York County
**COMMUNITY
ACTION**
Corporation

NASSON
Health Care

YCCAC Strategic Planning Session
November 18, 2021
Breakout Group Notes – Transportation, Affordable Housing and Child Care

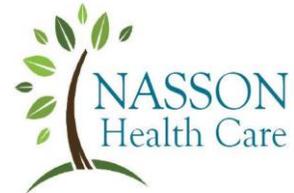**Transportation Discussion Breakout Group Notes**

Question 1

Conditions: Why do some individuals/households lack reliable and affordable transportation to essential destinations, such as medical appointments, work, school, or shopping?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Cost • Repairs • Gas • No license • Fear of driving • Cost to get license back • Choosing to stop driving (aging population) • Change in family dynamic • Change in jobs • Family instability • New to Maine/Country	• Costly to maintain a vehicle • Aging state – younger generation moving away • Disabling conditions • Cannot obtain a license (ex. OUI) • Have never driven • Unable to afford insurance (ex. Adding new teen driver) • Cost of fuel	• Safety issues picking up passengers on major routes • Rural setting- challenge to get to outreaches of county. • We have finite resources so focus on areas with higher need and ridership. • Affordably – people can't afford to buy or maintain their vehicles. • Criminal records – can't get a license. • Some people never to learn to drive. • Social anxiety using public transportation.

YCCAC Response:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Assist with Insurance, maintenance • Help with paperwork • Advertise – marketing – signage • Intimidating to ride a bus for the first time • Be proactive with outreach	• Increase volunteer driver network • Increase awareness with community leaders • Research Ride Sharing models/partnerships • Support for individuals to reinstate license	• Use more volunteers (e.g., list of volunteers by town). We had a robust system before. Way for people to give back too. • Family/friend volunteers model still used by Modivcare.

• We have a grant to install signs • In-person public event to learn about transportation • We are now documenting/tracking need so to target • Establish a program to help people buy a car	• Appreciation program for drivers to increase recruitment • Support van and car pools	• Auto mechanic assistance program. Sliding fee scale to make accessible. • Use funds to pay for auto maintenance, tires, car inspections, registrations (e.g., Hope Funds) • We will not be able to provide service to all areas in a rural county. Need to support car owners. • Provide same day transportation. • Bring things to people instead of providing transportation for them (e.g., food and prescriptions).

Question 2

Causes: Why are there insufficient safe, reliable and affordable transportation options in York county?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Staffing – not enough drivers • Lack of demand – long distance • Length of ride • Multiple drop offs and pick ups	• Dangerous roads • Bus schedules do not align with work schedules • Distances to work • Staffing shortages	• Incentive for the government to invest in rural transportation. • Maine has low per capita investment in transportation. • Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation is unreliable. • There used to be a more robust transportation infrastructure – taxi cabs and other providers. Need for service for people with limited mobility.

YCCAC Response:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• More volunteers • Retention $ • Create and offer groups to get CDL • We need to be nimble – think outside the box • More vehicles – electric • Safe place to sit and wait for bus	• Correct marketing materials • Create new partnerships with existing transports • Needs assessment of county specific to transportation • Provide non-emergency medical care transportation	• Make an investment in rural transportation. • Advocate for higher per capita investment. • Track data on Modivcare late/no shows. • Good time to invest in public transportation – efficient use of resources and environmentally friendly. • Promote robust transportation infrastructure – business development. • Connect retiring mechanics with people entering the field for mentoring and to give equipment.

Affordable Housing Discussion Breakout Group Notes

Question 1
Conditions: Why are some individuals/households unable to buy or rent safe and affordable housing?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Bad credit • Income • Lack of housing • Pets • Gentrification • Rising costs of labor & materials • "Not in my backyard" – low income • Family Instability – dynamics • No public transportation • Long commute • Background Checks • People with good jobs or ability to pay and are driving up the rates • Affordable housing development is not happening fast enough	• High monthly rents & home purchase prices • Not enough inventory in the area • Some landlords do not accept housing vouchers • Challenges for larger/multi-generational families • Just getting by – no savings	• Rents are not affordable county wide, and they have increased fast. • Same with home ownership. • Eviction record prevents people from renting. • Landlords doing more background checks. • People can't afford first and last month's deposit. • Landlords asking for lots of information, including credit scores. Many people have poor credit. Many people have trouble finding paperwork. • True for renting and buying. • Need money *up front* (first/last month security deposit, or down payment). People can't afford. • Need money *ongoing* (high rent or mortgage payment). People can't afford. • People on a fixed income can't keep up with their increasing rents. • Increasing taxes make homes unaffordable, particularly for elderly people. • Buying a home is complex and people don't know the process, even when would qualify.

		• People won't pursue home ownership because they are overwhelmed. • Banks lend more than people can afford.

YCCAC Response:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Make connections – outreach • More homeless shelters • Help to support workforce housing • We have a home buyer program that works	• Education for landlords on accepting vouchers • Encourage ME State Housing to reassess HUD regulations	• We need to develop more units. • We have developed housing in the past. • Ideas: experimental housing, smaller housing builds, alternative housing, buy condemned homes, develop mills. • Explore partnerships in housing development. • Develop in downtown areas to promote walkability. • Provide transportation to housing. • Work with people flipping houses to see if they will sell as affordable housing. • Work with sellers to sell to families. • Couple housing with services (e.g., for seniors, recovery, etc)

Question 2

Causes: Why is there insufficient safe, affordable housing in York County?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Hard to be a landlord • Towns zone to keep out children and low income "not my backyard" • Zone against people • People from other states buying up homes • Taxes increase with new, large homes being built around them • Value drops with low income	• Lack of interest from developers. It is not cost effective for developers and the regulations make it difficult. • Federal and/or State barriers • Seasonal nature of our housing stock	• Limited development occurring • Shortage of units – people moving from big cities, forcing property costs up. • Need more funding • Health is dependent on housing, and the market impacts people's ability to access safe, affordable housing. This creates a moral dilemma.

YCCAC Response:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• More education/advocacy. Focus on long term effects of not having community members in housing and highlight the contribution that everyone plays in community is important • Partner with towns to get more housing and explore other collaborations • Workforce housing • Mill housing	• Alternative/less restrictive payment options to develop housing (private funders or MaineCare or other) • Workforce housing • Work in partnership with municipalities and others to utilize old mills and address zoning	• Promote development of more units. • Address zoning issues. • Advocate for housing as it relates to the Social Determinants of Health.

Child Care Discussion Breakout Group Notes

Question 1

Conditions: Why are some York County residents, especially those with low incomes, unable to enroll their children in child care?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Not enough openings in particular for infants and toddlers • Not enough providers • Transportation • Hard to find qualified/licensed providers • High cost to run center • COVID nightmare for parents/guardians • Limitations on enrollment numbers set by state and/or by provider to ensure quality and health/safety	• Too expensive • Available hours don't match work schedules • Lack of options- none in the area or full • Closings due to COVID mean less child care options and unreliable with random closings • Lack of transportation • Children with special needs • Staffing • Limited slots/waiting lists • Families with more than one child have an even harder time	• Cost, particularly if have multiple children. • Not enough Childcare facilities. Many have had to close with Covid. • Lack of after school care for older children (e.g., 10-year olds). • Care is hard to find, expensive, can't pick and choose days, and hours don't match need. • People don't know what options are available. • Transportation is a barrier. • Not enough slots for children w/behavior issues. • Slots may be available but not high quality. • Parents don't know about the quality rating system. • Limits on how day care subsidies can be used (e.g., can't use with family member provider) • Limited options in rural areas. People locked in to poor care because no options exist.

YCCAC Response:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Open daycares at public schools • Engage school boards • Get funding for start-up provider costs for those who need it • Help with licensing process • Head Start changes lives	• Sliding scale fee operated daycare that is separate from HS and EHS • Increase infant/toddler care • Provide transportation • Look at Head Start hours of operation – Meeting the needs of working families? • Before/After care	• Child care is expensive – need to create more slots using an affordable, sustainable business model. • Try different models (e.g., Intergenerational Center) • Promote carpooling • Promote afterschool programs that promote a skill • Make parents aware of Maine's quality rating system (e.g., Carelink like resources)

Question 2

Causes: Why is there insufficient safe, high quality child care in York County?

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• Cultural shift – can't stop those who "want" versus need childcare – higher demand and this has an impact on supply • Lack of supply	• Licensing requirements for private daycares • Teacher burnout – leaving field • Less students entering field	• Quality child care is expensive. • People can't afford to be day care providers. • Providers have closed because of Covid.

YCCAC Response:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
• To make feasible – help moderate operational costs • Help from government with liability costs • Coaching – provide roadmap and pathway for potential providers	• Staff retentions – wages/qualifications- advocacy around licensing requirements and better pay • Partner with institutions to provide more early	• Work with businesses to provide day care on site and support cost. • Support quality at Family, Friend and Neighbor care by supporting formal education (CDAs) and

• Mentor program for potential providers	childhood care including businesses who could support child care and improve employee retention • Neighbors helping neighbors' program • Partner with other suffering childcare locations • On-site daycare to attract employees	training (e.g., caregiving, CPR, safety issues) • YCCAC provide CDA training. • Advocate for increased funding for salaries. • Advocate for increase funding for start-up and ongoing operations.