants.
Education and healthy food choices	Form and support partnerships for school gardens.
Greenhouses and/or Hoop Houses	Expanded use and access to green houses and hoop houses to extend the growing season and improve the access to local food year round.
Availability and access to local food	Initiate a campaign to increase the supply of local food in grocery stores and restaurants. Provide subsidies to low income individuals, families and seniors to enable the purchase local food.
Reestablish and revitalize farming/agriculture	Collaborate with retiring farmers and seek young farmers to mentor. Establish a mentoring program (ex. Viva Farms). Support campaigns to promote the pride and history of agriculture on San Juan Island.
EDUCATION: SECONDARY-COLLEGE	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
San Juan Island Public Schools face declining enrollment and subsequent budget gaps	Campaign to better inform the community of public school funding and state mandates. Partner with Skagit Valley Community College and San Juan Island Library to utilize combined resources.
Support for Skagit Valley Community College	Provide scholarships for the Skagit Valley Community College, vocational and technology programs, and for incidental needs such as living expenses. Focus on those who did not take the usual route to college and need to balance employment with gaining additional skills.
Scholarships for Spring Street International School	Provide and direct scholarships to island students to provide alternative educational opportunities and choices.
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Effective communication and personal preparedness	Outreach campaign to educate the community about safety and self-reliance in an emergency. Promote regular Red Cross training. Partner with local schools.
Point of contact in an emergency	Convey the protocol for communication in the event of an emergency. Establish and promote the San Juan Island Library as a central hub for information. Fund a generator for back- up power and charging stations.
Emergency care for small and large domestic animals	Collaborate with the animal shelter, island veterinarians, (current and retired) to coordinate after-hours emergency care with a volunteer call center.

SOCIAL SERVICES	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Outreach and resource guide	Develop a comprehensive directory of social services, programs and facilities.
Case management	Establish a single point of contact for personal case management. Integrate person to person services for direction and guidance to navigate social services.
Monthly social service meetings	Establish monthly meetings for those who work in the social services to support and encourage lateral conversation, create a platform to share knowledge, and create a collaborate environment for programs and services.
Drug and alcohol intervention	Create a task force to address issues and solutions. Facilitate collaborations and partnerships with prevention organizations.
EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD (BIRTH – GRADE 6)	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Coordination of services	Develop a directory of resources specifically for early childhood development.
Behavior-home visits/support	Establish a home visit program to strengthen at-risk families and improve the lives of children. Make programs available to all families in need.
Holistic wellness program	Implement programs that will address childhood behaviors, wellness, health and nutrition, such as ACES, Calm Yoga, and Mind Up.
Foster grandparent program	Partner with organizations such as Friends and Neighbors and 4H to set up training for seniors who would be well suited and interested to volunteer as a foster grandparent.
OUR ENVIRONMENT	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Stewardship education and outreach	Fund the update and reprinting of existing environmental educational materials for kids' programs, visitor outreach and community stewardship. Support a plastic bag ban initiative.
Water conservation	Promote education and outreach for the need to conserve water. Raise awareness of limited capacity on San Juan island.
Address climate change	Fund a climate resiliency feasibility study to determine the risk and effects of climate change in our local environment.
Noxious weed removal	Foster a joint effort with schools and organizations to eradicate noxious weeds. Partner with the San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corp to establish work parties on a monthly basis.
COMMUNITY SERVICE	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Database of nonprofits	Form a steering committee to create a community network to share information and resources.
Outreach and education for nonprofit boards	Promote monthly board education conferences organized by a steering committee, to facilitate training and build organizational capacity.
Skills and experience bank	Coordinate willing and vetted participants with professional experience to volunteer time to support nonprofits.

The prioritized needs and suggested actions of the adjunct areas are identified below.

TRANSPORATION	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Reliable year round affordable public transportation	Promote partnerships with schools and Mullis Community Senior Center to utilize vehicles not in use. Promote taxi and shuttle to participate in County Transportation Voucher Program
Minimize environmental impact of seasonal transit	Incentivize visitors to leave their cars on the mainland and provide reliable shuttle services to populated and scenic areas.
Focus public awareness on public transportation	Outreach campaign to draw awareness to community transportation needs.
HEALTHCARE	
Needs	Suggested Strategies
Local support for Mount Baker Planned Parenthood, greater presence and higher level of service	Outreach and awareness to generate financial support for the local Mount Baker Planned Parenthood office. Quantify the demand for higher level of services.
Shortage of mental health professionals	Peace Island Medical Center to form consortium to address this need.
Low immunization rates	San Juan County Public Health Department programs and Peace Island Medical Center consortium.
Coordination of care	Peace Island Medical Center to form consortium to address this need.
COMMUNITY ARTS	
Needs (no specific strategies were proposed)	
Housing for actors and artists	
Scholarships for art schools	
Scholarships for student Friday Harbor Film Festival projects	
Art programs in the Friday Harbor Elementary and Middle school, visual vocabulary and literacy	
Increase public support of the arts through repetitive outreach campaigns.	
Support the San Juan Island Community Theatre scholarship program	
Support artists directly, not just organizations	
Volunteers and housing for Island Stage Left actors	
RECREATION	
Needs (no specific strategies were proposed)	
Ballfields: Completion of Phase III	
Island Rec: Establish LaFarge gravel pit as a community park	
Island Rec: Build capacity and content for Study Time and Afternoon Recreation (STAR) Program and Camp Eagle Rock	
Island Rec: Financial assistance for San Juan Nature Institute programs	
Island Rec: Increased programming for children. Educational specialist to provide programming continuity throughout the year	
Island Rec: Expand programs and outreach to better meet Hispanic needs	
Island Rec: Increase the variety of programs with partnerships	

## Common Needs

In the course of our analysis, two related needs emerged that are common across the workgroups. First, there is a need for more effective communication, collaboration, and coordination among existing public institutions and community nonprofits. Second, there is a need for more comprehensive communication to the community from those institutions and organizations. One suggested strategy to meet these two overarching needs is to create and assemble a Community Network comprised of the appropriate agencies and organizations. This networked infrastructure would facilitate regular inter-group communication and coordinated public outreach. Supporting and expanding this strategy over the long-term might be the creation of a Community Resource Center. This Resource Center would act as a physical and virtual hub to provide the following:

- A comprehensive resource database of available services,
- Personalized case management for individuals seeking assistance,
- A volunteer skills inventory,
- Volunteer recruitment, coordination, and training across organizations,
- A forum for the regular interchange of information and needs between the service providers,
- Effective public outreach through a sustained media presence.

The San Juan Island Community Foundation will be reviewing and exploring this further.

## 2. Project Scope

The scope of this project was to gather a wide range of input from the community to inform the San Juan Island Community Foundation, its donors, and the community at large of the most pressing needs over the next five years. Information included in this report in no way implies the guarantee of the funding of any specific project by the Foundation.

The report will be updated periodically with inputs from the nonprofit community and other appropriate stakeholders to ensure that the identified needs remain relevant. The updates will be posted on the Community Foundation's website.

### 3. Structure and Process

#### 3a. Workgroups

A five-month timeline was established to facilitate a comprehensive collection of information. The timeframe was structured to accommodate maximum community participation and avoid meeting fatigue. The effort was divided into eight workgroups and the Community Foundation recruited individuals with knowledge in each subject area and general leadership experience to chair each workgroup.

Workgroup titles and Chairs are listed below:

1. **Housing: Kim Bryan**
2. **Our Food Supply: Mike Pickett**
3. **Education: Secondary-College: June Arnold**
4. **Emergency Preparedness: Beth Williams-Gieger**
5. **Social Services: Jennifer Armstrong**
6. **Education: Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 6): Becky Bell**
7. **Our Environment: Jennifer Thomas**
8. **Community Service: Lori Stokes**

On March 31, 2015, a general stakeholder meeting was held to introduce the entire process. The workgroup chairs were introduced at this time. Three meetings were scheduled for each of the eight workgroups. There was a Community Foundation staff member and a Board member present at each meeting. Specific agendas were prepared and detailed meeting minutes were taken during the process. The minutes were distributed to all attendees following each meeting.

Successive workgroup meetings provided a rich environment for information sharing and discussion. Ultimately, each group generated its own prioritized list of needs and potential strategies. Overall, more than 120 community members participated over the course of the 24 meetings. Initial agenda topics for workgroup discussion were derived from the Foundation's 2009 Critical Needs Task Force project with input from the initial stakeholder meeting. Additional needs were generated at the first meeting of each workgroup. At the second meeting, needs were discussed in greater depth and initially prioritized. At the third and final meeting, the focus shifted to finalizing the needs priorities and developing potential strategies to address the needs.

#### 3b. Adjunct Areas

Additional areas of need were identified and addressed as adjunct topics. In some of the topic areas, individual needs assessments were performed by other organizations and the findings of these assessments are included. In other areas, information was obtained directly from stakeholder organizations and individuals.

#### 3c. Needs Selection Criteria

The identified needs are those that ranked highest during workgroup meetings. The needs were ranked based on broad community impact, sustainability and a realistic method of meeting the need. For example, in order for a need to rank high from the point of view of sustainability, an organization needed to be identified that was willing to own the responsibility for the implementation of the suggested strategy and its ongoing maintenance.

Documentation of the discussions that led to the needs selection can be found in the detailed meeting notes for each workgroup, which are included in Appendix C.

A comprehensive listing of all of the needs initially proposed in each workgroup can be found in Appendix C.

## 4. Results

### 4a: Prioritized Needs by Workgroup

#### Housing

The existence of a county-wide housing crisis affecting individuals and families in the mid to lower income sectors was identified. It was noted that this directly affects the island economy as well as individuals by impacting the ability of local businesses to hire both seasonal and permanent employees. Additionally, it was noted that there is inadequate provision of facilities to meet the needs of the homeless and those in need of emergency shelter.

##### **Prioritized Needs**

- **Affordable rental housing**
- **Upgrades to substandard housing**
- **Accommodation of the homeless and emergency housing**

#### **1. Affordable Rental Housing**

The need for affordable rental housing, for long-term workforce and seasonal workers, is critical.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** San Juan County Affordable Housing Department, San Juan County Council, Board of Realtors, Town of Friday Harbor, San Juan Community Home Trust, Homes for Islanders, Opal Community Land Trust, Lopez Community Land Trust, Housing Authority of Skagit County, The Whidbey Institute, San Juan County Opportunity Council.

**Strategy:** A reliable starting point would be to consult and update the 2011 County Housing Assessment. An analysis should be performed to determine actual rental housing needs. Additional data needs to be collected and analyzed regarding the impact of vacation rentals on long-term rental housing.

Another strategy discussed at length was the formation of a Housing Authority. San Juan County and Grant County (pop. approx. 1200) are the only counties in Washington State that do not have a Housing Authority. Housing Authorities are being consolidated and, more commonly, one Housing Authority is serving multiple counties. Revisiting this suggested strategy with key stakeholders may yield more concrete information as to whether this is a viable option for San Juan County.

**Barriers:** Additional rental units would be expensive to build based upon cost of land and materials. There is a significant gap between prevailing wages and housing costs. A large commitment of time and staff may be required to determine rental housing demand and the apparent loss of available rentals due to expensive vacation rentals.

**Action:** Create a steering committee to follow-up with anticipated County Council and Housing Bank Commission meetings, which will address the issue of rental housing, vacation rental impact on housing and preparations to review and address the Urban Growth Act (UGA). Work directly with existing non-profits to examine and incorporate successful business models for constructing and managing affordable rental housing units.

## 2. Upgrades to substandard housing

A small percentage of the San Juan Island community live in housing that is unhealthy, unsafe and of poor quality. These families are unable -- either by the lack of ability, expertise or finances -- to make repairs to their homes.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Local churches, community service groups, Friends and Neighbors, volunteer groups. Hearts and Hammers, a Whidbey Island nonprofit, may provide a useful model.

**Strategy:** Actively orchestrate and organize local volunteer efforts to make repairs to substandard homes. The effort is already underway through the collaboration of a local church and community members who have building and repair experience. A more formalized effort would be helpful in addressing the need.

**Barriers:** Such an undertaking would require committed organizational efforts to determine the variety of individual needs in the community. A schedule and the recruitment of skilled volunteers would be necessary. It was suggested that such a task might fall within the mission of Friends and Neighbors, should that organization be revitalized.

**Actions:** Designate a lead organization to identify substandard housing and prioritize repairs, coordinate volunteers, and buy materials. Meet with Hearts and Hammers on Whidbey Island to understand the scope of their process.

## 3. Accommodation for the homeless and emergency housing

Homelessness encompasses those who are displaced for a variety of reasons and may have both immediate and long terms needs, such as an emergency situation, domestic violence, or the persistent inability to find long term affordable housing.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** San Juan Island Family Resource Center, local churches.

**Strategy:** Ask San Juan Island Family Resource Center to specifically identify needs in the community.

**Barriers:** No physical resources, no homes to place those in need.

**Action:** Research and define the demand for emergency housing. Pursue the idea of an income-based apartment complex that has three to four units specifically dedicated for island residents who need short-term (up to two months) emergency shelter. Such a complex must have onsite management and stipulate that qualified individuals would need to show proof of island residency for a minimum of six months.

## **Our Food Supply**

Access to healthy food is fundamental to a healthy community and to an individual's quality of life. This workgroup explored the needs of both farmer and consumer. San Juan Island was once an agriculturally rich area. Over time, greater access to less expensive and other options both locally and on the mainland, has shifted the reliance away from locally produced foods.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Community commercial kitchen**
- 2. Cold Storage Unit as a hub for food preservation and distribution**
- 3. Education and healthy food choices**
- 4. Greenhouses and or Hoop Houses**
- 5. Availability of and access to local food**
- 6. Support for and re-establishment of local farming for economic, security, and cultural reasons**

#### **1. Community commercial kitchen**

A community commercial kitchen can meet the need for farmers and small businesses to prepare value-added products, preserve food, and provide a space for inexpensive food processing activities such as catering in a licensed facility. It can also meet the need for classroom space for culinary classes, food entrepreneurs, and provide a venue for agricultural education, innovation, industry, and the arts.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** San Juan County Fairgrounds, Skagit Valley Community College, San Juan County Agricultural Resources Committee, San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild, San Juan Island Farmers Market, personal chefs and caterers.

**Strategy:** The County is in the process of obtaining permits for a certified clean kitchen for general use by the community and seeks additional grant matching funds. Work cooperatively with the County, farmers, and community to build a community kitchen that can have broad use to build businesses and promote job creation.

**Barriers:** Stable funding source until greater revenue is generated that would sustain operating costs and purchase of equipment.

**Action:** Form a steering committee to collaborate with the County in planning the structure and strategies to generate revenue.

#### **2. Cold Storage Unit as a hub for food preservation and distribution**

Food needs to be picked but it may not coincide with market days for farmers, grocery or restaurant needs. Cold storage provides farmers with the opportunity to sell more of the perishable food after it is ripe and harvested. WSU Extension is attempting to procure a grant which may need matching funds and the fairgrounds may have a suitable, and accessible location for a cold storage facility.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Agriculture Resource Committee (ARC), Washington State University Extension, San Juan Islands Conservation District, Food Bank, Farmers Market, farmers and community.

**Strategy:** Establish a cold storage facility to act as a hub for distribution of local food to food bank, grocery stores, and restaurants. Such a facility will extend the shelf life and of perishable foods from farmers to market.

**Barriers:** Finding a suitable location and fully funding a cold storage unit including future maintenance and oversight.

**Action:** Potential organizations should collaborate to determine if County Fairgrounds is a suitable location as previously suggested. ARC submitted a grant for cold storage unit. Further discussion needed to determine if grant fully funds unit and future costs or requires a matching fund source.

### 3. Education and healthy food choices

A school garden is an influential and necessary educational tool. The framework for school gardens is already present on both Orcas and Lopez. Two items are needed: partnerships with resourceful organizations; and a long-range commitment by the School District, students and parents.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Local 4-H, WSU Extension, Master Gardeners, Food Bank, Garden Club, Ag. Guild, County Fairground, Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, Skagit Valley College, schools. Other resources: Orcas Island School garden, San Juan Agriculture Strategic Action Plan 2011.

**Strategy:** Coordinate volunteers, teachers and students to reestablish school gardens. Influence and support schools to commit to a long-term plan. Incorporate educational lessons to children and parents about gardening, stewardship, nutrition, healthy food choices, and the benefits of having and buying locally produced food.

**Barriers:** Schools would need to mandate school gardens as an ongoing project supported by the District, teachers and School Board. Garden oversight may require a stipend or paid position. Oversight and work would need to continue when school is not in session. Some schools would need additional infrastructure to start a garden.

**Action:** Form a steering committee to work with the School District and other schools to create a campaign for community support. Look to local businesses to assist with materials and enlist parents to volunteer their time.

### 4. Greenhouses and/or Hoop Houses for early growing season

Greenhouses and/or hoops are needed to facilitate an earlier start up season for small farmers and individuals. Expanding use and access to green houses and hoop houses will extend the growing season and improve access to local food year round and support local farming economy.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** ARC, Food Bank, WSU Extension, SJI Conservation District and local farmers.

**Strategy:** Supply greenhouse or hoop house components to the community with the stipulation that certain quantity of food be given to the food bank.

**Barriers:** Funding. Current regulation of greenhouses is under discussion with the County Council. Program would need defined partnerships and funding to purchase supplies and provide program administration.

**Action:** Monitor County Council actions to define and potentially regulate greenhouses. Follow up as necessary.

### 5. Availability of and access to local food

There is a high level of need and desire among the farmers and the community to provide access to healthy, local, fresh food. Food produced locally needs to be easily accessible and affordable.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Local 4-H, WSU Extension, Master Gardeners, Food Bank, Garden Club, Ag. Guild, County Fairground, Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, Skagit Valley Community College, local schools, Garden Gleaning.

**Strategy:** Initiate a movement for more local food in the grocery stores. Partner with other entities for distribution of food, such as churches, businesses and other organizations. Provide subsidies to qualified low income and senior citizens (WIC) to purchase local food. Build an awareness of the economic importance of buying locally. Build a community program that would incentivize buying locally, including the restaurants.

**Barriers:** Convenience and cost are barriers. Local food is more expensive to purchase and not as convenient if not carried in the local grocery store. Purchasing more expensive local food when personal budgets cannot accommodate the more expensive is not realistic.

**Action:** Hold meetings for farmers, restaurants and other potential distributors. Promote partnerships with and between farmers to get product to Farmers Market, grocery stores and other locations. Find funding for subsidizing WIC and low-income families. Create a sweat-equity program, working in exchange for food.

## **6. Support for and re-establishment of local farming for economic, security, and cultural reasons**

Agriculture needs to be a strong component of the local economy. There is abundant land for growing local food on San Juan Island. The number of older farmers retiring continues to climb and needs to be matched with prospects of younger farmers stepping in.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Ag Guild, WSU Extension, County Fairgrounds, Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, SJI Visitors Bureau (drives outreach and awareness), Town of Friday Harbor, Historical Museum, farmers. Coffelt Farms on Orcas is a current example of land stewardship and a working farm with housing for younger farmers. The Viva Program in Mt. Vernon, a “farm incubator” for mentoring young farmers, promoting a co-op model.

**Strategy:** Start a campaign and partner with the Historical Museum to promote a pride and history in agriculture on San Juan Island.

Begin a dialogue with farmers who are retiring and recruit younger farmers. Set up mentoring program, training, or internships. Educate farmers as to how they can effectively market their products. Design a sweat equity program, work in exchange for food. Connect with Viva Farms’ mentoring program in Mt. Vernon.

**Barriers:** Housing for farmers and the cost of land. Leadership to coordinate recruitment efforts. Farms are often not set up to accommodate housing needs. Farm equity is often a farmer’s retirement fund.

**Action:** Convene meetings to begin a lateral conversation to assess the demand for younger farmers, the potential number and acreage of retiring farmers, and their desires to either continue to see the land farmed or the necessity to sell the property. Engage the Land Bank in discussions for preservation of working farms.

## **Education: Secondary-College**

This workgroup tackled the broad educational needs of Island youth and adults with a focus on declining enrollment at the public school and a vision to partner with other organizations to meet gaps in access and opportunity. Focused dialogue addressed the needs of those who do not fit the usual high school to university pathway. Alternatives for educational opportunities outside the public school were addressed, citing Spring Street International School, Griffin Bay, homeschooling and Skagit Valley College.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Mitigating the effects of persistent under-funding of the public schools**
- 2. Support for Skagit Valley Community College programs**
- 3. Scholarship support for Spring Street International School**

### **1. Financial crisis - public schools**

The public schools face declining enrollment over the next five years. Because State funding is directly tied to enrollment, this creates a widening gap between funding and the need to continue to provide a high standard of public education.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** San Juan Island Public Schools, Public Library, Skagit Valley Community College, San Juan Island Public Schools Foundation.

**Strategy:** While this workgroup devoted a significant amount of time to addressing the decline in enrollment and funding cuts at the public schools, it became apparent that no simple solution to the pending budget shortfall was likely. It was suggested, however, that by better educating the community about the State funding process and its mandates, the public schools could continue and expand concerted local funding campaigns. Additionally, it was suggested that partnerships and resource sharing with the Public Library and Skagit Valley Community College could provide both economic and program synergies.

**Barriers:** Many young families cannot afford to live in San Juan County, so the prospects for new enrollment are not promising. Additionally, the school faces the dual challenge of funding programs that are mandated but not fully funded by the State. The State continues to make budget cuts.

**Action:** The School Board needs to put forth an outreach campaign to draw awareness to declining enrollment, lack of funds, and the mandates or restrictions they face during budget discussions so that the community more fully understands the structure and State demands, as well as the pressing need to keep our public schools adequately funded to continue to meet the existing high standard of education provided.

### **2. Support for Skagit Valley Community College**

There is a need for blended, unconventional scholarships that will pay for traditional community college courses, vocational programs, and incidentals such as living expenses, car repairs or rising utility bills.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Skagit Valley Community College, STEM Program, Skagit Valley Community College Marine Technology Program (Anacortes), Skagit Valley Community College Foundation.

**Strategy:** Provide/create scholarships targeted toward two demographics: those young adults who have recently graduated from high school but did not take the customary path to college; and adults who are juggling responsibilities, need and want to gain job skills, but cannot sacrifice employment opportunities for

educational opportunities. Inform the community of scholarship needs and opportunities for these two identified groups.

**Barriers:** Funding unconventional scholarships. Connecting with the adult demographic that wants and needs educational opportunity without over stressing their budget or impacting their current employment. Limited programs offered at the community college owing to mandated budget cuts.

**Action:** Seek additional funding for scholarships.

### **3. Scholarship support for Spring Street International School**

Spring Street International School provides the opportunity for Island families to have educational choices. The need is to provide access through scholarships to island families who want or need a conventional educational alternative to public school or homeschooling but cannot afford the tuition costs.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Community Foundation, private donors.

**Strategy:** Provide access to educational choices by offering scholarships directed toward Island children which would financially enable them to attend Spring Street International School.

**Barriers:** Perception of private school and those who can afford to attend. Misperception that an alternative educational choice is a luxury and one form of education will fit every student.

**Action:** Seek additional funding sources for Spring Street Scholarship fund.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

This workgroup addressed the need to become a more informed and self-reliant community in the event of an emergency, both Countywide and personally. Factors such as the limited Island food supply and potential lack of trained volunteer responders were discussed. It was noted that there is a vast array of federal, state, county and local organizations who are trained and prepared to implement their emergency plans, but little understanding by the public of the nature of these plans and their impact on individuals. The need for informed self-reliance, as the most important element of emergency preparedness, was stressed. Training and preparation are needed to ensure that the community effectively collaborates in an emergency. Gaps in existing coverage were noted.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Maximizing effective public communication and personal preparedness in an emergency**
- 2. Points of contact for the public in an emergency**
- 3. Emergency care for small and large animals**

#### **1. Maximizing effective public communication and personal preparedness in an emergency**

There is a need to inform the community about emergency communication protocol as it exists between agencies and the need for communication to the community from the agencies. The community expressed a need to be more informed and engaged in the process of emergency preparedness.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Peace Island Medical Center, San Juan County Fairgrounds, local churches, Red Cross, Department of Emergency Management, Public Library, Visitors Bureau, Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, EMT/paramedics, Animal Shelter, WSDOT Ferries, Town of Friday Harbor, service organizations, County Public Health, OPALCO, ham radio operators.

**Strategy:** Coordinated, long-term, sustained campaign to inform and educate the community and visitors to promote safety consciousness, self-reliance in an emergency, the need for personal emergency food and disaster supplies. Publicize public points of contact in emergency. Build volunteer capacity and Red Cross training opportunities. Work with community organizations and schools to host monthly preparedness events to build public awareness and create informed volunteers.

**Barriers:** Lack of effective communications between emergency management agencies and the public. County DEM has materials but is limited in staff time. DEM materials may need to be updated and iconic. The message would need to be ongoing, repeated quarterly.

**Action:** Hold regular Red Cross training classes to inform and prepare. Recruit younger volunteers by incorporating school program and extend to families. Utilize students to get the message out. Establish neighborhood watch programs. Enable community bulk purchase of emergency food supplies by soliciting an emergency food distributor to visit and sell on-site emergency food supplies.

#### **2. Point of contact in an emergency**

The community needs to know who to contact and where to go for direction and information in an emergency.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Peace Island Medical Center, San Juan County Fair, local churches, Red Cross, Department of Emergency Management, Public Library, Visitors Bureau, Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, EMT/paramedics, Animal Shelter, WSDOT Ferries, Town of Friday Harbor, service organizations, County Public Health OPALCO, ham radio operators.

**Strategy:** Effectively convey the protocol for communication and direction in the event of an emergency to the community. Promote the public library as central hub for information. Build library capacity to be a resource for emergency preparedness and a point of contact with trained volunteers, a backup generator and a mobile source of energy access outside the library (charging stations for electronic devices). Inform the public that fire stations have volunteers who staff the firehouse telephone lines to answer questions in the event of an emergency.

**Barriers:** The Public Library would need additional volunteer capacity. The library needs guidance and advice in the field of backup generators in order to choose a suitable system. They do not have funding for the purchase.

**Action:** Collaborate with emergency response organizations to determine the protocol for communicating information to the community. Have library volunteers take Red Cross training. Establish library staff or volunteer protocol in an emergency. Determine if the library has the space to accommodate a backup generator, what size or capacity and overall cost. Seek grant funding or matching funds.

### 3. **Emergency care for small and large animals**

There is no reliable emergency care available for large or small domesticated animals on weekends or after office hours.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Animal Shelter, practicing and retired local veterinarians.

**Strategy:** Coordinate after-hour emergency care at the Animal Shelter with a volunteer call center to coordinate on-call veterinarians.

**Barriers:** Actual demand is unknown, number of veterinarians willing to participate on a fee or volunteer basis unknown.

**Action:** Determine need for services and number of willing participants for volunteers and veterinarians.

## **Social Services**

This workgroup addressed a number of pressing needs and gaps in both service coverage and access to services within the community. Critical needs were sharing resources between providers to maximize efficiency, and a central physical location for clients needing multiple services to access the relevant providers.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Outreach and resource guide**
- 2. Case management**
- 3. Social service meetings**
- 4. Drugs and alcohol intervention**

### **1. Outreach and resource guide**

General outreach to the community about available services is necessary. A community resource guide is needed to illustrate the resources available to the community and to other agencies. Cultivating outreach and trust to the Hispanic community is needed.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Family Resource Center, DVSAS, NW Early Learning, County Public Health and Community Services, PIMC, San Juan Island Prevention Coalition, local churches, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood, Child Protective Services.

**Strategy:** Develop a comprehensive directory of social service resources, programs and facilities and benefits. Collaboration is critical to avoid duplication because the County has approved funding for development and maintenance for a Mental Health Provider directory. PIMC also has a goal to create a resource directory. Publish resource in English and Spanish. Utilize social media for outreach.

**Barriers:** Assembling a comprehensive directory that is useful and utilized. Determining best media for use -- hard copy versus online version of the guide. Additional staff to utilize social media. Reaching those who need services but don't realize they are available.

**Action:** Follow up with Family Resource Center, Peace Island Medical Center, and the County to determine status and timeline of directory and if it can be one all-inclusive document

### **2. Case management**

Agencies need an interrelated effort to manage clients, and clients need to easily access multiple resources. A community hub is needed to assist with point of services, user navigation of system and accessing resources. Support and outreach is needed to draw awareness to the available services, preventive care, DVSAS, support and services for youth and teens. Need for local support and increased availability of SJI Planned Parenthood services.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Family Resource Center, DVSAS, NW Early Learning, County Public Health and Community Services, Peace Island Medical Center, San Juan Island Prevention Coalition, local churches, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood, CPS, local schools, Mullis Senior Center, Food Bank, United Way.

**Strategy:** Establish a single point of personal contact for direction and resources for social services. Combine case management services with the integrated approach to healthcare. Collaboration with agencies and organizations, specifically PIMC, to institute a process or protocol for case management and networking between healthcare and social services.

**Barriers:** Cost of physical location and staff. Setting up the navigational process, including a comprehensive list of programs and resources. Reaching out to those who need the help navigating through the process. Connecting with the Hispanic community.

**Actions:** Meet with PIMC, the County, physicians and Family Resource Center to discuss the most effective manner to accommodate case management without sacrificing confidentiality.

### 3. Monthly social services meetings

There is a strong desire and need to have regular communications and information sharing among the various social service organizations and agencies

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Family Resource Center, DVSAS, NW Early Learning, County Public Health and Community Services, Peace Island Medical Center, San Juan Island Prevention Coalition, local churches, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood, CPS.

**Strategy:** Setup monthly meetings for those who work in the area of social services to exchange information about grants, resources, programs as well as current and future needs. Seek funding through the County.

**Barriers:** Allocating time and location.

**Action:** Create a steering committee to set agenda, schedule and organize meeting dates and locations. Verify if funding is available through San Juan County Mental Health 1/10 fund.

**Note:** *Communication & Collaboration was an over-arching need among all of the workgroups. In this particular workgroup, the need was with respect to the organizations providing services and their clients' access to those services. Establishing the necessary communication and collaboration in one central location suggested that the availability of services and access to those services would be greatly enhanced. Such a proposed solution would address the top three needs described above.*

### 4. Drugs and alcohol intervention

There are as many twenty AA meetings per week on the island, which indicates the need for support, but that support is aimed solely at adults. Because drug and alcohol abuse is not limited to adults, there is a need for support groups for teens.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Family Resource Center, Peace Island Medical Center, Public Schools Primary Intervention Program (PIP), mental health providers, County Health Department and Sheriff's Office.

**Barriers:** Perception that this is not a youth issue, lack of community support.

**Actions:** Create a task force to more directly address issues and solutions. Increase interventions specialists and counselors at school, create a teen support group for prevention and for those who have completed treatment and need ongoing support. Provide greater support for the San Juan Island Prevention Coalition. Promote alcohol free activities as healthy options.

## **Education: Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 6)**

This workgroup discussed the importance and need for community emphasis on early childhood development and learning continuing from birth through Grade 6. Workgroup dialogue focused on resource integration along with new programs to support healthy choices, holistic wellness and collaboration, and providing maximum access to every child in our community.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Coordination of resources**
- 2. Behavior-home visits/support**
- 3. Holistic wellness programs**
- 4. Foster grandparent program**

#### **1. Coordination of resources**

While there are many resources, programs and needs, the most essential need is to develop a method of coordination to share knowledge of programs, resources, schools and contacts.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** NW Early Learning, Family Resource Center, San Juan Island Prevention Coalition, County Health and Community Services, public and private preschool and elementary schools, local daycare, St. David's School, Skagit Valley Community College.

**Strategy:** Develop a directory of resources specifically for early childhood education. Initiate a monthly meeting, targeting those who work with childhood education and development. Further suggestions included a paid staff position, "Resource Coordinator", specifically for early childhood development.

**Barriers:** School may not be able to fund the suggested staff position. Participants expressed difficulties in attending meetings during business or school hours. Appointing an organization to collect data and produce a directory.

**Action:** Form a steering committee to further discuss how to coordinate resources.

#### **2. Behavior-home visits/support**

Young at-risk families need personal interaction and support to make healthy choices, learn constructive parenting skills and have positive interaction with their children. Parents need tools and support to prevent stress and burnout.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Family Resource Center, County Public Health Nurse, NW Early Learning, and preschools.

**Strategy:** Establish a home visit program to strengthen at-risk families and improve the lives of children and their development. Extend program to all families in need. Provide learning opportunities to change behaviors, habits, encourage positive interactions with children and make better choices. Ask Family Resource Center to take the lead based on expertise and resources.

**Barriers:** After initial funding, a plan will need to be set forth to continue funding after two years. Program may have funding through the State for two years through the County 1/10 mental health fund for early childhood home visiting program.

**Action:** Meet with Family Resource Center to determine current services and recent funding appropriations. Develop future funding options.

### 3. Holistic wellness programs

Help families learn to make healthier choices for nutrition, exercise, habits and behaviors.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Family Resource Center, County Public Health Nurse, NW Early Learning, public schools, Peace Island Medical Center.

**Strategy:** Implement programs that will address the whole child from birth through adolescence, relative to health and wellness, exercise, good behaviors, healthy nutritional choices and tools to use for stress. Programs available such as ACES, Mind Up, and Yoga Calm.

**Barriers:** Starting, funding and maintaining a program. School is unable to incorporate additional programs with secondary impacts. Finding a yoga teacher to lead classes.

**Action:** San Juan Island Prevention Coalition willing to co-own a program, convene a steering committee to get organizations on board to support and determine costs.

### 4. Foster grandparent program

There is a need to support families with children who have free time afterschool or during the summer when parents are working.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** 4-H Club, Mullis Senior Center, Skagit Valley College, service organizations, Friends and Neighbors, Island Rec, Foster Grandparents, Senior Corps (national organization).

**Strategy:** Partner with another logical organization to set up training for seniors who would be interested in volunteering time as a foster grandparent and serve in the capacity of a mentor for children. Program at the national level exists with training and handbooks.

**Barriers:** Administrative logistics, connecting with community members 55 and older who want to volunteer in the program, appointing someone to take the lead and ensure sustainability and accountability.

**Action:** Revitalize the Friends and Neighbors organization to oversee and facilitate the program with their potentially rich, meaningful connections to community members.

## **Our Environment**

This workgroup explored educational needs through stewardship messaging, climate change, water conservation, transportation and opportunities to preserve and enhance the natural resources of our Island.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Stewardship education and outreach**
- 2. Water conservation**
- 3. Climate change effects mitigation**
- 4. Noxious weed Control**

#### **1. Stewardship education and outreach**

Promote a clear stewardship message through educational outreach pertaining to the intrinsic values of our island environment. Target information to the community, new residents, and visitors.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** San Juan Nature Institute, WA State Parks, Wolf Hollow, Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, Whale Museum, Conservation District, Friends of the San Juans, County Noxious Weed Program and San Juan Stewardship Network.

**Strategy:** Encourage dialogue and partnership within San Juan Stewardship Network to facilitate a variety of program outreaches to children, the community, and visitors. Update and reprint existing collection of environmental education materials for use in Island Rec summer and afterschool programs. Refresh, update, and distribute welcome folders for current, new, and prospective residents. Create an outreach campaign to provide messaging on the ferries. Ban plastic bags and use eco-friendly bags with a message to make visitors and community aware of environmental concerns.

**Barriers:** The process to acquire grant funding, which was previously in place for education. Political will pertaining to plastic bag ban and organization to lead campaign efforts.

**Action:** Find funding for reprinting educational materials, which already exist. Revisit past plastic bag initiative to learn of previous barriers, assess community and Council support.

#### **2. Water conservation**

There is a need to determine the limited supply or carrying capacity of fresh water on San Juan Island. Community and visitors need to be more aware of our island water resource and conservation efforts.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Conservation District, Town of Friday Harbor, County Council, the County, schools.

**Strategy:** Provide education and outreach about the need to conserve water. Raise water conservation awareness with educational outreach. Upgrade public facilities with low usage toilets and showers with signage about water conservation.

**Barriers:** Costs of signage and low-flow fixtures.

**Action:** A campaign to raise awareness and reduce water usage by purchasing and installing low-flow showerheads and toilets at the schools. Incentivize water catchment systems. Encourage Conservation District to take the lead on water conservation and find matching grants.

### 3. Climate change effects mitigation

We need a clear understanding of how climate change is affecting our island environment -- including water, food, forest, and property -- and how we can mitigate the impact.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Stewardship Network, Conservation District, and FRIENDS of the San Juans, Islands Resiliency.

**Strategy:** Request a Climate Resiliency Feasibility Study to determine the risk and effects of climate change to our local environment. Promote climate change education through films, lectures and activities.

**Barriers:** Public opinion, lead entity to find and interview consultants, cost.

**Action:** Hire a consultant to provide an assessment of impact from climate change and measures to minimize such impact.

### 4. Noxious weed control

Noxious weeds need to be controlled because they spread quickly, alter eco-systems, and prevent native plants from growing.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** County Noxious Weed Program, State & County Parks, Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, Conservation District, service organizations, Stewardship Network, Madrona Institute, Youth Conservation Corps.

**Strategy:** Foster a joint effort with local schools and organizations to draw awareness and offer training to eradicate noxious weeds and to sustain the program, maintain or adopt an area by group or sponsor. Educate property owners about their responsibilities. Enlist the Youth Conservation Corp on a monthly basis.

**Barriers:** Noxious weed program has limited staff, and contacting private landowners is prohibited. Sourcing a lead person to engage schools and orchestrate field trips to work site. Relying on volunteers is not sustainable, a reliable funding mechanism is necessary.

**Action:** San Juan Nature Institute to contact Spring Street International School and form a partnership to remove scotch broom at Peace Island Medical Center. Encourage other organizations to take initiative. Fund the Youth Conservation Corp to remove noxious weeds on a monthly basis.

## **Community Service**

This workgroup focused on the outreach and coordination of volunteers. A particular emphasis was drawn to the needs of coordinating the pool of community volunteers and providing support and mentoring to nonprofit boards in need.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Database of nonprofits**
- 2. Outreach and education for nonprofit boards**
- 3. Skills/experience bank**

#### **1. Database of nonprofits**

An online resource/listing of all the community nonprofits including their organizational information, services provided, and volunteer needs.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Larger local nonprofits, United Way, San Juan Island Community Foundation.

**Strategy:** Form a steering committee. Create a community network by collaborating with all nonprofits on San Juan Island to gather description of services, programs and needs including web link and contact information. Compilation of information initiated by student (intern, senior project, community service). Oversight from the Community Foundation in partnership with nonprofits. Charge a fee or rotate cost of network among nonprofits. Organize a volunteer fair to enroll nonprofits and provide venue to recruit volunteers.

**Barriers:** Comprehensive information gathering for all nonprofits, defining active and non-active organizations, timely responses and accurate information. Sustainable funding source may require part time staff position.

**Action:** Work with the public school teacher in charge of community services to appoint a student to create a community network database. Structure and gather information under the supervision of the Community Foundation.

#### **2. Outreach and education for nonprofit boards**

Small nonprofit boards need additional administrative help to operate efficiently and increase their potential. They need an educational resource to define and clarify board member roles and expectations. Additional resources are needed to recruit and organize volunteers.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Larger local nonprofits, Community Foundation board members.

**Strategy:** A monthly board education conference organized by a steering committee to facilitate nonprofit board member training, building capacity for boards or volunteers, collaboration with other nonprofits as mentors for new or in-transition boards.

**Barriers:** Time to organize meetings and enlist experts to lead meetings in specific areas of nonprofit interest or needs.

**Action:** Form a steering committee to pull together initial online resources and webinars to distribute to the community network of nonprofits.

### 3. Skills and experience bank

A resource for nonprofit boards who need help in a specific area but are unable to afford or find expert advice.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Various local nonprofits, San Juan Island Community Foundation, United Way, Soroptimist, Lions Club, Kiwanis, Rotary.

**Strategy:** Coordinate willing and vetted participants who have specific expertise in designated areas. Collect names and contact information for those who will donate or volunteer their expert time to nonprofits that need additional assistance.

**Barriers:** Unavailable skill set for or unable to donate time and services.

**Action:** Ask steering committee to survey known community members with expertise that is applicable to nonprofit board needs. Incorporate the vetted list into the community network resources.

## 4b. Results: Prioritized Additional Needs by Adjunct Area

The following areas of need were addressed by direct interviews and recent need assessments within specific areas.

Interviews were conducted with several entities and individuals who work with transportation issues to obtain qualitative input.

In the area of healthcare, need assessments which were completed recently or just prior to the start of this project, were utilized.

Community needs in the areas of the Arts and Recreation were largely covered in various other workgroups. Additional interviews were conducted to gather qualitative information.

The needs in each topic below were not prioritized, nor were specific actions proposed. However, these needs will be a part of the ongoing conversation to facilitate solutions.

### **Transportation**

It is understood that reliable, affordable transportation plays an important role in the community, for both residents and seasonal visitors.

#### **Prioritized Needs:**

- 1. Reliable year round affordable public transportation**
- 2. Minimize the environmental impact of seasonal visitor traffic**
- 3. Focusing public awareness to the need for public transportation**

#### **1. Reliable year round affordable public transportation**

Individuals, families, seniors, low income individuals, and the disabled need transportation to access services, healthcare, and emergency services. Elementary school children need transportation to and from afterschool and summertime activities.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** County Mobility Manager, Visitors Bureau, Economic Development Council, Family Resource Center, shuttle and taxi services.

**Strategy:** Partnerships with schools and Mullis Senior Center to utilize buses or shuttles. Encourage local shuttles and taxi service to partner with the County's Transportation Voucher Program, which is the small community solution to the absence of a transportation agency. Encourage strategic partnerships with transportation entities to utilize services in place with needs.

**Barriers:** No transportation agency. No taxing authority to assess additional funding to support public transit. Low level of community interest and involvement. Transportation business is difficult to sustain on a year-round basis or profitably operate in the current economic setting.

**Action:** Organize meetings to discuss partnerships or barriers with organizations that have access to shuttles or vans and build volunteer capacity to operate.

#### **2. Minimize the environmental impact of seasonal visitor traffic**

This small community needs to address the massive seasonal volume of traffic, which has an impact on the island environment and County infrastructure.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Visitors Bureau, County Mobility Manager, Economic Development Council, Scenic Byways, local businesses and Chamber of Commerce, shuttle and taxi services.

**Strategy:** Incentivize visitors to leave their cars on the mainland, provide reliable shuttle service to populated areas and scenic spaces. Provide electric or eco-friendly rental cars and bikes.

**Barriers:** Replacing rentals with eco-friendly are expensive to private business. Expensive marketing campaign to reach mainland, seasonal travelers.

**Action:** Foster partnerships between the County and resource organizations to find State funding or matching grants for small community unconventional transportation solutions.

### **3. Draw an awareness to public transportation need**

**Potential Resource Organizations:** County Mobility Manager, Visitors Bureau, Economic Development Council, Family Resource Center, shuttle and taxi services.

**Strategy:** Quantify demand by consulting with County Mobility Manager. Create a campaign to draw attention to the needs of the community for sufficient public transportation.

**Barriers:** Lack of funding for campaign, barely enough funding through County grant award to meet the demand for transportation.

**Action:** Form a steering committee to discuss issues and formulate partnerships or seek additional grant funding.

## **Healthcare**

In the area of healthcare, Peace Island Medical Center's Community Health Needs Assessment was completed in December 2014 and the summary findings are included below, together with the results of direct conversations with other related providers.

### **Prioritized Needs**

- 1. Local support for Planned Parenthood**
- 2. More mental healthcare professionals**
- 3. Coordination of care**
- 4. Improve immunization rates**

#### **1. Local support for Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood**

Based upon direct contact with Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood, overhead expenses have increased beyond budget allocations due to the loss of subsidized office space. The County welfare office discontinued its presence on San Juan Island. Mt Baker Planned Parenthood needs local support to retain their one-day presence on the island. According to input from other workgroups, clients need services two days a week.

**Potential Resource Organizations:** Family Resource Center, Peace Island Medical Center, DVSAS, and Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood.

**Strategy:** Awareness campaign to explain how funds donated at the national level diminish as they filter to the local level over a 6-month period. Demonstrate that fundraising on San Juan Island is an obligation to maintaining a presence in the community and illustrate the demand. Solicit demand for services from Peace Island Medical Center, Family Resource Center, and County Public Health Department.

**Barriers:** MBPP is already sharing a location with another tenant. Shared space is dependent on maintaining privacy. Additional time will raise staffing and cost issues.

**Action:** Further discussions with MBPP and other related organizations to determine the need for an additional day versus the addition of a higher level of services.

#### **2. More mental healthcare professionals**

According to the recent community needs assessment directed by Peace Island Medical Center, their findings reflect a shortage of mental healthcare professionals. PIMC is currently gathering a multi-organizational consortium to implement strategies to meet the needs defined in their report.

#### **3. Low immunization rates**

Based upon the PIMC Community Needs Assessment, rates of immunization are low enough to list the community as at risk for outbreaks of measles, diphtheria and pertussis.

#### **4. Coordination of care**

Again referring to the community needs assessment by PIMC, there is a movement towards integrating healthcare by providing a "continuum of care" to support for seniors and low-income individuals as they navigate health care services.

## **Community Arts and Recreation**

Needs in the areas of the Arts and Recreation were largely covered in various other workgroups such as Social Services, Education: Secondary-College, and Education: Childhood Development (Birth-Grade 6). To gather additional qualitative data the following organizations were engaged in direct conversations: San Juan Arts Council, Island Stage Left, San Juan Community Theater, San Juan Public School District (Andy Anderson), and Island Rec (former Executive Director S. Thomsen, Interim Director M. Overnell, and staff members. ). These needs were not prioritized, and specific actions to meet the needs were not proposed.

### **Needs within Arts:**

- Housing for actors and artists
- Scholarships, specifically for art schools
- Scholarships, specifically for student film festival projects
- Art in the elementary and middle schools, visual vocab and literacy
- Increased public support of the arts-repetitive reminders
- Support of the theatre scholarship which provides accessibility to attend shows
- Support of artists directly, not just the organizations that present the work
- Island Stage Left - volunteers and housing for actors

### **Recreation Needs:**

- Ballfields: Completion of Phase III
- Island Rec: La Farge gravel pit community collaborations to establish community park
- Build capacity and content for Star Program and Camp Eagle Rock
- Financial assistance to provide programs from San Juan Nature Institute
- More programming throughout the year; hire an educational specialist to provide programming with continuity through the year not limited to summer
- Expand programs to better meet Hispanic community needs
- Increase variety of programs offered by partnerships

## 5. Summary Conclusions

- There is a strong need for a collaborative infrastructure among organizations and agencies and for more frequent and effective communication to the community. Establishing a community network can help address this need by pooling resources and information and thereby better serve their respective clients. Better communication and collaboration between service providers was the greatest need expressed among all participants in all eight workgroups. Lateral conversations between participants revealed that different agencies were working on similar projects or were in need of similar resources but were unaware of other organizational efforts. Shared information and synergies across organizations have the potential to improve access and availability of services. Cross communications will foster collaboration and effective organization.
- Sharing information and broadening the awareness of all participants was the single most productive achievement of all the workgroup meetings. It was apparent that by organizing a monthly or quarterly meeting among the groups, the Foundation could provide a substantial benefit to the service provider community.
- The need to reach across cultural barriers and support the Hispanic Community was emphasized in several meetings. Methods to meet that need were not discussed at great length but suggestions were noted and included forming a steering committee to work closely with staff at the public library and social service agencies to assess the needs and create a process to provide information and access to services. Utilizing the public library, which is already offering resources to the Hispanic community, as the lead organization in this effort, could lead to better communications and foster relationships of trust. Providing printed materials in Spanish and creating programs to support school age children and their parents would need funding and support.

## Gratitude and Credits

The San Juan Island Community is very fortunate to have individuals, non-profit organizations, public agencies, and elected officials who have demonstrated a determination to work cooperatively to solve the problems that affect us all. It is with deep gratitude that we thank all those who participated in this Community Needs Task Force. The dedication and passion of the individuals who attended the workgroup meetings provided invaluable input to the Foundation. The Community Foundation looks forward to continuing the conversation, and working together to strengthen our community.

## References

Whatcom Opportunity Council, San Juan Prosperity Project 2011, San Juan Housing Assessment 2011, PIMC Community Health Needs Assessment 2014, Senior Corps: Foster Grandparents Program, San Juan Agriculture Strategic Action Plan 2011, Effective Communications 2005 FEMA, Washington Arts Commission, Arts WA, Strategic Plan 2012-2016, SSIS Annual Report 2014-15.

## **Appendix A: Community Participants**

## Community Participants

Alicia Wasklewicz, DSHS  
Andy Anderson, SJI School District  
Anne Clark, SVC Foundation  
Barbara LaBrash, SJC Health & Community Svcs  
Barbara Von Gehr, SJICF Board  
Becky Bell, SJISD, Workgroup Chair  
Becky Pohlad, SJICF Board  
Beth Helstien, SJI Library  
Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans  
Beth Williams Gieger, PIMC  
Betsy Pope  
Bill Severson, Red Cross, OISA  
Bob Jarman, San Juan Council  
Bob Reilly, Mullis Center Operating Cmte  
Boyd C. Pratt  
Brad Fincher, Govt. Probation  
Brendan Cowan, SJC DEM  
Cara Cohn, WA Vocational Services  
Carole Sue Conran, SJ Islands Visitor's Bureau  
Carrie Unpingco, SJICF  
Charles Anderson, SJICF Board  
Chary Caren, San Juan Home Trust  
Cherri Estrada, CPS  
Chinmayo Ricketts, SJCHT & NCLTN  
Chris Kobdich, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood  
Chris Pope  
Christopher Aiken, SJI County Transportation  
Curt VanHyning, United Way  
Cynthia Stark-Wickman, SJI Prevention Coalition  
Dave Dunaway, SJC Health & Community Svcs  
David Bentley, St. David's  
David Halpern, WA State Parks  
Debbi Fincher, Parent  
Diana Porter, Journey's  
Duncan Wilson, FH Administrator  
Ellen Wilcox, SJC Health & Community Services  
Eric Tubbs  
Fiona Norris, SJ Nature Institute  
Fred Henley, SJI Library  
Fred Woods, SJISD  
Gary Franklin, SJI Windermere  
Georgia Baciu, Mullis Community Senior Center  
Glen Bruels, SJCHT Board  
Gordy Waite, SJISD

Greg Maynard  
Greg Winter, Opportunity Council  
Gretchen Allison, Islands Climate Resilience  
Heidi Kennedy, CPS  
Helen Machin-Smith, Island Stage Left  
Ian Paterson, SJI County Fair Board  
Jane Burton Bell, Ag Guild  
Jane Fox, Farmers Market  
Janice Otto, Montessori School  
Jason Ontjes, SJC Noxious Weed Program  
Jennifer Allen, SJC Parks & Fair  
Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center  
Jennifer Thomas, Workgroup Chair  
Jenny Atkinson, Whale Museum  
Jessica Brown, Opportunity Council  
John Littlewood, SJICF Board  
Joyce Sobel, Food Bank  
Joyce Sobel, NW Early Learning, Food Bank, etc.  
Judy Jackson, SJC Noxious Weed Program  
Julie Duke, Wolf Hollow  
June Arnold, SJISD Board, Workgroup Chair  
Kathy Hagn, SJC Health & Community Services  
Kim Bryan, DVSAS, Workgroup Chair  
Laura Jo Severson, Red Cross, IOSA, Soroptimist  
Lauren Levinson, SJICF Board  
Lee Sturdivant  
Lesley Nilsson  
Lincoln Bormann, Land Bank  
Linda Lyshall, SJ Islands Conservation District  
Lisa Byers, OPAL C.L.T.  
Lori Stokes, Workgroup Chair  
Barbara Von Gehr, SJICF Board  
Louise Dustrude  
Lovel Pratt  
Lynette Roberts  
Lynn Weber/Roochvarg, SJI Library  
Ma. Carmen Orozco, CHMS-Montessori  
Margaret Barker, St. David's Day School  
Margaret Langlie  
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Martha Huleatte, United Way  
Maude Cumming, SJICF Board & SJISD  
Melanie Kaegi, DVSAS  
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Patricia Brightman, DVSAS  
Peg Gerlock, SJICF & PIMC Board  
Peter Kilpatrick, San Juan Home Trust  
Ralph Hahn, SJISD Board  
Randy Martin, Skagit Valley College  
Rebecca Pohlada, SJICF Board  
Rick Thompson, SJI School District  
Rita Weisbrod, Senior Citizens  
Ron Krebs, SJC Sheriff's Office  
Sally Thomsen, Island Rec  
Sandy Ugrin, SJI Shuttle System  
Sarah Younglove, Animal Shelter

Sharon Hooper, WA Vocational Services  
Sheryl Murphy, PIMC  
Shona Aitken, Wolf Hollow  
Silvia Johnson, CPS  
Stephanie Buffum, FRIENDS of the San Juans  
Steve Hushebeck, FH Town Council  
Steve Ulvi  
Sue Kareken, SJISD  
Susan Dehlendorf, LWV  
Susan Mazzarella, SSIS/SJPSF  
Tanja Williamson, Land Bank  
Tim Clark, Land Bank  
Tim Kopet, SJI Schools  
Tina Whitman, FRIENDS of the San Juans  
Tom Cable, SJICF & PIMC Board  
Tom Schultz, WSU Extension  
Victoria Compton, EDC  
Vincent Shu, WINS  
William Agosta, Housing Bank Commission  
Yubi Schollmeyer, DVSAS, Interpreter

## **Appendix B: Sample Workgroup Meeting Agendas**

## Sample Agenda 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting



Workgroup: \_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda**  
(Date, Time)  
Location: Brickworks

### **Handouts**

- Name Tags
- Workgroup Member List
- Workgroup Overview (Chair, Meeting Dates, Beginning Topics)

### **Introduction Roundtable (2 minutes each)**

Circulate Attendance Form

### **Group Discussion**

- Review list of beginning topics
- Roundtable: Identify needs (3 minutes each)
  - **NOTE:** *In depth details should be submitted via email to [communityneeds@sjicf.org](mailto:communityneeds@sjicf.org)*
- Roundtable: Define, discuss & question needs
- Interactive Session: Create sustainable solutions

Adjourn: 11am



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

of SAN JUAN ISLAND

*Community Needs  
Task Force*

## **Purpose of Community Needs Task Force**

- Gather community needs (both short and long-term)
- Identify barriers to access of services
- Explore sustainable solutions
- Prioritize needs
- Create action plans
- Produce a final report to inform the Foundation's Board, Grants Committee, Donors, Task Force Participants, and the community at large

## **The Process**

- Workgroup Meetings: April-May
- Analysis of workgroup meetings: June
- Report to the Foundation: July
- Report to the Community: August
- Action: August 2015-August 2020 & beyond

## **1st Meeting Objectives**

- Meet interested members
- Connect organizational needs
- Begin to identify list of community needs

## **2nd Meeting Objectives**

- Expand list of needs
- Create solutions to meet identified needs

## **3rd (Final) Meeting Objectives**

- Prioritize needs & solutions
- Prepare next steps & action items

## Sample Agenda 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting



Workgroup: \_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda**  
(Date, Time)  
Location: Brickworks

### **Handouts**

- Name Tags
- Workgroup Meeting Notes – 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

### **Introduction Roundtable (2 minutes each)**

Circulate Attendance Form

### **Group Discussion**

- Review list of needs
- Roundtable: Expand list of needs
  - **NOTE:** *In depth details should be submitted via email to [communityneeds@sjicf.org](mailto:communityneeds@sjicf.org)*
- Create solutions to meet identified needs

Adjourn: 11am



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

of SAN JUAN ISLAND

*Community Needs  
Task Force*

## **Purpose of Community Needs Task Force**

- Gather community needs (both short and long-term)
- Identify barriers to access of services
- Explore sustainable solutions
- Prioritize needs
- Create action plans
- Produce a final report to inform the Foundation's Board, Grants Committee, Donors, Task Force Participants, and the community at large

## **The Process**

- Workgroup Meetings: April-May
- Analysis of workgroup meetings: June
- Report to the Foundation: July
- Report to the Community: August
- Action: August 2015-August 2020 & beyond

## **1st Meeting Objectives**

- Meet interested members
- Connect organizational needs
- Begin to identify list of community needs

## **2nd Meeting Objectives**

- Expand list of needs
- Create solutions to meet identified needs

## **3rd (Final) Meeting Objectives**

- Prioritize needs & solutions
- Prepare next steps & action items

## **Appendix C: Workgroup Meeting Notes**



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Housing Workgroup**

April 30, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting) Brickworks

#### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Greg Maynard
  - Nancy DeVaux, San Juan Home Trust
  - Patricia Brightman, DVSAS
  - Peter Kilpatrick, San Juan Home Trust
  - William Agosta, Housing Bank Commission
  - Brad Fincher, Govt. Probation
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Steve Hushebeck, FH Town Council
  - Margaret Langlie
  - Gary Franklin, Windermere
  - Jessica Brown, Opportunity Council
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Kim Bryan, Workgroup Chair
  - Lesley Nilsson
  - Glen Bruels, SJCHT
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Chinmayo Ricketts, SJCHT & NCLTN
  - Lynette Roberts
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Identified Needs:
  - A Housing Authority
  - Housing Bank Commission-initiated to educate community of need
  - A need for accessible housing both financially and physical access
  - Continued support of the San Juan Community Home Trust
  - Permanently affordable housing (to buy)
  - Support what is already available as in the Home Trust or Sunrise
  - Need to access experts for home repairs that go beyond what is affordable.
  - Rent is priced out due to expensive utilities
  - Lack of rentals (crisis in county)
  - Seasonal housing that are not vacation rentals

- Tax based county Housing Authority
- Housing authority umbrella to support the Home Trust
- Lower the cost of utilities in town (water/sewer)

- Housing for aging population (accessible, affordable, & in town)
- Affordable rentals and to buy for young families
- Temporary homeless shelter
- Clean & sober housing (Oxford/Stafford type)
- Group home (with family rooms)
- More Oaks style housing (manufactured home community, don't own land)
- Public & private funding for housing needs
- Sustainable effort for all housing needs
- Data on waiting lists for Home Trust & Homes for Islanders
  - 18 on Home Trust waiting list, 2 in purchase process; 16 on list since 2/2014. Vetted and qualified by Home Trust
- Multi-family property in town
- Emergency housing
- Whatcom rental subsidies. Housing and rental subsidies shift to long term subsidized housing. Transitional housing can be funded to build, but no funding to maintain and it's expensive.
- Basic financial literacy programs (how to budget-issue with seasonal jobs)
- Public real estate excise tax-educate community on how it would be used
- Possible Solutions
  - Tax breaks for builders
  - Lodging Tax to benefit housing for community
  - Use of IIMC building?
  - Public/private partnerships and/or incentives for landlords
  - Inter-group coordination
  - Shared housing: roommates
  - Green homes on Land Bank property (land bank does not want to be landlord.)
  - Open minds to new models
  - What are other similar communities doing that is working?
  - Cooperative housing, clustered, young families, full spectrum, society, community invest in your community not just your place, your taxes, quality of living. Tradeoffs of high tax is higher quality of life. Responsible spending, sometimes better privately than through government resource.
    - <http://whidbeyinstitute.org/event/thriving-communities-2015/>
    - Bellingham Co-Housing: [www.bellcoho.com](http://www.bellcoho.com)
    - McKenzie Green Commons: [www.kulshanc.lt.org](http://www.kulshanc.lt.org) (Fairhaven, WA)
    - Millworks Co-Housing: [www.millworkscohousing.org](http://www.millworkscohousing.org) (Bellingham)
    - Winslow Co-Housing Group: [www.winslowcohousing.org](http://www.winslowcohousing.org) (Bainbridge Is)
  - Co-Housing Options and Links:
    - [cohousing.org](http://cohousing.org)
    - [cohousing.com](http://cohousing.com)
    - [calcoho.org](http://calcoho.org)
    - [manzanitavillage.com](http://manzanitavillage.com)
  - Better communication and coordination
  - A better campaign for excise tax (previously failed)
  - A resource of what all organizations are doing and how they might collaborate
- Major Categories Identified-looked at challenges/opportunities/resources in smaller groups
  - Needs Group
    - Build more affordable rentals

- There are many levels of need
- Even if we get grants, what will we rent out?
- Rezone areas?
- Outline populations in need (subgroup list) Ask county for data
  - Individuals & families in crisis (needs from 2 days-2 weeks)
    - Solutions: Apartments paid for year-round or subsidized by government
  - Young families & singles looking for affordable rentals (month-to-month or year lease)
    - Not necessarily here for long-term
  - Young families with good jobs & want to raise kids here
    - Want to buy a house, but costs are too high
  - Retirees-want to rent
- Basic health & safety repair \$ for low-income rentals (ex: removal of mold, repair leaky roof)
- More good apartment managers
- More church support
- Solution: Transitional subsidies
- Solution: Fostering families in need (parameters would have to be enforced by someone)
- Solution: Talk to building managers & building owners and find out what works & doesn't
- Available Resources
  - 2-income based apartment complexes
  - 3-4 apartment buildings-semi affordable
  - 2 trailer courts
  - Housing assistance (6-10 households/year)-Opportunity Council
  - County rental assistance (1 time only/part of 1 month's rent)
  - TBRA (issues with requirements & management)
- Models that have worked well
  - Oaks (manufactured home community, don't own land)
  - Home Trust
  - Homes for Islanders
  - Low-income rentals (just not enough)
- Organizing & Governance Group (what/how)
  - Resources and awareness; networking to share information.
  - Who is responsible for housing, town, nonprofits, agencies, a cross section of entities, the permitting process
  - Create the Housing Authority. What are the steps, state chartered corps, not in need of funding. Take to the county council to establish. Housing Commission advocates for needs at all levels.
  - Vacation rental permit funds go towards general fund, could they go elsewhere relative to lack of housing?
  - Transportation is an issue to travel in or out of town.
  - More definitive information about Oaks and the Community Land Trust
  - What are the consequences of the landowners selling
- Financing/Resources & Research Group (see notes below in emailed input section)
- A commission for excise tax-tax administration
- Form Housing Authority-approach the council and town
- Gather an organization to promote the idea-or use the already organized Housing Commission (will need additional volunteers)

- Misc. Notes
  - Utility costs in town are high for a reason (not making a profit)
  - The 4% lodging tax goes back to entity to promote county & town advertising
  - Windermere managers 140 long-term rentals
    - 35 people are currently looking for rentals through Windermere
    - Worst in 12 years
  - Less rentals as more retirees come back to island to live full-time
  - Rental market concerns
    - Availability
    - Terms (short & long)
    - Rental subsidies
    - Long-term subsidies
  - The more tourists who come, the less housing for residents
- Next Steps
  - 2nd Meeting: May 13, 9-11am, Brickworks
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: May 27, 9-11am, Brickworks
- Emailed Input:
  - Greg Maynard: The co-housing concept is provocative and may meet our needs in a way not considered before. Co-housing as a concept is one thing, and funding it is another. My next focus will be regarding the potential for a municipal bond (hopefully tax-free) to be written such that publicly authorized funding will yield a reasonable rate of return for investors---not a "get rich quick" scheme, but a win-win for both the funders and the occupants. Maybe a publicly organized "co-op" to meet housing needs. I'll also check into the active and successful co-ops with which I'm familiar to see how they got seed money to build sustainable housing.
  - Notes from Subgroup Discussion on Financing/Research:
    - Participants: Greg Maynard, Kim Bryant, Chinmayo Ricketts, Peter Kilpatrick, Margaret Langlie, Bill Agosta, Nancy DeVaux
    - Discussion began on Housing Authorities, and how, if we had one, it could serve as an umbrella organization for all types of housing needs. How are they funded and how are they created?
    - Housing Authorities may have access to additional funds, especially for Section 8 vouchers. They may also become development entities and could build low-income apartments, shelters or provide rental assistance. Bill Agosta discussed the previous effort to implement a Housing Authority and said it could be easily established by the action of the County Council. A joint Town-County might be most effective.
    - Creation of Housing Authority, however, does not automatically create a new funding source. A tax-based solution may be essential to supporting the wide ranging needs as has been used in other communities including, most recently, Bellingham.
    - Greg said the name might be something more positive than Housing Authority, perhaps something like a Home Opportunity Organization. He said there undoubtedly are people in the community who had the expertise and ability to make something happen, if they were to be convinced.
    - Margaret said there were five sources of funding that had been mentioned by the group that could fund the work of a Housing Authority or Home Opportunity Org. They were:
      - Section 8 vouchers
      - Bonds
      - Taxes

- Donations
  - Grants (if available)
- Community education and raising public awareness about the need and about the use of any funds would be essential before proceeding with a levy. The need for a consultant or campaign manager was mentioned, as well as groups on each island who would carry out a campaign.
- The current county council seems very interested in housing and it might be the right time to proceed with getting a local source of funds that could be used for all types of housing.
- Additional Notes on Organizing and Governing (from Glen Bruels)
  - Challenges
    - We have lots of groups working various aspects of housing need and affordability, without coordination (or perhaps even knowledge) of each other's work
    - Overcoming the feeling that "this is too hard to solve" and the inertia that comes along with that belief
    - Clarifying who is responsible for what in affordable housing across the State, County, Town, and the non-profit community
    - Overcoming the bias against (and/or lack of knowledge of) Housing Authorities and what they can do for us
    - Inconsistency in regulations between the Town and County related to affordable housing (e.g., zoning, density requirements)
  - Opportunities
    - Getting the disparate groups working affordable housing together to share information and potentially collaborate on projects
    - Encouraging responsible organizations to get out of their silos and work together
    - Incentivizing people to do "the right thing" when it comes to the development of affordable housing and making the choice between seasonal/short-term versus longer-term rentals
    - Educating the public and civic leaders on the need for affordable housing and potential solutions to the affordable housing problem. As a part of this, trying to do away with a lot of "old news" that seems to be clogging communications channels.
  - Resources
    - The Association of Washington Housing Authorities (<http://www.awha.org/index.html>) as a resource for better understanding what housing authorities can do and how to set them up
    - The strategic plans and priorities of the various non-profits associated with affordable housing need and provision within the San Juan Islands
    - Other affordable housing plans/programs that can be researched from the web
    - The County Housing Board — learning more about what they do and how they can help
    - The Community Foundation — learning what role they wish (or are willing) to play in the area of affordable housing



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### Housing Workgroup

May 13, 2015 (2nd Meeting) Brickworks

#### Notes

- Attendees:
  - Greg Maynard
  - Nancy DeVaux, San Juan Home Trust
  - Patricia Brightman, DVSAS
  - Peter Kilpatrick, San Juan Home Trust
  - William Agosta, Housing Bank Commission
  - Duncan Wilson, FH Administrator
  - Curt VanHying, United Way
  - Steve Hushebeck, FH Town Council
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Kim Bryan, DVSAS, Workgroup Chair
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Maude Cumming, SJICF & SJISD
  - Chris Pope
  - Betsy Pope
- Attendees briefly introduced themselves
- Reviewed identified needs from last meeting
- Additional Identified Needs
  - Continued support for Homes for Islanders (serves different population than Home Trust)
  - What to do with fallow land in town
    - Expand town?
    - Tied up by investors or government entity
    - No parcels currently available
    - Utility issues, but not the only problem with expanding town
    - Solution: tiny homes (4 are coming on Arygle)
  - Private sector involvement (why aren't they building here? costs?)
  - Incentives for builders
  - Business plan once top needs/solutions are identified
  - Community outreach about need for affordable housing (1 time presentation on each island is not enough)
  - Multi-family housing
  - Housing for seniors
  - More well-maintained apartment complexes like Surina Meadows & Guard Park (60+)
    - Possible solution: add more levels, go to town council with ideas/solutions
  - Shelter/emergency housing (incorporate into multi-family housing plan)

- Subsidized rentals
- More moderately affordable rentals (example: town homes for teachers)
- Discussion On Possible Housing Authority
  - Would be county-wide
  - To have discussion with County Council-is the timing right or is there an interest (Reach out to Bob Jarman Rick Hughes)
  - Funding issue
  - Would need to education community. 2006 campaign was not the best job of community outreach and education as to need. Bellingham had a very broad and successful campaign.
    - Housing Commission created to administer needs but not administer tax
  - Possibly fund with public \$
  - Possibly fund with sales tax \$?
  - Levy lid lift? (most likely not well received)
  - Municipal bond under housing authority?
  - Raise sales tax might be better received than raising property taxes
  - Benefits/Detriments to Housing Authority
    - Do we really need a housing authority? Is this the best solution for us?
    - Steve to acquire pros/cons
    - What does a housing authority bring to the table?
  - County has a half time housing position-funding for additional staff time?
- Possible Solutions (Misc.)
  - Increase density of multi-family units
  - Tiny home clusters (great for 2 people and seasonal workers)
  - Incentives for builders (must be affordable for builders)
  - Private developers from mainland (must be worth it; cost of land/utilities is expensive)
  - Local builders (would need \$ to offset costs)
  - Start with community outreach of need for affordable housing (funding from SJICF?)
  - Relaxing guest house rules/restrictions
  - Incentives to not rent guest house as vacation rental
  - Expand UGA (discussion with county)
  - In town development (would involve many players)
- Misc. Notes/Discussion
  - Bring local builders to table for further discussion on solutions
  - Duncan would love to see this group prioritize/better define needs
  - Organize subcommittee to define number of people to serve & details before going to builders/developers
    - What kind of housing is really needed-stats and data from county Levels of need and or demand
  - Building for need versus building for profitability. Builder incentives, the politics of land use controls, relaxing standards, use permits guest housing, requirements.
  - Affordable housing versus living wages in islands.
  - County-wide public survey on what community thinks is needed (or do we trust realtors/others on this?)
  - Water limitations in town
    - New line will reduce wasted water
    - Expansion is available
- Next Steps
  - Michel to invite Melanie Corey from Housing Authority of Skagit County to next meeting & contact Rick Hughes.

- Peter to invite Bob Jarman to next meeting
- Review Housing Solutions 2011 document PDF
- Next Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: May 27, 9-11am, Brickworks



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### Housing Workgroup

May 27, 2015 (3rd Meeting) Brickworks

### Notes

- Attendees:
  - Greg Maynard
  - Nancy DeVaux, San Juan Home Trust
  - Chary Caren, San Juan Home Trust
  - Patricia Brightman, DVSAS
  - Peter Kilpatrick, San Juan Home Trust
  - Duncan Wilson, FH Administrator
  - Rita Weisbrod, St. David's Church
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Steve Hushebeck, FH Town Council
  - Melanie Rollins, San Juan County
  - Gary Franklin, SJI Windermere
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Kim Bryan, DVSAS, Workgroup Chair
  - Glen Bruels, SJCHT Board
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Peg Gerlock, SJICF & PIMC Board
  - Barbara Von Gehr, SJICF Board
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Bob Jarman, San Juan Council
  - Lisa Byers, OPAL C.L.T.
  - Helen Machin-Smith, Island Stage Left
- Attendees briefly introduced themselves
- Housing crisis is a county-wide issue
- Housing Authority Discussion
  - Glen Bruels spoke to the Washington State Association of Housing Authorities regarding the process to establish a new Housing Authority. Housing Authorities are in decline. Housing Authorities statewide are consolidating and serving several counties instead of just one. Number of participants in SJI County would be an issue, normally 500 section 8 vouchers required.
  - Starting a housing authority came up 5-6 years ago; barrier was lack of awareness and funding
  - Do we need a housing authority in SJC?
  - Are we prepared to start a housing authority?
  - What does a housing authority offer that is not already present with community land trusts
  - Possible to have nonprofit do work of a housing authority instead?

- Steady source of funding is a must
- OPAL (Lisa Byers) Discussion
  - Started with home ownership only
  - Built 7 rental apartments
  - 5 years ago, purchased existing apartment building, made renovations, and now operating additional 22 rental apartments
  - Drawn to rentals because of need on Orcas
  - Does take capacity building
  - 50 strong volunteers
  - Houses 5% of year-round residents on Orcas
  - Possibility for SJ Home Trust to take on rental housing, but barriers are staffing & funding
- Discussion with Melanie Rollins/County
  - 2009 Housing Needs Assessment  
([http://sanjuanco.com/Planning/docs/CompPlanAppendices/Appendix\\_5\\_%286-2009%29.doc.pdf](http://sanjuanco.com/Planning/docs/CompPlanAppendices/Appendix_5_%286-2009%29.doc.pdf))
  - 20% of rentals were available in 2011
  - Online access to vacation rentals, Air B&Bs, etc. has made it much easier to rent out homes
  - Vacation rentals are easy for homeowners
  - Recording fees pay staff salary, fund programs and subsidies
- Top Identified Need: More rental housing
- Identified Potential Solutions and Discussion
  - Review 2009 Housing Needs Assessment, update with new data, & create a plan
  - Limit # of vacation rentals on island
  - Limit # of days per month you can rent out your vacation home or require long term rentals
  - Increase property tax
  - Public & private funding
  - Awareness to private sectors
  - Tax incentives for long-term rentals
  - Build new apartment buildings or remodel current buildings
  - Increase sales tax (Bob to look into)
  - Levy lift
  - 33 potential funding solutions identified in the 2009 Housing report page 53
  - Suggested .5% to Land Bank & .5% to Housing Bank, or increase to 1.5% where 1% goes to Housing Bank
  - Land use regulation changes/relaxing guest house rental rules
  - Public awareness campaign
    - Need to convince public of housing issue
    - Good storytelling
    - How does the lack of housing personally affect people?
  - Coordinated Function/Body to continue work on housing issue
- Top Outcomes
  - Community Awareness Campaign
    - SJICF to help coordinate
    - Specific goal with 3 messages to get out to public
    - Island Stage Left performance of individual stories
  - Database of local organizations (who they are & what they do)
  - Volunteers with paid coordinator
  - Coordinated Function/Body to continue work on housing issue

- Town, County, OPAL, etc.
  - One point person to coordinate
  - Solutions from 2009 Housing Needs Assessment (Housing Bank or Housing Authority to own?)
- Misc. Notes/Discussion
  - Need identified by Jennifer Armstrong: Substandard housing
    - Health/safety repairs needed for those currently renting
    - Not a huge expense
    - Volunteers to do?
    - Community awareness needed
    - Rebuilding America program, Habitat for Humanity, or Home Depot grants
    - Homes for Islanders to own?
  - Impact of vacation rentals on neighbors can be large
  - Facts from the assessor files were presented
    - It would cost about \$4 million to create an apartment complex similar to Surina or Gerard Apartments
- Next Steps
  - Carrie to send out contact information for all attendees (with permission only)
  - June 18 Community Needs Task Force Wrap Party (4-6pm) at SJ Community Theatre



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Our Food Supply Workgroup** April 2, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting) Brickworks **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Steve Ulvi
  - Boyd C. Pratt
  - Jennifer Allen, SJC Parks & Fair
  - Lovel Pratt
  - Pat Vannest, Food Bank
  - Joyce Sobel, Food Bank
  - Chary Caren, SJ Comm Home Trust
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Mike Pickett, SJI Ag, Workgroup Chair
  - Jane Burton Bell, Ag Guild
  - Jane Fox, Farmers Market
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Identified Needs/Opportunities
  - Access to healthy food
  - Affordable healthy foods
  - High-volume producing local farms
  - Education in community & outreach
  - Education about food among young families (healthy, local, grow your own)
  - Supporting, attracting, and mentoring young farmers
  - Mentoring program for young families interested in farming
  - Attract new farmers
  - Labor & farmer-worker housing
  - Connecting property owners with farmers
  - Address long-term food supply
  - "Grow a row" for Food Bank
  - Food Storage
  - Reduce food waste
  - Curbside composting
  - Central composting
  - Food hubs
  - Educate parents & children together
  - Neighborhood/community gardens

- SNAP/WIC like programs
  - Education on water supply/usage
- Barriers
  - Expense of healthy foods
  - Food prices on the rise-California water restrictions may increase produce prices and in turn, makes local food more competitively priced
  - Expense of land on SJI
  - Expense of running a high producing farm (labor costs)
  - Leased land restrictions
  - Climate change/global warming
  - Economic issues
  - Placement of junk food in grocery stores
  - Water supply
  - Farmers lack background in high production farming
  - Large investment to start a farm
  - Branding focus of our island has shifted from agriculture to tourism (need to or how to change or reverse that?)
  - Less available land for farming
  - Demand for local food by community in stores and restaurants
- Misc. Notes
  - Map of island and soils would be helpful for this group
  - Education (both short & long-term) is a major component of each workgroup
  - Sustainability of programs/projects is a problem
  - There is a huge gap between the “haves” & the “have-nots”
  - 42% of middle & high school students and 50% of elementary school students are on free/reduced lunch
  - Food Bank provides food to 160 households/week (much more produce being taken now)
  - Food Supply & Emergency Preparedness Workgroups are interconnected
- Next Steps
  - 2nd Meeting
    - April 24, 9-11am, Brickworks
    - Boyd Pratt to invite representative from public school
    - Attendees to send Michel programs already in place
    - Bring inventory of educational programs currently in place to 2nd meeting
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting
    - May 20, 9-11am, Brickworks
- Emailed Input
  - Jane Fox
    - City matching program for Farmers Market WIC & SNAP (dollar for dollar)



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Our Food Supply Workgroup** **April 24, 2015 (2nd Meeting) Brickworks** **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Rita Weisbrod, St. David's Church
  - Boyd C. Pratt
  - Jennifer Allen, SJC Parks & Fair
  - Lovel Pratt
  - Pat Vannest, Food Bank
  - Joyce Sobel, Food Bank
  - Tim Clark, Land Bank
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Mike Pickett, SJI Ag, Workgroup Chair
  - Jane Fox, Farmers Market
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Rebecca Pohlad, SJICF Board
  - Linda Lyshall, SJICD
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Additional Needs
  - Weekend backpack program to provide lunches for school-aged kids (also a need in summer)
  - School garden education/school lunch program
    - Need for funding & staff (would require leadership at school)
    - Parents sell surplus on Fridays
    - Grow awareness & commitment to healthy food
    - Opportunity for volunteer involvement
    - Work with Master Gardeners & Garden Club
    - Available space next to elementary-need for infrastructure.
  - Anaerobic digestion: Processes used for industrial or domestic purposes to manage waste, potential to produce energy.
  - Central composting (yard & food waste) (David Bill on Lopez -yard waste), Eric Lum on Orcas is farm composting, food, animal and yard but NOT commercial business). It can be a viable commercial business but takes management, permitting and infrastructure. There are farms composting on SJI under their farm business.
  - Senior matching funds for assistance to purchase produce at Farmers Market
  - Youth & gardening/farming program (kids to take home extra food)
  - Farm to Table Model (in place on Orcas & Lopez)
- Solutions (10)
  - School Garden/Farming Program Community gardens

- Grow-A-Row for Food Bank (Need to address oversight, management & cold storage)
  - Cold storage (refrigerate & freeze) Locations and matching grant fund potential.
  - Green & hoop houses (off season months)
  - Senior Matching (WIC Program has received financial match from Soroptomist. Need to find matching funds for Senior program. Will enable individuals to shop at farmers market)
  - Community Garden (more space)
    - Land Bank property (Roche Harbor Rd-Beaverton area)? Would require oversight, SJLB not landlord.
    - In town would be ideal (issues with management & restrictions)-Tim Clark to look into
  - Farm transition to new farmers
    - Young farmers
    - Training needed
    - Internships for college students in summer
    - Barriers: cost of land/housing
  - Coffelt Farm Model (On Orcas)
    - Owners who don't want to or can't farm anymore
    - Coffelts was a working farm. Land Bank has kept it in farming.
    - Not all properties have the infrastructure-but is there possibility?
  - Education Program
    - Coordinate with WSU/SVC/SJISD/4-H
    - Buy local campaign
    - Why buying local is healthier
    - How do we get the word out about programs/services?
    - How to use "bucks"
  - Fairgrounds-Location for cold storage
    - Current funding for commercial kitchen design work only. Reality 3 years out.
    - Hoping to provide a space for cooking classes, canning/food storage classes, etc.
    - No infrastructure for cold storage at this time but will look into capacity.
    - Cross-over to emergency preparedness workgroup (food)
  - Clear public awareness campaign
    - Examples: 2.4 days' worth of food on island, t-shirt campaign, or "pride in self-sufficiency"-islanders are independent
    - Education: Iconic images associated with handout card for fridge
- Misc. Notes
  - Lovel clarified from 1<sup>st</sup> meeting: If no high-producing local farms, costs will be higher
  - Boyd shared Soil Sustainability for Ag Map, which showed a great base on SJI for growing
  - Issue with dairy farming: higher volume producing farms can produce for much cheaper
  - Water & apple production in Yakima Valley is likely to decrease, affecting volume and cost
  - Jane Fox to research funding for WIC and Seniors, new contract just received.
  - Lacking "proud of our ag" attitude in SJC, like Skagit County
  - SJICF could feature emergency preparedness awareness on website
- Next Steps
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: May 20, 9-11am, Brickworks
    - Prioritize 10 identified solutions



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Our Food Supply Workgroup** May 20, 2015 (3rd Meeting) Brickworks **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Jennifer Allen, SJC Parks & Fair
  - Pat Vannest, Food Bank
  - Chary Caren, Home Trust
  - Tim Clark, Land Bank
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Mike Pickett, SJI Ag, Workgroup Chair
  - Jane Fox, Farmers Market
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Rebecca Pohlad, SJICF Board
  - Tom Schultz, WSU Extension
- Attendees briefly introduced themselves
- Mike explained goal of today's meeting
- Group Ranked Solutions using the following criteria
  - Maximum impact on community
  - Sustainability
  - Realistic/Achievable
  - Existing structure in place
  - Historical experience
- Top 8 Solutions (1=low, 2=mid, 3=high)
  - School Gardens & Outreach Campaign
    - Max impact on community=3
    - Sustainability=2
    - Realistic/Achievable=3
    - Existing structure in place=2
    - Historical experience=2
    - Total=12
  - Cold Storage (refrigerate & freeze)
    - Max impact on community=3
    - Sustainability=2
    - Realistic/Achievable=3
    - Existing structure in place=1
    - Historical experience=1
    - Total=10
  - Green & Hoop Houses (off season months)

- Max impact on community=3
  - Sustainability=3
  - Realistic/Achievable=3
  - Existing structure in place=2
  - Historical experience=1
  - Total=12
- Subsidies to Buy Local Foods
  - Max impact on community=3
  - Sustainability=1
  - Realistic/Achievable=3
  - Existing structure in place=2
  - Historical experience=1
  - Total=10
- Community Garden
  - Max impact on community=1
  - Sustainability=1
  - Realistic/Achievable=1
  - Existing structure in place=1
  - Historical experience=1
  - Total=5
- Farm transition to new farmers
  - Max impact on community=3
  - Sustainability=1
  - Realistic/Achievable=1
  - Existing structure in place=1
  - Historical experience=1
  - Total=7
- Coffelt Farm Model
  - Max impact on community=3
  - Sustainability=1
  - Realistic/Achievable=1
  - Existing structure in place=1
  - Historical experience=2
  - Total=8
- Community Kitchen at Fairgrounds
  - Max impact on community=3
  - Sustainability=3
  - Realistic/Achievable=3
  - Existing structure in place=3
  - Historical experience=3
  - Total=15
- Top 5 Solutions
  - Community Kitchen at Fairgrounds=15
  - School Gardens & Outreach Campaign=12
  - Green/Hoop Houses=12
  - Cold Storage=10

- Subsidies to Buy Local Foods=10
- Next Steps
  - June 18 Community Needs Task Force Wrap Party (4-6pm) at SJ Community Theatre
  - Group suggested comparing these outcomes to those from Critical Needs Task Force Process in 2009
  - Share final report with other islands



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Education-Secondary-College Workgroup**

April 1, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting) Skagit Valley College  
**Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Cara Cohn, WA Vocational Services
  - Randy Martin, Skagit Valley College
  - Susan Mazzearella, Spring St. International School/SJ Public Schools Foundation
  - Fred Woods, SJISD
  - Gordy Waite, SJISD
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Ralph Hahn, SJISD Board
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - June Arnold, Workgroup Chair
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Identified Needs:
  - School funding
    - Fewer programs=fewer opportunities for students
  - Declining public school enrollment=decline in funding
  - Fewer adults to students
    - Larger classes sizes
    - Less teaching staff
    - Less art/plays/music
    - Less science/tech/opportunities
    - Less advanced placement (AP)
  - ALE (alternative learning education) on San Juan Island
  - GED support
  - Scholarships to continue after 1<sup>st</sup> year of college
  - Scholarships for adults
  - Closer relationship between public schools & community college
  - Increase partnership between High School & Skagit Valley College for vocational training & adult ed.
  - Preschool for all, and all-day Kindergarten (also for Early Childhood Workgroup)
  - High School is a college “prep” school
  - Need to increase Vocational classes for non-university bound students, as well as 4 yr. college students
- Misc. Notes
  - Community and SJICF donors need to know what the needs are
  - State mandates have a major impact on SJI Public School District & are not always in line with programs
  - School district gets \$5,700 per student/year in state funding

- Predicting a decline to 600 students in district within 5-8 years
- Predicting a \$1 million decline in revenue within 5-8 years
- In 2014, 60 graduated from high school and only 40 started Kindergarten
- Next Steps
  - 2nd Meeting
    - Attendees to bring data on enrollment, existing programs, trend of needs over the next 5 years, etc.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting
    - What are specific strategies we can develop to close the gap(s)?
  - Outreach by volunteers to educate community about needs (teachers who already have a job)
  - Budget cuts are trending toward instruction. Infrastructure (capital) funds are not tied to enrollment
- Emailed Input
  - Debbi Fincher
    - FHHS Scholarships awarded to wider range of students
    - STEM Classes to be “certified” and able to be carried-over for college credit
    - Trade school
    - STEM Building
    - More visible information on Running Start (Meet & Greet)
    - Mentorship with local business owners, apprenticeships, promote youth development
    - Youth & adult project management skills (how to effectively work with a group)
    - Preparing students to be group leaders, contributor, & team player
  - Beth Helstien (perspective from the public library outreach coordinator)
    - Education into adulthood (technology/computer skills) for all ages, especially 65 and over
    - Education for Spanish-speakers
    - Photography, cooking, gardening, etc. classes taught my teachers
    - Resources for self-education (great library resources no one knows about)
    - Library programming for larger groups (example: computer classes)
    - Limited space for partnerships with other organizations
    - Better communication between library & other organizations (schools)



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### Education Secondary-College Workgroup

April 15, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting) Skagit Valley College Community Room  
**Notes**

- Attendees:
  - June Arnold, SJISD Board, Workgroup Chair
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Randy Martin, SVC
  - Susan Mazzearella, SSIS/PS Foundation
  - Fred Woods, SJISD
  - Gordy Waite, SJISD
  - Ralph Hahn, SJISD Board
  - Anne Clark, SVC Foundation
  - Diana Porter, Journey's
  - Tom Cable, SJICF Board
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
- Brief introductions
- Identified Needs from last meeting
  - Public School Finance. June and Ralph presented: School Funding SJISD Budget Overview to further explain how schools are funded including FTE splits, restricted funds with restricted mandates to spending and limitations to discretionary spending which was intended to fund other student needs but due to mandates without funding.
  - Community Support for Levy traditionally very high and consistently close to 70%
  - Tri Day Contracts a way to increase teacher staff salaries with local funding since state has not provided COLAs for 7 over years.
  - State laws mandate program funding but do not provide any funding resource.
  - Special Ed mandates are underfunded and many kids do not qualify under state formula, yet kids need the assistance and school must provide it.
  - Other costs are funded from MSOC funds (materials, supplies operation costs etc) by the schools such as audits and testing as required by the state but not funded by the state.
  - Island Rec \$250,000 program for sports funded by levy. Without this funding we would not have a sports program for our island youth.
  - In the last 18 years the SJI School Foundation has purchased books for the district. This allows MSCO's to be spent on other necessary supplies or services.
  - Staffing levels have not changed over the past several years with declining enrollment and school cannot ask for additional taxes. School is allowed to collect only 28% of what the state provides for funding.
  - Schools are audited and must maintain a specific dollar amount during February to pay salaries. "in fund balance float"

- Tough political impact of suggesting a consolidation of administrative staff with other districts on other islands.
- School has had great success and has lifted expectations. They have been extremely creative in their funding options but are at the tipping point-there are limited or non-existent alternatives as they face declining enrollment and mandates to continue programs.
- Randy Martin and Anne Clark Skagit Valley College and SVC Foundation commented that they just received news requiring 2 million budget cut, less state funding. They are one of five SVC locations. They had programs cut in half 7 years ago.
- Tuition at SVC is capped
- Flat enrollment rates
- Little time for outreach
- Considering opportunities to work with STEM, Culinary or Marine Tech
- Students at SVC can meet AA requirements, core classes that do not require pre-requisites
- Currently \$17,000 underfunded programs.
- 40-50 students on campus, 200 online, significant drop in interisland student attendance, opting for online access to classes
- Optimistic relationship potential partnerships between SVC and SJISD with new Vice President and SJISD Superintendent
- Looking for ideas for outreach
- SVC Foundation in existence 35 years Foundation provides: 300 current scholarships, program funding, and faculty support.
- Current campaign: remove barriers, child care opportunities, vouchers, new child care center in Mt. Vernon; Emergency Funds for incidentals that affect student attendance or choices such as buying food or a book for class, car repairs or tuition. Scholarships: supporting students and faculty to polish the college experience so that its similar feel and function to university experiences.
- Fundraising goal 3.5 million dollars
- Susan Mazarella-regarding Spring Street International School. There are about 70 kids from the community that are exactly in the category that our group is supposed to address. I think it's around 15% to 20% of the kids that the Community Foundation is serving and they shouldn't be ignored.
- Diana Porter- Community needs to support those out of high school in their 20's stuck in low wage jobs. Many were the B/C students who were intelligent enough to not require special classes but for a variety of reasons not motivated to move on.
- Community to reach out towards young adults who are seeking alternative educational resources.
- Young adults may need a mentor, guidance, a nudge or push in either the right direction or just towards resources.
- These students were not ready to launch into college right after high school, however, 3-5 years later they are exploring options. However, they no longer have a guidance counselor option.
- In person, on island job and educational options need expanding, in order to teach skills in computer fields like IT, programing, graphic design etc.or hands on learning in business, social services to wet their appetite for further education.

- Next Meeting: Further define needs,
- School funding gap. Discuss further methods to find a solutions such as: illustrate, quantify and label programs, find a way to "sell" the program needing funding or otherwise cut.
- Mentoring & Guidance for after high school potential students, SVC Outreach and Education to the community and potential students.

- Partnerships-cultivating partnerships a potential solution. SVC and SJISD, STEM Building, Marine resources, partner with other schools such as Spring Street. Partnerships with other islands?
- 3rd Meeting: April 29, 2015 from 9-11am at Skagit Valley College Community Room
- Misc. Notes
  - SJISD Budget Report available for distribution. Report created when Board recognized that they needed to educate others as to how schools are funded.
  - Debbie Fincher Emailed comments: *"The need for more mentorship opportunities with youth/young adults and local business owners/entrepreneurs to encourage youth/young adults to branch out and see what is interesting and exciting to them. More youth development opportunities in our community, teaching workshops on job interviewing and project management skills"*
  - Beth Helstien Emailed comments: *"Education doesn't stop with school. Plenty of adults in the community need to learn things--to accomplish tasks in daily life, to get and keep jobs, for "enrichment." Changing technology has left many adults behind. Especially Spanish-speaking adults in our community lack basic computer skills. Changes in computing such as cloud computing, apps, new operating systems are leaving many fairly computer-literate people behind. We have a population extremely skewed to the older than 65 years demographic with a very high number of over 80-year-olds who are being left in the dust--at this stage in their lives, learning is harder. Going online is increasingly a requirement (to pay taxes, make ferry reservations, etc.) yet people don't know how to do it. People have interests (photography, cooking, and gardening) but they want to learn from teachers, not just books or youtube movies.*

*Resources for self-education abound, but are not well known, well utilized, and are often not well-suited to the needs of the learner. The Library has resume software that is AWESOME, but no one knows about it. The Microsoft IT Academy is available to everyone in the state for FREE, but only 15,000 people have signed-in during the last 18 months, and most have not completed a single course they started. 24-7 anytime/anywhere online learning translates to never/nowhere learning. Most folks don't stick with self- guided online courses as the learning environment does not make them feel comfortable.*

*The SJIL has addressed some of this by on the one hand providing online resources, books and librarians to guides people to resources (traditional library services). On the other hand, library programming is becoming an increasing portion of what we do, so that the public can interact with other humans in a comfortable setting to learn what they want to learn. But we can only handle tiny groups of people at one time. (Computer classes at Skagit Valley College are limited to 8 participants, photography class is limited to 12.)*

*The Library seeks to partner with other organizations (college, schools - public and private, WSU, etc.), but space limitations (only one meeting room, no computer lab, etc.) and difficulty of aligning timing and overwhelmedness often make it difficult for schools to take advantage of Library resources. E.g. Schools plan field trip to the Library for late Spring instead of September. No time to teach kids (or adults) how to find Library materials. Hard to plan for the institution when we don't have a chance to talk with key players in schools.*



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### Education Secondary-College Workgroup

April 29, 2015 (3rd Meeting) Skagit Valley College Community Room

#### Notes

- Attendees:
  - Randy Martin, Skagit Valley College
  - Beth Helstien, SJI Library
  - Susan Mazarella, SSIS/PS Foundation
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Ralph Hahn, SJISD Board
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Cara Cohn, WA Vocational Services
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Anne Clark, SVC Foundation
  - Diana Porter, Journey's
  - June Arnold, Workgroup Chair
  - Cynthia Stark-Wickman, SJI Prevention Coalition
- Brief introductions
- Ralph reviewed the SJI School District Executive Summary "Long Term Financial Issues"
  - Discussion
    - Problem & solution from a public school district's point of view
    - Solution: create a source of school funds insulated from state legislature to be used solely to provide instructional extras for students
    - Instruction is where the gap is
    - It was clarified what SJICF can and can't do
      - SJICF can't fund the public schools
      - SJICF, in partnership, can try and "sell" solution(s) to the community
      - SJICF can help with partnerships & networking with multiple organizations
  - Solutions:
    - Public School District needs to communicate need(s) to the community with a coordinated community approach
    - Public marketing campaign to communicate gap to community – possibly more important than the actual money
    - Possibility of partnering with library district
    - Gaps being filled over time with marijuana excise tax
    - Public & private partnerships/resources (local as well as outside San Juan County)
- Additional Needs Identified
  - A place to go for community resources

- Need to know what's going on, as well as what's needed
- Share resources in community
- Life-long learning for adults
- Better communication between library & school district
  - Combined school/public library make sense
- Skagit Valley College
  - Instruction gaps
  - More STEM
  - Offer enough classes for students who want to learn in classroom (not online)
- Journey's/Diane Porter
  - Online courses for adults
  - Opportunity for cohorts for adults currently in different colleges
  - Space to meet with leader/mentor-much higher success rate if have a mentor/support
  - Support for older students who are completing online degrees
- Cara Cohn/WA Vocational Services
  - Internships & mentoring with island businesses
  - Directing individuals to the right places/options/resources
- Public awareness campaign of services available
- Better communication between public, private, and home schools
- Misc. Notes
  - Cynthia Stark-Wickman discussed the success of having an intervention/prevention specialist in the school
  - Questions brought from Spring St. International School
    - Is there a public school psychologist?- No, but there's a prevention/intervention specialist, school counselor, and advisor (in high school, every student has an advisor)
      - Need: More mental health services for youth
        - County has a prevention/intervention/treatment/aftercare plan in place for all ages but it needs to be improved
        - Increase public awareness
    - Transportation
    - Services for everyone (not just public school kids)
- Next Steps
  - Report to be produced & on SJICF website in August
  - Report will be tool for community
  - Email Michel with additional input
  - June 18 (4-6pm) at SJ Community Theatre: Post Community Needs Task Force Thank You Event
    - Carrie to send out a "Save the Date" email reminder to all



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### Emergency Preparedness Workgroup

April 3, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting) Brickworks

#### Notes

- Attendees:
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Beth Helstien, SJI Library
  - Carole Sue Conran, San Juan Islands Visitor's Bureau
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Laura Jo Severson, Red Cross, IOSA, Soroptimist
  - Bill Severson, Red Cross, IOSA
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Beth Williams Gieger, Workgroup Chair
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Identified Needs
  - Emergency pet care (collaborative efforts among vets for after-hours care)
  - Animal epidemics (zoonosis)
  - Emergency communications plan for the community
  - Individual & family preparedness
  - Outreach/Education-coordinated outreach of an emergency preparedness plan (mailing)
    - Informing organizations, agencies, & individuals of what is in place & how to proceed (outreach must capture people's attention)
  - Food & water storage
  - Central communication center/resource center
  - Larger place to feed people (Mullis Center can feed ~120 people)
  - Training for volunteers prior to emergency/disaster
  - Training for volunteers who show up at emergency/disaster site with no prior training
  - Regularly held emergency preparedness workshops
  - Transportation
  - Inter-island collaboration
  - Emergency kit checklist mailing
  - Communications plan for Hispanic community
  - Collaborative efforts among urgent care responders & community
  - Master resource list (resources we do have & resources we don't have but need)
- Misc. Notes
  - Red Cross is set-up to take care of pets during an emergency
  - APS has a plan to be able to care for animals if a disaster did occur
  - PIMC is ready to take care of patients in the event of a disaster, but needs to tie in with other organizations

- #1 chance of disaster in SJC is a wildfire
  - Library would be a hub during a disaster/emergency (need a generator)
  - Carrie to email identified people to invite to 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings
- 2nd Meeting: April 17, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks
- 3rd Meeting: May 1, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks
- Emailed Input
  - Jennifer Allen
    - Food processing education for public (freezing, canning, dehydrating)
    - FYI-SJC Parks & Fair has funding for designing & permitting of a commercial kitchen (in process)



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### Emergency Preparedness Workgroup

April 17, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting) Brickworks

#### Notes

- Attendees:
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Beth Williams-Gieger, PIMC, Chair
  - Fred Henley, SJI Library
  - Ian Paterson, SJI County Fair Board
  - Vincent Shu, WINS
  - Carole Sue Conran, SJ Islands Visitors Bureau
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of SJI
  - Laura Jo Severson, Red Cross, OISA, Soroptimist
  - Bill Severson, Red Cross, OISA
  - Bob Reilly, Mullis Center
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
- Brief introductions
- Identified Needs from last meeting.
- Summary of Discussion:
  - Need: To know and understand community resources in the event of an emergency and communicate that in advance to the community. (A master resource, a binder, a handout.)
    - Informal brochures, annual mailings, stickers, a repetitive approach. (For all: seasonal residents, snowbirds, new residents and current residents.)
    - Content of brochure to include basic messages in an emergency, specific resources, reminder not to be dependent on digital technology and what should you do in any given situation.
  - Need: Collaborative communications between community members, agencies, law enforcement, fire, EMS, medical providers (Emergency management may have a plan, but is the community aware of its content, resources and direction?)
    - Regular meetings to inform, train or cross communicate.
  - Need: Timeline in crisis-Control of the Chaos
    - To understand and communicate the timelines for control i.e. takes a ripple effect to assess the situation and create the action plan and direction.
    - Provide directions: where are people, when to stay home, when to go, where to go.
  - Need: To be proactive: how to be personally prepared, responsible. 3 days of food, a plan to coordinate your family. Ideas similar to neighborhood watch.
  - Need: Directional disaster awareness signage –in the event of an emergency (Similar to Tsunami signage)
- General Discussion:
  - Collaboration and Communications.

- Visitors Bureau shared their communication plan-distributed via email, as an example to share.
- Ron Krebs unable to attend; Questions raised about how communications through dispatch at the time of crisis, back up dispatch, is there a single method for communication, where does direct command initiate.
- Agencies may have plans in place but as a whole is the community aware of plans, a central meeting place or a method to communicate without power or digital services
- MERT-staff's the fire stations to field questions and provide direction when emergency personnel are actively responding in crisis.
- Wolf Hollow has procedures and protocol in place to handle zoonosis or animal diseases at their location for their wild animals.
- Is PIMC prepared to handle zoonosis or animal diseases?
- Animal Safety solutions.
- Fairgrounds can be used a response area, would like to expand their role. Including shelter for livestock.
- Where should people go in what circumstance not everyone should go to Friday Harbor, should there be sectors to report to with informed individuals.
- What is the school plan?
- Urgent Care for anxiety, acupuncture, space to provide. Need to provide conventional alternatives. How to address and define roles, authority, liability, responsibility, credentialed individuals, vetted in advance. Needs a plan. Shu asked to provide a plan. How to link with PIMC to define the role of acupuncture in crisis.
- Focus on communications to be proactive to seasonal residents, visitors and full time residents
- Tap into Clinical Pastors through churches-have formal counseling principals, certified.
- Hospital has master list of certified medical personnel, but is not inclusive of all in the community.
- Outreach-mailings, magnets stickers.
- PIMC has "team steps" a strategy to assign responsibility to hospital staff. Potential to use as a template for communications to the community.
- Many action plans by many agencies and organizations but no collaboration or community of such plans.
- Getting the info out! Need island wide booklet for distribution collaboration, staff, hours, cost method. Who plays the lead role? Not SJICF, but a project lead for the need.
- Local Disaster Assemble station signage. Partnerships with Emergency management- instructions for residents and visitors. (Comparable to the Tsunami signage in coastal towns).
- Post incident communications. Communicating the details of controlling the reaction to emergencies.
- Misc:
  - 7 fire stations on SJI.
  - Red Cross drafting an article to get volunteers trained.
  - Having pilot association present.
  - Having Vets present.
  - Incident command training next week on SJI.
  - Emergency Training June 11 (may be limited to those invited to attend-not generally open to the public).
  - Getting gas in a power outage- IPS backup generator, fire station is self-sustainable- but not public).
- Next Meeting: Take defined needs and create solutions.
- 3rd (Last) Meeting: May 1st, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks.



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Emergency Preparedness Workgroup** May 1, 2015 (3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting) Brickworks **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Brendan Cowan, SJC DEM
  - Beth Helstien, SJI Library
  - Vincent Shu, WINS
  - Carole Sue Conran, SJ Islands Visitors Bureau
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Laura Jo Severson, Red Cross, IOSA, Soroptimist
  - Bill Severson, Red Cross, IOSA
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Rick Thompson, SJI School District
  - Bob Reilly, Mullis Center Operating Cmte
  - Ron Krebs, SJC Sheriff's Office
  - Beth Williams Gieger, Workgroup Chair
  - Becky Pohlad, SJICF Board
  - Sarah Younglove, Animal Shelter
- Needs from last meeting were discussed.
- Summary to prioritize needs and potential solutions:
- Need: Outreach in various forms to draw awareness to self-reliance, organization and preparedness. A campaign to draw awareness to what is in place in the event of a crisis or emergency and communicate that in advance to the community. Brendan requested that the term "resource" not be used. Department of Emergency Management message is "self-reliant" in the event of an emergency. They work to draw awareness but need assistance due to limited staff.
  - Solutions: Work with DEM Informal brochures, annual mailings, stickers, etc. on a consistent basis. (For all: seasonal residents, snowbirds, new residents and current residents.)
  - Content of brochure to include basic messages in an emergency, specific resources, reminder not to be dependent on digital technology and what should you do in any given situation.
  - Use local talent or school for eye catching design-logo catch phrase. Provide funds for awards, encourage "senior project" or leadership club collaboration
- Need: Collaborative neighborhood meetings (a neighborhood watch) for communications and help. Regular meetings to inform, train or cross communicate.
  - Solution: Build capacity in local Red Cross. Support the Library and or Red Cross to provide outreach, educate, train and inform community and visitors.

- Need: Library is considered to be the hub of information in an emergency and needs a generator.
  - Solution: The Library would like a generator but needs some guidance to determine what they need and the process of installation and use. Placement of charging stations for phones and laptops that are secure or temporary (those which can be placed in an emergency).
- Need: To be proactive: how to be personally prepared & responsible. 3 days of food & a plan to coordinate your family.
  - Solution: To purchase bulk food or ask distributor to come to SJI. Make it accessible, available and convenient.
- Need: Care for pets in an emergency situation other than community crisis.
  - Solution: Work with Animal Shelter to gather current vets, retired vets and volunteers who might be willing to provide an “on call” service on weekends and holidays when vet offices are closed. (What is the demand?)
- Need: School Emergency Preparedness for students and parents.
  - Solution: Emergency preparedness training with DEM or Red Cross. Could be led by leadership club (perhaps dollars for scholars). Jenny Wilson is at the middle school and in charge of community support. This would need to be a mission of the school, not just a teacher to ensure sustainability. Brings awareness not only to students but to families as well.

Save the Date! As an expression of our appreciation for your time and commitment to this project, we hope you'll join us to celebrate and continue the discussion about the Community Needs Task Force on June 18 from 4-6pm at the San Juan Community Theatre. Refreshments will be provided.



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Social Services Workgroup**

April 20, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting) Brickworks

### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Chris Kobdish, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
  - Sharon Hooper, WA Vocational Services
  - Martha Huleatte, United Way
  - Rita Weisbrod, Seniors
  - David Bentley, St. David's
  - Tim Kopet, SJI Schools
  - Susan Dehlendorf, LWV
  - Diana Porter, Journey's
  - Joyce Sobel, NW Early Learning, Food Bank, Prevention Coalition, & HSAB
  - Curt VanHying, United Way
  - Susan Mazzearella
  - Beth Williams Gieger, PIMC
  - Greg Winter, Whatcom Homeless Service Center & Opportunity Council
  - Heidi Kennedy, CPS
  - Silvia Johnson, CPS
  - Melanie Kaegi, DVSAS
  - Pamela Gross, SJICF Board
  - Tom Cable, SJICF & PIMC Board
  - Lee Sturdivant
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Georgia Baci, Mullis Community Senior Center
  - Louise Dustrude
  - Yubi Schollmeyer, DVSAS, Interpreter
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Jennifer Armstrong, Workgroup Chair
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Needs assessment in progress with Opportunity Counsel/Whatcom/Bellingham
- Need to activate Friends and Neighbors organization-had stopped due to lack of use, but there is indication that it would be useful now and in near future. Starting it now would allow time to be prepared.
- Consumer Voices: counseling support network out of Vancouver-Diana
- Identified Needs (#'s are from list of suggested topics)
  - Seniors
    - Home health care (#49, #54, #55, #61, #64, #71)
    - Transportation (#2)

- Household needs (#40)
  - Hispanic interactions, number of Hispanic senior community members
- Spanish-speaking/language barriers (#1, #9, #28, #52, #62, #65, #66)
  - Fear of requesting services
  - Lack of trust/deportation fear
  - Need to increase perception of safety seeking services
  - Assistance with visa process
  - Senior services access
  - Catholic Church provides Hispanic services but not a program to support Hispanic community members
  - Effective ways to outreach? Library?
  - Collaborate with Greg Winter & specific focus group
  - Theater access
- Young families struggling (college debt, part-time jobs, no benefits)
  - High cost of living
  - Need to keep families on the island
  - Seasonal work is a problem
  - Financial literacy/budgeting
  - Unemployment education
  - Community awareness of how we need young families to help support older population
  - Marking assistance for jobs
  - Internet speed challenges for working from home
  - Strength: resilience/independence of islanders
- Expense of utilities
  - Water/sewer costs going up
  - There was been an increase in families asking for help with cost
  - Churches are asked for funding to help living costs. (2009 Task Force benefit-connections between churches serving number of community members-now sharing and communicating information.)
- Drugs/Alcohol use
  - Community and Social Issue (not only youth)
  - Need for support groups (peer-to-peer) volunteers and funding
  - Difficult to impact, given legalization of recreational marijuana
  - Need to address underlying stressors
  - 20-30 AA meetings a week on SJI
  - Community perception of issues skewed
- Mental health needs
  - Disability application process is difficult (lack of support services)
  - No local disability attorneys
  - Need for cohesive approach for disability process (computers, copies, retention of paperwork, a group to pull all resources together)
  - SOAR Training would help (Greg Winter-contact)
  - NO VA representation on SJI
    - New resource through Greg Winter
    - Outreach program through PIMC, Beth Williams Gieger
  - Current program in place: support for youth-adults with disabilities (Sharon Hooper-contact)

- Connect with Opportunity Council, Greg Winter VA program grant. 2,000 vets in SJ Islands Outreach program in the works with mental health focus and access to services
  - WA Vocational Services- partnerships and programs
- Transportation
  - Off-island medical appointments
  - Off-island personal/family emergencies
  - PIMC does cover taxi to and from medical appointments ('RoundTowner), in town only
  - Need a "Friends & Neighbors" type service
  - Current program offers on-island taxi & ferry vouchers for families under \$25,000/yr (\$300 limit per family)
  - Increase awareness for need of donating unused ferry tickets
  - Current program offers seniors a once a month trip to Mt. Vernon & Bellingham
  - Increased awareness of affordable insurance options
  - Increased access to flights-see Mercy Flights on Orcas.
- Misc. Notes
  - SJC CPS Transition/Update
    - Using new FAR Model
      - Rated by risk (high vs. low)
      - Different ways to respond based on rated risk
      - More family-friendly approach
      - Goals is to work with the community & sustain families in own community
    - Sherry Estrada is point of contact for San Juans
    - 9 other workers as back-up in Mt. Vernon office
    - Sherry willing to do trainings on SJI
    - Hoping to rent space on island to meet with families
- 2nd Meeting: May 4, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks
- 3rd Meeting: May 11, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks
- Emailed Input
  - Rita Weisbrod
    - I am writing as a follow-up to the Social Services Workgroup meeting of Monday April 20, which I attended. My observation from this meeting is that there is a critical need for better coordination of social service providers on SJI! I had the impression that many providers are working in silos with little or no understanding of what others are doing, even when their program areas overlap. I suggest that developing a regular network of providers is needed, with regular meetings to facilitate coordination of services. Beyond that, I notice that there is a lot of staff turnover, so that there needs to be a way of initiating new staff into the local network. Possible solutions that come to mind are a personal appointment with a trainer/coordinator (ongoing throughout the year) and/or a workshop once or twice a year to acquaint newbies with the full range of community services on the island. Perhaps the locus of such a program could be the Family Resource Center. In any event, whatever new programs may emerge from these discussions, it is clear that we have a problem with coordination of the social service programs we now have. There is a need to fix what is dysfunctional before we tackle new initiatives! (As a note: I am a retired sociologist with a background in community studies and am not affiliated with any existing local social service providers! Rita R. Weisbrod (PhD/Sociology/Cornell))

- Dave Dunaway: Perhaps the biggest systemic issue that I see is that of the discrepancy between wages and the cost of living on San Juan. I am significantly worried about the effect of having so few living wage jobs and the prevalence of households with children where multiple-job income earners is the norm. The economic pressures our families feel in such an idyllic place to raise families are extremely heavy and they directly impact the welfare of us all. I see that in every sphere of life in which I live. I don't have a lot of answers, but I believe the pattern is destructive so I bring it forward as a concern.
- Diana Porter
  - I just returned from a leadership conference in Denver in connection with the Masters in Organizational Leadership degree I am completing. It is through this degree, as well as the encouragement of friends that I began this adventure in bringing Journey's Reach Center to our island. Our center is based on a centers in Vancouver, WA and Mount Vernon, WA, both under the direction of Consumer Voices are Born (CVAB). Below I have provided website links.
  - I also attached our tri-fold brochure. This is still a draft version; however it gives an outline of the services we will provide to the community. The premise is mental health and drug recovery, however, recovery is used in the broadest sense. In addition the center actively seeks community input when compiling support groups and trainings. I envision a diverse group of people using our services.
  - One of the evidence based practices that will be encouraged in the center is a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). I included a link to their website below. WRAP is now being used for depression, trauma, diabetes, veterans, anxiety, and the list goes on. I recently used some of the steps of WRAP when I lost my job.
  - However, this is only one of the potential programs. The basic idea is three tiered. Peer support at the individual level, connecting people with liked experiences to support and encourage one another. Our peer support counselors will be certified. I will be certified next week in Bellingham at a 5 day, 40 hour certification training. This is a Washington State certified training.
  - Second, support groups will be developed around the needs of the participants. These support groups can deal with any aspect of life, depression, job search, educational, suicide, and the list goes on. Again, at a monthly community meeting the needs are explored and the classes created.
  - Third, training classes, similar to the support groups however these are a bit more educational and can be a one day class. The calendar below gives examples of these and the support groups.
  - Everything at the Reach center is volunteer participation. This encourages the development of intrinsic motivation and self-determination.
  - As far as a nonprofit and funding: Yes. Next week at the certification I will meet with the President of the Board of CVAB. It is my understanding that we can come under their 501c3, however we will have to raise funds from grants and the community to fund our programs. I will begin exploring funding options for specific programs after I return from the certification training.
  - There is much more to share. The reach center is all about partnerships and collaboration as it will become a 'safety net' catching those and providing support in addition to the support they receive at the other social and educational organizations.
  - CVAB website: <http://www.cvabonline.com/>
  - Mt Vernon Center Calendar of Events: <http://www.cvabonline.com/SVRCApril2015.pdf>
  - WRAP: <http://www.mentalhealthrecovery.com/wrap/>
  - WRAP recovery stories: <http://wrap4yourlife.com/>
  - I am looking forward to sharing more with you in the coming weeks. Also, I will bring some written ideas and solutions to the Educational workshop on Wednesday morning.

○ Curt VanHyning

- Having worked as a health insurance, disability and senior services counselor for 20 years in Friday Harbor, I concur with Rita that we need a monthly lunch and gab session including all local formal and informal social workers. Seems to me that county, Compass and private provider rolls have not been delineated and understood by the rest of us. Not to mention DVSAS or Planned Parenthood which are understandably more obscure. Not sure that Jennifer Armstrong needs one more group to lead, but Joyce Sobel, Kathy Hagn or Rita might agree to coordinate such a group exchange.
- RoundTowner website (information regarding our county transportation initiative):  
<http://www.sjiss.org/>



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Social Services Workgroup** May 4, 2015 (2nd Meeting) Brickworks **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Alicia Wasklewicz, DSHS
  - Lynn Weber/Roochvarg, SJI Library
  - Sharon Hooper, WA Vocational Services
  - Martha Huleatte, United Way
  - David Bentley, St. David's
  - Tim Kopet, SJI Schools
  - Kathy Hagn, SJC Health & Community Services
  - Joyce Sobel, NW Early Learning, Food Bank, Prevention Coalition, HSAB
  - Curt VanHying, United Way
  - Melanie Kaegi, DVSAS
  - Pamela Gross, SJICF Board
  - Lee Sturdivant
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Barbara LaBrash, SJC Health & Community Services
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Merry Ann Keane, PIMC
  - Mariluz Villa, Hospice of San Juan
  - Peg Gerlock, SJICF & PIMC Boar
  - Cherri Estrada, CPS
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Reviewed topics from last meeting
  - Seniors
  - Spanish-Speaking Services
  - Young Families Struggling
  - Expense of Utilities
  - Drug/Alcohol Use
  - Mental Health Needs
  - Transportation
- Additional Needs Identified
  - Reproductive health
  - End of life care
  - More services for Veterans

- Coordination of social services
- Increase on island senior transportation from 2 to 5 days/week
- Friends & Neighbors Program (Joyce & others working on starting this back up)
- Utility assistance (discussion needed with OPALCO)
- Health insurance for noncitizens
- More Bridge assistance for San Juan Islanders
- Health care coordination (need in all workgroups)
- Support services for parents of kids above age 5
- Support services for parents who don't qualify for WIC
- Dental services for kids & seniors
- Childcare availability & expense
- 1-on-1 home visits
- Economic development
  - Solution: benefits bank (employers of part-time employees provide smaller amount toward benefits)
- Community outcry utility expense concerns
  - Solution: community organizations/agencies approaching OPALCO with better solutions
- More support for youth who come back from treatment
- AA group for Spanish speaking community
- More Medicaid transportation
- Community resource guide (need in all workgroups)
- In home health (clarification needed on what services are currently available)
- Reproductive health
  - Planned parenthood to be open 2 days/week instead of 1
- DSHS office open 2 days a week (on island)
- More open DVSAS education in schools
- More end of life care services/support groups
  - Solution: Certificate of need-topic for Board of Health
  - Solution: Skagit County to relinquish
- CPS
  - Seeing an increase in substance abuse & lack of supervision in the home
  - Challenging community
  - Lack of resources
- Emergency shelter
- Longer max stay at safe house
- Projects/Programs Working Well
  - Seniors
    - Senior lunch program (at Mullis Center & Meals on Wheels)
    - 2 van off-island trips/month
    - Food Bank (20-25% of those served are seniors)
  - Spanish-Speaking Services
    - Resources at Library
    - Family Resource Center programs
      - Outreach to young moms
      - Playgroups (babies & toddlers)
      - DSHS paperwork assistance

- Medicare counseling with Curt (nursing home translators)
  - School district provides translator to students, when needed
  - PIMC (24 hr mobile video interpreter)
  - COMPASS Health Services (drug/alcohol)-state funding
- Young Families Struggling
  - Family Resource Center playgroups
  - Mentorships through DSHS
  - WIC (English & Spanish)
    - Maternity support services
    - Breastfeeding program
    - Social worker resources
    - Parenting support
- Expense of Utilities
- Drug/Alcohol Use
  - COMPASS Health services (2 assessments/week)
  - Intervention specialist and counselors in schools
  - Activities & support groups in schools
  - SJI Prevention Coalition work is positive
  - 30 AA groups/week on San Juan Island
- Mental Health Needs
  - PIMC
    - Seclusion room
    - Great relationship with St. Joe's (beds available)
    - Telepsychiatry on Fridays
    - Sexual assault nurse to be available 24/7 at PIMC in near future
  - End of life/grief support groups/Hospice
    - Volunteer services on all ferry-served islands
    - 6-week program twice a year
    - Hospice hotline
- Transportation
  - County transportation vouchers (income based)-seniors/disabled should be priority
  - Dial-A-Ride (picked up at ferry landing)
    - Skagit Transit
    - Affordable
    - Look into who can access service
  - Island Hospital (free ride from ferry via Mert's Taxi)
- Misc. Projects/Programs Working Well
  - Health insurance counseling (transition to Medicare & Medicaid applications)
  - County-wide community wellness program
    - Short-term mental health intervention services
    - Up to 12 sessions/year
    - Directed services through Family Resource Center; must qualify
    - From 1/10 of 1% mental health tax
  - DVSAS
    - Men's weekly action group

- Direct line care
- Working with juvenile courts
- Food & gas vouchers
- Relationship between veteran & domestic violence
- Active Legion & Veteran's Advisory Board
  - Contact Sue Collette for more info: 378-2898
- 3rd Meeting
  - May 11, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks
  - Begin meeting with communication of available resources topic



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Social Services Workgroup**

May 11, 2015 (3rd Meeting) Brickworks

### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Lynn Weber/Roochvarg, SJI Library
  - Chris Kobdich, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood
  - Martha Huleatte, United Way
  - Rita Weisbrod
  - David Bentley, St. David's
  - Tim Kopet, SJI Schools
  - Kathy Hagn, SJC Health & Community Services
  - Diana Porter, Journey's
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Vincent Shu, WINS
  - Joyce Sobel, NW Early Learning, Food Bank, Prevention Coalition, HSAB
  - Susan Mazzarella
  - Melanie Kaegi, DVSAS
  - Lee Sturdivant
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Georgia Baci, Mullis Community Senior Center
  - Yubi Schollmeyer, DVSAS, Interpreter
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Sheryl Murphy, PIMC
  - Cherri Estrada, CPS
  - Eric Tubbs
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Discussion of SJC Community Network
  - No longer exists
  - Broad participation
  - State-funded
  - Funding eliminated but group continued to meet over videoconference for 2 years
  - Focused on 12 at-risk behaviors (suicide, domestic violence, etc.)
  - Met monthly in person
  - Oversight for many social service contracts (Readiness to Learn, tobacco cessation, etc.)
  - Shared problems, issues, & solutions
  - Would take ~\$2,500 to restart (if met quarterly)
- Additional Identified Needs

- Place to go (physical & online) to find available community resources
  - Each agency to update monthly
  - Benefit for agencies & clients
- Case Management
- More support services for youth/teens
- More after-school activities for kids of all ages
- Outreach/awareness of available services
- Additional availability of SJI Planned Parenthood services
- Education/outreach for preventative care
- More services/funding/outreach for DVSA's
- Topics Prioritized (group used colored dots; Green-some services in place, Yellow-few services, Red-little/none)

	Seniors	Young Families	Spanish-Speaking	Veterans	Disabled	Youth/Teens	Children	Single Adults
Mental Health	Y	Y	R	R	Y	Y	Y	G
Transportation	R	Y	Y	G	Y	Y	Y	G
Utilities	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y
Reproductive Health	Y	R	Y	Y	Y	Y/R	Y	Y
*Drugs/Alcohol	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Healthcare	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
End-of-Life	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
*Case Mgmt.	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
DVSA's	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	R	R	Y
Emergency Social Services	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
*Outreach	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

- Top Identified Needs
  - Drugs/Alcohol
    - Solution: Form Task Force to be developed
  - Case Management
    - Solution: Form Task Force to be developed
  - Outreach (awareness of services is a huge need & overarches all other needs as well)
    - Solution: Form Task Force
    - Solution: Resource guide of available services (online; hard copies widely distributed as well)
- Solutions to Other Identified Needs
  - Expense of Utilities
    - Letters (personal and from agencies) to OPALCO voicing concerns
    - Form task force to write letter about overarching needs (agency specific)
- Misc. Outcomes
  - Collaboration
    - Organize meeting comprised of everyone who provides financial assistance
    - Fund a paid position for networking agencies
  - Resurrect Friends & Neighbors Program (for all ages)

\*Note: Group ran out of time to come up with more specific solutions/projects for top 3 identified needs. SJICF may do electronic survey with group to acquire more information.



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Education-Early Childhood Development Workgroup**

April 23, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting) Brickworks

#### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Margaret Barker, St. David's Day School
  - Debbi Fincher, Parent
  - Sue Kareken, SJISD
  - Joyce Sobel, NW Early Learning
  - Vincent Shu, WINS
  - Charlie Anderson, SJICF Board
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Maude Cumming, SJICF Board
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Ma. Carmen Orozco, CHMS-Montessori
  - Dave Dunaway, SJC Health & Community Services
  - Cynthia Stark-Wickman, SJI Prevention Coalition
  - Becky Bell, SJISD, Workgroup Chair
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Identified Needs:
  - Home visits & welcome baskets (for all new moms/babies)-Health Dept & Family Resource Center
    - Barrier: babies not born at Island Hospital
    - Identification of who needs services
    - PR of available resources
    - Spanish-speaking info
    - Long-term home visiting program
    - More services for ALL new moms (not just WIC qualified)
  - Early Head Start (free toddler classes)
  - Resource guide-programs currently in place (print & online)
  - Outreach to Hispanic community hindered by fears of immigration, paperwork. How to remove stigma to add trust
  - Holistic health & wellness programs for all ages
    - Prenatal & beyond
    - Home visits
    - Support with various conditions (anxiety, ADHD)
    - Childhood behavioral health
      - Mind-Up Program (prevention)-before kids need services, tools for parents

- Yoga Calm in schools
- Immunizations
- Access to pediatric dental services
- Access to pediatricians
- Childbirth classes
- Awareness of dietary health (pregnancy & beyond)
- Cooking/families eating together-the benefits of structure and conversation at the table.
- Relationships/advocates for health (ex: classes at Family Resource Center-invite new people)
- Family Resources have core families that could invite others or help reach out to broader community
- Multi-generational support
- Infant care/expense
  - Need programs aligned with working parents
- Very little day care on SJI
- Waldorf Schools
- Surrogate grandparent program
- Foster grandparents
- Compassion & empathy in schools
- Seeds of Empathy Program taught at all preschools-currently taught at Head Start
- Childhood education programs/instruction-Healthy Generations (NEAR)-policy support
- Parenting classes (SVC partnership?)
- Transportation for Kindergarteners & others
- All day Kindergarten
- Weekend backpack food program (need in summer too)
- Early-out program (early release days, no lunch is served, 25 days/year)
- Farm fresh/local foods (pilot program to start next year)
- Preschool for all
- More preschool scholarships
- Pre-K subs
- Pre-K - Grade 3 curriculum alignment
- Health kits for schools (ex: lice shampoo, deodorant) no longer supplied, but still needed
- Awareness of schools needing donations for (or of) health kit supplies
- Future collaboration of preschool staff (possible outside meetings)
- Spanish-speaking preschool
- Multilingual classes, faculty interest but restricted Title 3 funding
- Volunteer opportunities in community (volunteer task force)
- Umbrella Group-fundraising for preschools
- Need stable funding for ready to learn
- Misc. Notes
  - Triangle of Health taught in SJI health classes (social/emotional health, mental health, & physical health)
  - Circle of Courage (belonging, mastery, independence, generosity)
  - Need for SJICF:
    - List of active existing programs (3 word descriptions)
    - List of programs that don't exist here
- Next Steps
  - 2nd Meeting: May 7, 9:30-11:30am, Brickworks
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: May 21, 9:30-11:30am, Brickworks



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Education-Early Childhood Development Workgroup**

May 7, 2015 (2nd Meeting) Brickworks

#### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Ellen Wilcox, SJC Health & Community Services
  - Sue Kareken, SJISD
  - Joyce Sobel, NW Early Learning
  - Vincent Shu, WINS
  - Charlie Anderson, SJICF Board
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Becky Bell, Workgroup Chair
  - Victoria Compton, EDC
  - Lauren Levinson, SJICF Board
  - Janice Otto, Montessori School
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Reviewed notes from 1<sup>st</sup> meeting
- Becky Bell presented identified needs from K-6 staff
  - Access to pediatric dental services
  - Oral hygiene lessons & free tooth care kits
  - Health hygiene kits
  - Transportation for Kindergarten
  - Transportation for after school activities
  - Field trip funding
  - Preschool information night
  - Love & Logic Training (parents & kids)
  - Free tutoring
  - Support groups in all areas
  - After school girls/boys club (enhance STAR Program)
  - Enrichment classroom/space for science & arts
  - Christmas angel tree (identify more kids)
  - Support for various learning conditions (include dyslexia)
  - Growth Mind/Mindology (in addition to yoga)
  - Additional professional development funding
- Additional Identified Needs
  - Math curriculum improvement

- Girls' self-esteem program (Victoria-interest)
- Support outside Island Rec for STAR Program
- More aggressive post-partum support (not just for low-income families) (Victoria-interest)
- Pre K-3 curriculum alignment
  - Literacy/logical thinking
  - More collaboration between preschools
  - More coordination with public school
  - Early Achievers alignment program
- Pool of subs across all grade levels, including preschool (for teacher enrichment/trainings)
  - Lack of qualified people & funding
  - Will need community awareness
- More preschool-aged childcare during summers & evenings
  - Family, Friends, & Neighbors: Sate program for in-home childcare
- Gifted programs in schools
  - Currently working on an accelerated reading program
  - Victoria, Ellen, & Charlie showed interest
- Preschool/childcare center safety assessment & staff training
  - Loss of funding for public health nurse outreach from Dept. of Early Learning
  - Early Achievers Program does cover, but only volunteer program
  - Solution: Restart Friends & Neighbors Program (across all ages)
- Categorized Identified Needs
  - Early Childhood Development/Behavior (Proactive)
    - Home Environment (home visits, home health, family & community dinners)
    - Childhood Programs (Mind-Up, Yoga Calm, HCAP)
    - Parent Programs (parenting classes, support groups, teaching parents how to teach kids)
  - Prenatal-Age 5
    - Prenatal
    - Birth- 2
    - 3-5
  - Collaboration/Alignment/Diversity
    - Funding for subs (for teachers to meet during the day)
    - Public-private-homeschool
    - Alignment that can fit into the diverse schools (David Matteson)
    - Observations and/or videos of daily life of the children to share
    - Grow respect of what we are all doing in diverse ways
    - Learn & share what we know works for each child
  - Family (Prenatal & beyond)
    - Concrete Support (food, shelter, clothing, childcare, medical, transportation)
    - Mental/Behavioral Health Services (PPD, drug/alcohol, family counseling, domestic violence)
      - Bilingual services
    - Experiential/Lifestyle Activities (playgroups, family networking, enrichment activities)
    - Access to Info/Services (In-person, print, online/social media)
    - Parent Education (parent-generated, accessible, developmentally-based)
    - Adverse Childhood Experience (ACES) (Integrate into all of the above)
  - Health

- Immunizations
- Access to pediatric dental services
- Access to pediatricians
- Nutrition & Dietary Health (weekend backpack program, cooking/families eating together)
- Holistic Health & Wellness Programs (prenatal & beyond, support for various conditions, childhood behavioral health, post-partum)
- Health Education (Childbirth education, nutrition/dietary, parenting classes, caregiver classes, triangle of health/circle of courage)
- Health kits
- Home Visit & Preschool/Childcare Visit Programs (newborn outreach, nursing visits)
- Substance Use & Behavioral Health
- Support Systems/Groups
  - Support Group (Parents of children with disability & a specialist to oversee/facilitate)
  - System (one location to receive community info & staff to support/give info for all)
  - Group (parent group for single parents & a specialist to oversee/facilitate, including babysitting/dinner)
  - County Wide Collaboration
  - Need: a distributable book of island services updated annually
- Professional Development/Recruitment
  - Further defined at next meeting
- Community Awareness/information
  - Further defined at next meeting
- Misc. Notes
  - All programs need to reach out to Hispanic Community
- Next Steps
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: May 21, 9:30-11:30am, Brickworks
  - Address need to identify barriers to access-other barriers leadership and outreach
  - Present report from this workgroup to new superintendent
- Emailed Input from Janice Otto
  - Preschool-3 Literacy Alignment Program: [www.foundationsinliteracy.org](http://www.foundationsinliteracy.org)



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### Education-Early Childhood Development Workgroup

May 21, 2015 (3rd Meeting) Brickworks

#### Notes

- Attendees:
  - Margaret Barker, St. David's Day School
  - Ellen Wilcox, SJC Health & Community Services
  - Debbi Fincher, Parent
  - Sue Kareken, SJISD
  - Vincent Shu, WINS
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Jennifer Armstrong, SJI Family Resource Center
  - Cynthia Stark-Wickman, SJI Prevention Coalition
  - Becky Bell, Workgroup Chair
  - Victoria Compton, EDC
  - Janice Otto, Montessori School
  - Melina Lagios, SJI Library
- Brief introductions
- Prioritized Needs (Each person choose 5 top needs)
  - Gifted/Math Programs III
  - Girls' Self-Esteem Programs I
  - Immunization outreach & education IIII
  - Improved 0-3 childcare (includes summer & evenings) IIIII
  - Health & dental in schools I
  - Collaboration (preschool-grade 3)/Diversity IIIII
  - Love & Logic Programs III
  - Free tutoring (K-6) II
  - Enhance Star Program II
  - Aligned curriculum (preschool) (communication, social skills, etc.) II
  - Community Awareness/Resources/Outreach IIIIIIIII
    - One location-community info & support for all
    - Case management support
    - Parenting programs
    - Enhanced parenting outreach/networking
    - ACES (overarching/integrate into all programs)
  - Behavior-Home Visits/Support IIII
  - Foster grandparent program I

- Holistic Wellness Programs II
- Substance abuse/mental health wellness I
- Top Areas (each person placed 3 colored dots to rate 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> choice) #1=red, #2=green, #3=blue
  - Collaboration (preschool-grade 3)/Diversity (2 red, 2 green, 2 blue)
  - Immunization Outreach/Education (0 red, 0 green, 0 blue)
  - Behavior-Home Visits/Support (1 red, 3 green, 1 blue)
  - Community Awareness/Resources/Outreach (6 red, 1 green, 3 blue)
  - Improved 0-3 childcare (0 red, 1 green, 3 blue)
  - Love & Logic Programs (0 red, 1 green, 1 blue)
  - Foster Grandparent Program (1 red, 2 green, 0 blue)
  - Holistic Wellness Programs (2 red, 1 green, 1 blue)
- Top 4 Areas
  - Community Awareness/Resources/Outreach
    - Location (physical or virtual)
    - Directory of community resources in one location (related specifically to early childhood)
    - Staffed with paid position ("Resource Specialist/Coordinator")
    - Who will own this project?
    - Comes down to funding
    - Coordination among community agencies (specific to early childhood)
    - \*Email Michel with further input
  - Collaboration (preschool-grade 3)/Diversity
    - Facilitator to pull targeted people/groups together "Early Childhood Services Coordinator"
    - Target groups: preschool/daycare providers & K-grade 3
    - Funding TBD
  - Behavior-Home Visits/Support
    - Possibly county funding for Home Visiting Program for at-risk families (Birth-Age 5)
    - Extend this to all families, not just those at-risk with matching SJICF grant?
  - Holistic Wellness Programs
    - Education of healthy choices
    - Could also go under Community Awareness area
    - SJI Prevention Coalition willing to help "co-own" this
- Next Steps
  - Email Michel with more input to be added to report
    - Group was rushed and ran out of time to further define specifics of the top 4 areas



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Our Environment Workgroup**

April 27, 2015 (1st Meeting) Brickworks

#### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Tina Whitman, FRIENDS of the San Juans
  - Lovel Pratt
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Steve Ulvi
  - Curt VanHying, United Way
  - Stephanie Buffum, FRIENDS of the San Juans
  - Jennifer Thomas, Workgroup Chair
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Charlie Anderson, SJICF Board
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Tim Clark, Land Bank
  - Noreene M. Ignelzi, SJ Nature Institute
  - Julie Duke, Wolf Hollow
  - Fiona Norris, SJ Nature Institute
  - David Halpern, WA State Parks
  - Susan Mazarella, Community
  - Linda Lyshall, SJ Islands Conservation District
- Jennifer Thomas, Workgroup Chair, defined environment
- Attendees introduced themselves & described their organization.
- Identified Needs (Broad Categories)
  - Education
  - Climate Change and its local affects
  - Habitat/Protection
  - Transportation
  - Waste Management
  - Threats/Pressures
  - Transportation/Energy
  - Information
- Additional Identified Needs
  - Matrix of current programs in this area
  - Bulleted list of past successful programs
  - Funding for education programs

- Funding for programs in the schools
- Funding to pay staff to present info/program/curriculum in schools
- Angel donors to fund a current successful program for 3 years
- Transportation for education with students (example: Island Rec only has 1 bus)
- Transportation for nonprofit programs-coordination needed among groups
- Marketing efforts to distribute current program/information to target audience (example: bookmark for new island residents building house-“Consider this when building a house on San Juan Island”)
- Great networking within environmental organizations through Stewardship Network.
- Welcome packs- distributed when funds were available. Realtors used to carry information to community and new residents
- Define access points to get information out about the island environment
- Targeted community outreach to increase environmental awareness & education
- Sustainable messaging
- Create a report: the economic value of our environment. Tourism dollars, visits to see our environment-at what cost. Threats, tradeoffs, cost benefits?
- Request for ecosystem services evaluation/report (targeted focus to quantify the value of the ecosystem services that are currently provided)
- Plans and assessments completed. Outreach to SJICF and community (LIO/Near Term Action Agenda (This would include the WRIA 2 Salmon Recovery Plan, the 3 Year Work Plan, and the NTA); MRC convened watershed groups and developed a Stewardship Plan for the Islands, also that FOSJI have done work/research on Shorelines
- Adult education programs (example: parents on field trips)
- Pass on education (park rangers interested in developing more education opportunities with volunteers & students-how to build a compostable toilet in the parks)
- More coordination and/or centralized coordination of volunteer opportunities
- Tap into senior community for volunteers (bring to Community Service Workgroup) San Juan Sr. Services has 2 volunteer coordinators who actively recruit and encourage networking of their 100 volunteers.
- Long-term volunteer coordinator for island (all successful programs require leadership)
  - Need to recruit volunteers in their area(s) of interest
  - Need list of volunteers on island organized by interest area
  - Public Health Dept. has volunteer coordinator(s) 1 on Orcas 1 on SJI Public Health overlaps for volunteers and actively involved in LOI.
- Analyze the County Health Program (Human Services) to identify & recognize the programs that they have, and identify areas of possible overlap with other entities
- Water issues-carrying capacity; what work has been done to quantify the freshwater resources and carrying capacity of the island?
- Education
  - Oil spill education
  - Catastrophic oil spill education (example: oil spill from vessels passing through straits)
  - Education of threats (identify threats & how we can address them)
  - Treatment of shorelines
  - Benefit oriented education program
  - Create new way to education community, besides a report
  - Informal education (example: education on ferries; TV screens have been used effectively in the past – threats/benefits)
  - Social marketing plan

- Misc. Notes
  - Existing Plans:
    - Parks Plan
    - Scenic Byways
    - Marine Stewardship Area Plan
    - LIO/Near Term Action Agenda (this would include the WRIA 2 Salmon Recovery Plan, the 3 Year Work Plan, & the NTA)
  - Tina described the recent public outreach on future conservation by the Marine Resource Committee
  - Tourist-based economy presents problems for environment (example: water use)
  - Solutions
    - List of volunteer opportunities
    - Plastic bag policy
  - Outcome for SJICF
    - Very broad
    - Solutions that can be implemented in realistic amount of time
    - Menu of choices for donors
  - Information to be sent to SJICF from Stewardship Network (who's doing what)
  - May 6-Lead Integrating Organization (LIO)Workshop: local & regional threats (11am-4pm at Grange)
  - <http://www.sanjuanlio.com/martabsanjuanico.com/>
  - <http://stewardshipsanjuans.org/>
- 2nd Meeting: May 6, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks
- 3rd Meeting: May 22, 2015 from 9-11am at Brickworks



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Our Environment Workgroup**

May 6, 2015 (2nd Meeting) Brickworks

### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Lovel Pratt
  - Steve Ulvi
  - Curt VanHying, United Way
  - Stephanie Buffum, FRIENDS of the San Juans
  - Jennifer Thomas, Workgroup Chair
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Lincoln Bormann, Land Bank
  - Julie Duke, Wolf Hollow
  - Fiona Norris, SJ Nature Institute
  - Linda Lyshall, SJ Islands Conservation District
  - Jenny Atkinson, Whale Museum
  - Gretchen Allison, Islands Climate Resilience
  - Peg Gerlock, SJICF & PIMC Board
- Jennifer Thomas, Workgroup Chair, briefly asked about the Beach Watchers program and why it was cut. Discussion to focus on actionable items.
- Attendees introduced themselves & their organization
- Categories that emerged:
  - Education
  - Climate Change and its local affects
  - Transportation – Clean Energy
  - Water Supply
  - Invasive Species
  - Information
- Education: a public and community campaign. Buttons, bags with bullets points or message to replace plastic bags. Revisit ordinance. SJPT has a multi-layered puzzle; as pieces are removed the landscape changes, for example where invasive plants would take over. Additional suggestion of a puzzle that would show the effects of climate change.
  - Who creates the bullet points, the message and who owns the program?
  - Realtors will begin handing out a folder with sustainable message and cards from participating organizations. Reusing folder. There was a sum of \$45,000 that was provided by state for ‘welcome baskets’ to educate new residents/visitors. Funds are non-existent (more info needed on this).
  - Education funding has disappeared.
  - Who is the message targeted to: homeowners, gardeners, farmers, landscapers.

- How to reach property owners who will alter the land to fit their perceptions- private property owners can be difficult to reach. It can take 6 months to 3 years to make a connection with the property owners who hire out a lot of the work, sometimes to off-island contractors.
- How to reach them and provide the vision of a natural landscape.
- Island Ambassador Program. Individuals at ferry lands, on ferry. Talking points and an agenda. Recruit high school students (dollars for scholars, community service). This program previously existed. It is no longer active. Why? (Have Curt provide detail?)
- Suggested method to collaborate with yellow pages and make the cover a message of stewardship.
- School Foundation directory-cover with message of stewardship.
- Companion piece: How to reach other groups.
- Electricity
  - Reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. Electric vehicles: part of the rental car market, shuttle service. Add charging stations. Two currently on SJI. Add solar to charge the stations.
  - Possible options with Scenic Byways or County for programs they are currently discussing or working on. Current information follow up by Stephanie.
  - Placing stewardship message on "Round Towner"
  - Electric golf carts
  - Go car free with PPC People Powered Cars Impellos
  - Sustainable message to visitors about community transition to electric cars.
  - Leveraging with other organizations such as Senior Center for use of vans during off season.
- Noxious Weeds
  - Current programs to remove noxious weeds. 2 County employees who work with the State Weed Board.
  - A strategic plan, enforcement of rules with fines.
    - The County does fund staff. This is a state requirement but not a high priority or not well-funded. They don't typically issue fines. There are both state and local government rules.
  - Facilitate removal – sponsor events like 'Great Island Weed out'?
  - Youth Conservation Corps (paid, not volunteer) – this group does do a lot of noxious weed removal throughout the islands as well as on public lands.
  - Why finance a property owner who has been remiss in taking care of the land by not removing noxious weeds.
  - 1 year program to educate then enforce rules.
  - Campaign while Scotch broom is in bloom.
  - Suggested unsustainable program, resources better aimed at less aggressive weeds. Target message to nursery, what can be or should be sold.
  - Public lands at a disadvantage with size and lack of volunteers willing to work with weeds. Weed wrenches could be better publicized and utilized.
  - Untapped resources: create weed warrior-work with schools.
  - Group adopted spaces
  - Hospital could set a great example by removing over grown Scotch broom across the entire 20 acres and along the roadway
  - Contact Weed Board for input.
  - Losing battle when neighbors are not participating. Accept it. Exacerbated by climate change.
- Climate Change
  - Years of Living Dangerously-raising awareness and generating support for "Islands Climate Resiliency" (group in beginning stages, no funding, working on capacity to hire project manager, grant proposal submitted but

declined. Group is working collaboratively with other groups on Lopez and Orcas. Looking to fund a Climate Action Plan as a first step to organized response to how we prepare for the effects of climate change.

- This issue has multiple avenues for action:
  1. Grass roots – this is what is occurring now. There is a consortium of NGOs that are working together to raise awareness about climate change. They are very loosely organized, but sponsored a get together every Thursday during the month of April to watch The Years Of Living Dangerously, a nine part series on climate change and its global effects. The group, which calls itself Islands Climate Resilience, was sponsored by The Grange, the Conservation District, FOSJI, The Land Bank(?) – Probably others JT TO DO. The group was formed after last summer’s speaker series – many speakers addressed climate change. The idea is to create a local plan to document baseline conditions and identify actions that, if implemented, will help to create a community that is resilient to climate change, by preparing in advance. The group has worked with Nora Ferm, of Cascadia Consulting, a Seattle-based consulting firm. Nora (who has ties to SJI), has been approached as a potential project manager for the Climate Action Plan. She has worked on climate action plans internationally, and has been helping the group hone its message. There is interest in pursuing this further, but no funding identified at this time. Climate change is an over-arching issue which will affect many of the other issues discussed, such as water supply, clean energy, habitats and species. Grass roots organization and funding is one way to raise the profile of this issue. Developing a Climate Action Plan for San Juan Island is an actionable item for the Community Foundation, and could be a great platform to bring in additional funding to ensure that the Action Plan goes beyond SJI (but it’s a good place to start and creates a template for additional work).
  2. Legislative/Policy – the issue could be raised to the County Council as a high priority action. This could occur in the context of Comprehensive Plan updates scheduled to occur in 2016. These updates are mandated by the State’s Growth Management Act. The Comprehensive Plan includes goals, one of which might be to address climate change locally by implementing a Climate Action Plan. The Comprehensive Plan should include effects of climate change on public infrastructure (e.g. roads, utilities that may be affected by sea level rise). Water Resources should be addressed with a view to effects of climate change. Same for habitats and species.
  3. Education - Climate change could be included as a specific topic in some of the outreach materials – the buttons, the puzzle mentioned by Fiona at the outset (owned by Kathleen Foley, a product of SJPT? Not clear on this).

- Water

- Carrying capacity and county or island usage questions.
- Water, like transportation, is a big-overarching issue with lots of cross-over to other issues.
- Need to raise awareness that water supply, and water conservation, are critical on an island and within island communities.
- It was mentioned that the Town’s water pipeline from Trout Lake has a 50% leakage
- The public schools buildings could be retrofitted by replacing toilets and showers with low-flow fixtures – this would be huge – and is an actionable item which would raise awareness of the issue.
- How to incentivize water conservation? Work with local utilities to provide tax incentive? Difficult to reach private well users.
- Could approach County council as a legislative priority.
- Solutions: Desalination. It was noted that previous councils decided that desalination is an option. Because it is considered a viable option, it discouraged a closer analysis of freshwater resources available to island residents. Participants wondered whether the energy usage of desalination plants was considered.
- Catchment systems

- Protect watershed, fix leaks in Trout lake pipeline-another issue to be raised to the public policy level
- No tax credits for water catchment as seen in other areas like energy with incentives.
- What is the action plan for water? Public education, legislation and pushing it to the political climate.
- General ending comments:
  - A missing step, get political, take issues to the council. Suggested Foundation spend 4-8 weeks informing the council of the findings.
  - Enhance the programs that are already in place or the agencies that are addressing issues, provide greater support not just financially. Funding and leverage.
  - Environment organizations are most woven together. Stewardship network has existed locally since 1994.
  - School lacked funding to put in low flow shower heads and toilets. Incorporate water use efficiency along with installation of solar.
  - Hire contractors to perform county wide studies relative to water use, carrying capacity, well density and usage. Some possible state funding. Fold in past use, projected use and climate change. Other models for such a study?
  - Drones: Human privacy issues. Suggestion to outlaw it just as jet skis were outlawed. County Council. Who owns the project, what is the scope, timeline and campaign.
- There was some discussion of what the Community Foundation final report would look like. With respect to the environment, it was suggested that the Community Foundation organize their report to reflect:
  - Current organizations
  - Current plans
  - Priorities
  - Needs
- Emailed Input:
  - Website for pedal/electric cars (from Jenny Atkinson): <http://rhoadescar.com/cycle-car.html>
  - Update on drone issue (from Jenny Atkinson): <http://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/drone-rules-land-soon-faa-unveiling-two-initiatives-wednesday-n354616>
  - Steve Ulvi:
    -
- Next Meeting: May 22, 2015 from 9-11 am at Brickworks
  - Distill highest priorities and most actionable items
  - Gather and inspect the guiding documents that are guiding the environmental organizations



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Our Environment Workgroup**

May 22, 2015 (3rd Meeting) Brickworks

### **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Shona Aitken, Wolf Hollow
  - Jenny Atkinson, Whale Museum
  - Tina Whitman, FRIENDS of the San Juans
  - Steve Ulvi
  - Jennifer Thomas, Workgroup Chair
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Noreene M. Ignelzi, SJNI
  - Julie Duke, Wolf Hollow
  - Fiona Norris, SJ Nature Institute
  - David Halpern, WA State Parks
  - Linda Lyshall, SJ Islands Conservation District
  - Lincoln Bormann, Land Bank
  - Judy Jackson, SJC Noxious Weed Program
  - Jason Ontjes, SJC Noxious Weed Program
  - Sandy Ugrin, SJI Shuttle System
  - Barbara Von Gehr, SJICF Board
- Introductions
- Jennifer Thomas gave a recap of the previous meetings & reviewed the goal of today's meeting
- Solutions & Projects to Previously Identified Categories of Need
  - Education (Communication/Outreach)
    - Public outreach with consistent messaging
      - Box holder mailing via email
      - Ferries as informal learning
        - TVs
        - Island Ambassadors (need proposal to restart this program)
    - Website of all current resources
    - K-12 Programs in summer
      - Collaborate with SJI Conservation Corps, Camp Eagle Rock/Island Rec
      - Core message each month as focus (concentrate on kid buy-in)
    - Replace Russell Foundation funding for school education
  - Climate Change

- Climate Action Plan (needs funding)
- Public outreach campaign
  - Educate people why there's no water to wash hands at park restrooms (would reach locals & tourists)
- Educate government using water as vehicle to get people's attention
- Incentives for public building upgrades and water usage
- Stewardship Network owning collaborative education outreach effort
- Transportation
  - SJI Shuttle System
    - In town only
    - Frees up taxis for entire island trips
    - Promotes leaving your car on the mainland
    - Electric car needed
- Water Conservation
  - Upgrade public facilities with low usage toilets/showers
  - Trout Lake pipeline upgrade-to fix 50% leakage (in process)
  - Incentives for catchment systems
  - Ag interests
- Invasive Species
  - Noxious Weeds Discussion
    - Weeds coming in we don't see (green on green)
    - Many new weeds added to list
    - Some plants planted 25 years ago, and just now taking off
    - Gardeners planting plants animals don't eat
    - People bringing new plants to island & are unaware of outcomes
    - Scotch broom is a major problem here
    - More plants on list to control than any other county
    - Need more staff at public works
    - SJC Noxious Weed Program doesn't control private land, unless invited; will help with plan to control weeds
    - Goal is to reduce large infestations
    - List of noxious weeds is sent out to public with property tax bill
    - Fiona Norris to attend Spring Street International School Board Meeting to ask them to adopt PIMC property as "Weed Warriors"
  - Noxious Weeds Solutions
    - Specify "Weed of the Month" & organize groups around that specific weed
      - Signage to promote noxious weed program
      - Raise awareness of issue
    - Training on removal
      - Simple guide of how to eradicate
    - Education
      - "Adopt a weed"
    - Coordinate a joint effort among Labs K-12 Program, Schools, Conservation District, SJ Nature Institute, etc.
- Next Steps

- Carrie & Michel to send out contact information for all attendees (with permission only)
- June 18 Community Needs Task Force Wrap Party (4-6pm) at SJ Community Theatre
- May 30 Energy Fair (10am-3pm) at Mullis Center



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Community Service Workgroup** **May 8, 2015 (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting) Brickworks** **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Curt VanHying, United Way
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Charlie Anderson, SJICF Board
  - Pamela Gross, SJICF Board
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
- Identified Needs:
  - Lateral interactions
  - Community resource directory
  - Quarterly luncheons for each workgroup hosted by SJICF
  - SJI Family Resource Center broadening its space/focus/employees
  - Website where volunteers can go to find opportunities
    - Online
    - Seed \$ & organization from SJICF?
    - Can the Library own and oversee so that the resource is kept current
  - Bring back Friends & Neighbors Program (across all ages)
    - Will need strong leadership (point person, paid position)
  - Solution Center for community
    - Locations: SJI Family Resource Center, SJICF, Library?
  - Coordination among church volunteers (all churches)
  - Ongoing social services meetings
    - What's currently going on
    - What do you need help with
  - Volunteer coordinator on loan or "roving" among organizations in need
  - Communication and messaging of volunteer resources
  - Coordination of volunteer services
  - Coordination of community groups/service organizations
  - What does a successful volunteer recruitment and appreciation plan or campaign look like?
  - Meeting to share what works among successful organizations and those seeking to build capacity
- Misc. Discussion
  - Lutheran Church would be supportive of a program such as Friends & Neighbors
  - Find out what's made the Environment group so successful (hint: paid coordinator)
  - Strong leadership makes groups work but need to keep an eye on sustainability

- Curt discussed his work with helping seniors with insurance (who succeeds Volunteer Curt)
- Lutheran & Episcopal Church partner with projects
  - Small volunteer opportunities
  - Generally contribute to hunger need when choosing agency to contribute to
  - Love to gather and eat together
  - Annual event occurs once a year; always looking for what to do
- Largest groups of volunteers: Library, Animal Shelter, Community Theatre, Whale Museum, Senior Center, Yacht Club, Wolf Hollow
- Volunteer coordination can be difficult
  - Interests vary
- Definition of community has changed-not as physical anymore due to technology & social media
- Traditions are changing
- SJI Stakeholders vary
  - Part-time residents
  - Year-round residents
  - Visitors
- Leadership will improve if residents can live here more comfortably
- Possible objective for this workgroup: solution group for other workgroups
- Next Steps
  - 2nd Meeting: May 18, 9-11am, Brickworks
    - Invite others to attend
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: May 29, 9-11am, Brickworks



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Community Service Workgroup** **May 18, 2015 (2nd Meeting) Brickworks** **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Sharon Hooper, WA Vocational Services
  - Curt VanHying, United Way
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Margaret Langlie
  - Tanja Williamson, Land Bank
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Lori Stokes, Workgroup Chair
- Attendees introduced themselves & explained why they were present
- Additional Needs Identified:
  - The mega-need in this area is COMMUNICATION (dissemination of information and connecting people)
  - Database of nonprofits & volunteer opportunities (contact info & brief description of what they do)
    - Connect people who want to volunteer with available opportunities
    - Each organization to keep up-to-date
    - Physical place to go to get info too (SJICF?)
    - Recurring column in online/print newspapers
  - Volunteer coordinator for island
    - Directs people to areas of interest/available opportunities
    - Maintains website/database & hard copies
    - Recruitment/available Board positions
    - Education of Board members (trainings)
    - Volunteer appreciation/recognition (know your volunteers)
  - Point person 1/week or 1/month at library or SJICF who would have current volunteer opportunity info
  - Outreach/Education to community-volunteer opportunities & value of giving back
    - Core group of people help to get word out (preprinted cards to hand out)
    - How do we motivate people to get involved in their community?
  - Annual volunteer fair
  - Mentoring-Volunteers, organizations boards
  - Lunch meeting with leads to improve communication among organizations (aimed at role)
  - "Welcome Wagon" (for new island residents)
  - Skill Bank (those who are willing to share their expertise)
  - Knowledge bank (sharing their experience)
- Top identified need for Community Service Workgroup
  - Database of available volunteer opportunities (kept up-to-date)

- Next Steps: 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: May 29, 9-11am, Brickworks



## Community Needs Task Force 2015

### **Community Service Workgroup** May 29, 2015 (3rd Meeting) Brickworks **Notes**

- Attendees:
  - Beth Purdum, Lutheran Church of the San Juans
  - Vincent Shu, WINS
  - Margaret Langlie
  - Tanja Williamson, Land Bank
  - Michel Vekved, Project Coordinator
  - Carrie Unpingco, SJICF
  - Lori Stokes, Workgroup Chair
  - John Littlewood, SJICF Board
  - Barbara Von Gehr, SJICF Board
  - Maude Cumming, SJICF Board & SJISD
- Introductions
- Categorized Identified Needs (group decided to combine first two bullets)
  - Database of Nonprofits
    - Contact information plus brief description of what they do, links to organization website
  - Online Database of Current Volunteer Opportunities, including open board positions
    - Tasks involved, skills/experience needed, expected time commitment
    - Ongoing volunteer needs
    - One time projects (can use calendar to display these)
  - Volunteer Coordinator for the Community
    - Helping to match up people with volunteer opportunities (to supplement on-line searches and organizational websites), maintain databases, coordinate special activities such as a volunteer fair, newspaper articles; available at the library or SJICF office on regular basis
  - Outreach/Education
    - For board members, nonprofit staff, and potential volunteers
  - Meetings of People with Similar Roles (e.g., directors)
    - To share what their organizations are doing, what challenges they are facing, how they could work together to eliminate overlap and to better serve the community
  - Create & Publicize Skills/Experience Bank
    - Those who are willing to share their expertise
  - Provide Training for Nonprofits
    - How to effectively recruit, train, manage, recognize/reward volunteers
- Solutions to Categorized Identified Needs
  - Database of Nonprofits/Online Database of Current Volunteer Opportunities
    - Organize by category (environment, housing, etc.)
    - Coordinate with FHHS Seniors, possible senior project (Jenny Wilson contact at FHHS)
    - Coordinate with student clubs at FHHS

- Use San Juan Service Scholarship Website as a model for database
  - Web-based for nonprofits to access and update their own info (would need reminders) or annual email notice to provide information.
  - Promotion/Marketing of database to be done
  - Would need paid point person to coordinate
    - Possibly model after San Juan Stewardship Network Coordinator
      - Funding for coordinator rotates between organizations/yr
- Volunteer Coordinator for the San Juan Island Community
  - Paid point person to coordinate all identified volunteer needs
  - How to fund this position?
    - Crowdfunding?
    - Each organization pays a fee?
    - Small stipend to volunteers?
    - Matching project at Fair (SJICF Booth)-would have to make this attractive using personal stories from nonprofits
- Outreach/Education
  - Would help build volunteer capacity
- Collaboration of Volunteer Coordinators in SJI
  - “Nonprofit Stewardship Network”?
  - Lunch meeting once a month (Sharing projects and needs.)
  - Would provide personal touch and sustainability
- Create & Publicize Skills/Experience Bank
  - Nonprofits to work with volunteer coordinator to find volunteers
- Provide Training for Nonprofits
- #1 Identified Need: Volunteer Coordinator for the Community
- All other needs would be addressed
- Would also address lack of communication issue that has come up in all workgroups
- SJICF to help coordinate this process (possible provide office space & computer)
- Develop Steering Committee: Margaret Langlie, Lori Stokes, Tanja Williamson, Carrie Unpingco, Michel Vekved
- Action Items:
  - SJICF/Carrie to do outreach to 4 service organizations and invite to join Steering Committee
  - SJICF Fair Booth: CNTF outcomes & possible matching program to fund volunteer coordinator
  - Future: Annual Volunteer Fair to kick-off campaign (would need to market/advertise well)