

HOME GARDEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

“A neighborhood association is a group of neighbors who get together, share ideas and work cooperatively to make their neighborhood a better place to live.”

– Lincoln, Nebraska, Urban Development Center

WHY?

- Our goal is to empower underserved communities by increasing awareness, involvement, education and motivation.
- To Increase and create relationships to strengthen the community.
- To create a balanced partnership between providers and consumers based on mutual trust and respect.
 - Therefore providing the community with choices regarding services and intervention options.

RESEARCH

- Community Engagement
 - Utilize one on one relationships that community members have already created
 - Recognize and respect the diversity of the community
- Neighborhood Associations
 - Important to know where leadership lies within the communities

OUTREACH

- Establish relationships and build their trust in me.
- This is their project their voice, we are only there as a resource for them.
- In order to become knowledgeable about the community and the community's perception of those initiating engagement activities we needed to conduct focus groups...

FOCUS GROUPS

- Small groups
- Two focus groups were conducted:
 - February 22nd
 - May 3rd

Examples Questions:

- What types of community events and/or services are currently present in your community?
- What types of events and/or services would you like to see present in your community?
- What are some community weaknesses?

“INTEREST MEETING”

- Held on May 31st
- A community meeting to see if the community as a whole was interested in forming a neighborhood association.
- What they wish to achieve?

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Should be formed of people who have a genuine interest in the improvement of the neighborhood.
- The goal this group is to guide the planning efforts of the neighborhood association.
 - Establishing boundaries
 - Message/vision/mission of group
 - General outreach plan
 - Date for the first general meeting
 - Acts as leadership before the group adopts a formal structure
 - Identifies resources within the community
 - Develops action strategies for issues that have been defined by the larger group - brainstorms alternative solutions to issues