

Health 2

Introduction

During the recent Reality Check Workshops, topical experts and members of the public worked together in small groups to examine a particular topic in-depth. During the two-hour workshops they worked with a trained facilitator to complete the following exercises:

- 1) Review of Ideas. Participants reviewed all of the ideas related to their topic that were collected during the community Idea Gathering Sessions.
- 2) Critical Questions. Participants engaged in a discussion of two Critical Questions, which had been identified by the *Vision for Staten Island* Steering Committee. The facilitator recorded the results of the discussion on flipchart paper, and then helped the group summarize major areas of agreement and disagreement.
- 3) Implementation Recommendations. At the end of the discussion period, each participant wrote down two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps to help Staten Island achieve its vision for their topic.

Two small groups addressed the topic of Health. The results from the second Health group are provided below. Note that responses have been recorded verbatim, and some errors may remain due to handwriting legibility. Responses are numbered for reference purposes only; this does not indicate any sense of priority.

Quick Brainstorm:

What are Staten Island's most significant community health issues? (e.g. smoking, obesity, etc.)

No answers were provided.

Critical Question 1:

What are the challenges and opportunities for addressing community health issues?

1. Inadequate healthcare funding from NYC - challenge
2. Opportunity – Can prevent high numbers of top 4 causes of death
3. Challenge – SI does not have the political clout to effect changes in healthcare delivery systems
4. Challenge – language barriers
5. Use of local media to inform SI citizens and get their support (SI Advance)
6. Lack of health literacy
7. Local contaminants and pollution that affect Islanders, need to alert residents in areas where found
8. Apathy on part of residents in demanding the services for SI, so government officials don't listen and respond
9. Teen mental health and substance abuse services are very inadequate on SI
10. Attracting and keeping primary care physicians on SI
11. Health Insurance, large numbers of uninsured and no funding to hospitals to pay for their mandated care
12. Opportunity – committed, community minded groups, hospitals, agencies, and individuals involved in health care
13. Transportation, getting people to services and services to people
14. Education on nutrition, alternative, and enhanced healthcare
15. Short-term opportunity – Mayor needs SI to win election, use our chance to get more money for SI
16. Not enough physical education in schools

Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. Funding needed (equitable – fair share)
2. Lack of access to healthcare (primary care, mental health, substance abuse, transportation, language barriers)
3. Apathy/political clout/education of population
4. Environmental issues – air quality, toxic wastes, water quality

Critical Question 2:

What are some short term actions that can be taken to improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare on Staten Island?

1. Resume funding for uninsured illegal immigrants
2. Smoking cessation program public outreach
3. Community based permanent primary healthcare centers (in all parts of SI, no wheels, no cinderblocks)
4. Phone campaign asking residents to make calls to Mayor's office and to local Councilmen for more healthcare on SI (close to election time).
5. More government funding for health screenings and services
6. Attract more primary care physicians
7. Use of peer counselors and health educators throughout community

Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:

1. Demand fair share of city's health care funding
2. Health education
3. Increased access to healthcare – free standing clinics, more primary care, addiction treatment services

Implementation Recommendations:

Consider the draft vision statement, the ideas gathered from the public, and your group's discussion of critical questions. Please recommend two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps that you would recommend to help Staten Island achieve its vision for your topic.

1. Leverage the size of SI's population to impact the upcoming Mayoral campaign by demanding SI's fair share of the healthcare dollars through a phone campaign
2. Advocate for fair share of funding
3. Have all SI patients call elected officials at point of access
4. Work together to develop and not duplicate services
5. I would list the community service organizations that provide care and the phone number
6. Attend PTA meetings and force school officials to promote good health and prevent problems in the future
7. Campaign and educate on the issues on SI

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