

Children & Families Community Vision Forum

Santa Barbara Public Library, Faulkner Gallery

Thursday, May 29, 2008, 6pm-8pm

Facilitator: Valerie Ellis

Notes

I. Introduction

II. Vision Exercise

- Imagine that it is several years in the future in our community. Imagine you have children. Your children have grown into adulthood. They have their own children – your grandchildren. The world that your children and grandchildren have inherited is a good world... a better world than the one you once knew.
 - What does it look like?
 - What is it that makes the children happy?
 - Why are the families thriving?
 - What are their personal qualities and characteristics?
 - What community characteristics contribute to their well-being?

- Responses – Future Qualities/Characteristics
 - Family time together
 - Safe & Secure
 - Quality Education with high achievement
 - Living where you work
 - Safe school environment
 - People can live successfully within community
 - Intergenerational activities
 - Affordable housing
 - Dental/Medical needs met
 - Safe
 - Needs met
 - Connection with others
 - Parents engaged in children's lives
 - Healthcare

- Affordable places and activities for all economic backgrounds
 - Transportation
 - Senior involvement
 - Art in schools
 - Everyone feels valued
 - Basic needs met
 - Creative
 - Opportunities to play and learn
 - Holistic healthcare
 - Living sustainably
 - More peace of mind
- Qualities/Characteristics (Ranked by number of votes in parentheses)
- Empowered (8)
 - Healthy (11)
 - Happy (2)
 - Hopeful (1)
 - Interconnected
 - Engaged/Interconnected (3)
 - Confident (1)
 - Creative (5)
 - Responsible (2)
 - Successful (4) (8)
 - Safe/secure (2)
 - Caring (1)
 - Loved/Valued (5)
 - Mindful of neighbors
 - Responsible
- Final agreed upon qualities/characteristics
1. Empowered
 2. Healthy
 3. Creative
 4. Safe/Secure

III. Next steps

- For each one of the qualities selected, what will our community focus on to create this quality for a better future?
- 1. Empowered**
- Excellent education with high achievement

- Knowledge about birth care
- Affordable and safe living environment
- Have options to choose from
- Parents engaged in children’s lives
- Adequate employment opportunities
- Affordable childcare
- Socially engaged
- Interconnected
- Community life & interaction
- Interconnection between different groups and ages
- Responsive, collaborative, community
- Willingness to work together across lines - government, business, education, individuals, non-profits
- More interaction
- Open lines of communication up & down – across borders & that is easy to access

2. Healthy

- Universal healthcare
- Access to nutritional food
- Clean air/water
- Physically active kids & families
- Safe/secure
- Decrease in chronic disease
- Engaged parents

3. Creative

- Wise use of resources – local (community gardens, etc)
- Music classes
- Multi-generational engagement
- Multi-ethnic engagement
- Access to the arts (art is not an “extra”)
- Arts are valued
- Parents/Kids come together to “create”

4. Secure/Safe

- Affordable/Safe Living Environment
- Healthy
- Schools/Environment for education
- Disaster preparedness
- Positive family relationships