

Responses to Summit Feedback Questions

(Complete Transcript - 28 Pages)

Question #1

What inspired you to accept this invitation to be here today?

Answers fell into the following categories--

General interest in the topic (25/102)

Inspired by people involved in the summit (4/102)

Interested from business perspective (5/102)

Interested in community discussion (networking, partnerships, learn what others are doing) (26/102)

Interested in new ways of enhancing literacy efforts (10/102)

Own work involves literacy (30/102)

To get assistance with own literacy program (2/102)

General Interest in Topic (25/102)

After gaining insight as to the literacy problem, even in Sarasota - a community seen as opulent, well-educated, etc. - I want to try to make an impact on this problem.

As a parent, I'm here for my own school-aged children; as a student, I'm here to learn.

Belief that knowing how to read is the link to a happier life through success in school, in the job, and for recreational reading enjoyment.

Column in the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* 3/6/06.

Concern for the growth of our youth, community, and future. Literacy in particular is a critical, core need.

Concern with large number of students that can't read.

I believe in volunteerism, and value being part of such an effort as applies to literacy.

I'm here for a personal interest in the search for solutions to literacy issues, but professionally the Literacy Council of Manatee County needs to "hear" and participate in the dialogue.

Importance of discussion.

The joy of reading is a lifelong gift.

Lack of Pre-K for poor, nonworking parents (besides Head Start) is a problem. Children begin school and stay behind throughout the school year because of the lack of a solid foundation.

Lend my support.

Literacy is critical to the economic future of each individual and to our world. Reading for pleasure is the very best way to use spare time.

Literacy is the focus of everything I do. Increasing literacy leads to an improved lifestyle for everyone in our community.

Literacy is the key to learning, understanding. To function in the 21st century, you must be able to read and comprehend.

Literacy is key to self-sufficiency.

A love for books.

I love to read and feel like everyone should be able to read for enjoyment and to make a living in the world.

Maybe I can help in the effort.

Memory of parent in Bay Haven, volunteer days - grade papers at night because she couldn't read. As a future School Board member, it is important to find a solution to this problem.

More people than we know of can't read.

My mother tutors, and I like listening to her stories of success.

North Library, improve literacy for adults and children. Reading for pleasure.

Passion for literacy - to see many people, new change in their life from lost to successful.

The primary means to create change in a community is through education - literacy is the primary source to achieve this goal.

Inspired by People Involved in the Summit (4/102)

Debra Jacobs is involved - I love to see her speak.

Sarabeth asked me.

Sarabeth invited me and I respect her!

Sarabeth's work is an inspiration. First I accepted the invitation because she asked; second I accepted the invitation because my commitment to the first 5 years of life in part translates into literacy work.

Interested from Business Perspective (5/102)

Concern, curiosity, business development, desire to establish Borders as a good community partner.

Every citizen should have a vested interest in literacy. Beyond this, my business's success depends on developing a community of readers.

Former school teacher, adult literacy interest, invitation and support of General Manager to be representative.

Interested in how my business can help with the literacy problem in our community.

My boss [invited me], to learn more about the issue - to see how we can partner and help. Take for granted literacy in the community.

Interested in Community Discussion about Literacy

(Networking, Partnerships, Learn What Others are Doing) (26/102)

Connection with others in this new community.

Conversation about possibilities.

Create a literacy network.

Create new literacy partnerships.

Excited both individually and as Manatee Community College representative to be part of the community efforts to improve literacy.

Feeling that English as a Second Language (ESL) needs are not being met today. Many potential students. Insufficient organizational structures to meet their needs. My heart goes out to the ESL students.

Greater community awareness of literacy needs in the community. More people within the community need to recognize there is an issue that needs addressing.

I spend my days working to promote literacy in the schools. I want to connect to community efforts (learn what they are, etc.).

Impact of being part of solving community concern.

The importance of literacy as it affects all areas of a person's life. Ways we can partner with other organizations.

I see a need to coordinate literacy efforts across the county.

I strongly believe that it takes an entire community to address literacy issues. This is a perfect format for initiating the planning for action.

I think it's a great idea to get together and talk about what can be done in terms of literacy in the county.

It is my hope that we can create a new environment and collaboration - to learn more about our community.

It takes a village to raise a child. It will take all of us to improve literacy.

Working for the district, I wanted to be part of any community effort.

Learn about what other agencies are doing to address literacy issues.

Learn what is being done for adults whose native language is not English.

The letter I received about this summit made me aware of the extent of agencies in our county doing literacy, and I came to HEAR from them. Now I know I must participate.

Literacy needs are so strong that I embrace community efforts to join together to promote literacy skills.

Literacy Volunteers of America and Literacy Council asked the libraries to help them meet some challenges they were facing. As we discussed these, it became clear that lots of organizations had a hand in literacy issues but it didn't seem very organized or coordinated, so we decided to bring people together.

Meet other individuals and groups concerned with literacy.

Need to connect many literacy services in the community.

Network with people.

On one hand, I see a big need, but not everyone who has a need knows how to go about addressing this. On the other, a lot of programs exist to address the issue, but they need to do this together.

The possibility of providing literacy assistance to more adults, teens, and children in the community - partnerships make us stronger.

Interested in New Ways of Enhancing Literacy Efforts (10/102)

Children at my school (Emma Booker) can read better with new programs, but comprehension is nil. Scores stay low. We need a new approach. It's time for change.

Illiteracy is a major barrier to self-sufficiency. Mission is to help people become self-sufficient. I wanted to learn what we could do to better address this issue.

Interested in learning about new ideas and hearing from others on the topic; previous experience in forums like this have been inspiring.

Interest in learning different approaches and ways to promote early reading to babies from the newborn stage, and helping mothers do it with confidence and assurance that they are connecting with babies.

Make changes in literacy.

Need to explore alternative methods of teaching to read.

New information about how babies' brains develop. A long-time fascination with such programs as sending volunteers into homes to read to toddlers, affecting behavior and relationships in family.

Time to change same old.

To be involved at the ground level of this discussion and look for linkages to better improve existing literacy services.

To find out what needs to be done in the community and how the Literacy Council of Sarasota can participate. How can groups supply mutual help.

To see if there is indeed room to the arts, in today's progressive thinkers, in the advancement of literacy. I think there is an important integral component here.

To Get Assistance with Own Literacy Program (2/102)

Get help with my library program.

Learn how to recruit volunteers or teachers.

Own Work Involves Literacy (30/102)

As a former literacy tutor, I feel that literacy is crucially important to develop a full life and to preserve the sort of society that we would want to live in.

As a librarian, I've seen how critically important it is to be able to communicate at every age and within every segment of the community. I've heard from parents, teachers, business people, and children about problems faced when one is unable to read or write.

As a parent and teacher, I understand the value of reading.

As the publisher of *The Pepper Tree*, I felt an absolute need to be here to share this literacy venue with those that have attended this meeting. Spread the word so more people are aware of this paper.

As a Youth Librarian, I am faced every day with children and families that will be our future leaders. It's my job to effectively encourage these people to be lifetime library users and readers.

As an elementary school English/reading tutor, I hoped to connect with other people/ideas to help my kids and school (Alta Vista). Also interested in helping with adult literacy.

At Children First Head Start and Early Head Start, literacy is a principal focus that is woven through the fabric of all we do. In addition, I've helped coordinate our National Fatherhood Literacy Grant and work regularly in partnership with the Born to Read program.

Because literacy is a critical issue for my work in early childhood education.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is promoting a reading program. Literacy is the foundation of a successful and productive life. Illiteracy is an issue that plagues our community.

Career background in literacy.

Children's Program Chair, 2006 Reading Festival. have done reading volunteer at school, reading teacher; have seen effects of illiteracy.

Former teacher who is very concerned about literacy in Sarasota County.

Having experienced the state of literacy through interactions with organizations such as Sure/NSPL, etc.

I am an educator because literacy is my passion. I see that early literacy deficiencies set students behind when entering kindergarten, usually resulting in the future years behind. If I can make a difference in lowering the numbers of children who enter kindergarten behind - I want to be a part of it.

I felt the Library Advisory Board should be involved, so I chose to come. I'm also very interested in literacy, having taught English in high school and college.

I work with the PALS Board and Early Learning Coalition. I have seen the impact of literacy barriers for adults and children and what improvements in literacy can mean to a child and family.

I'm on the Literacy Summit Committee; [literacy is] an area with needed efforts and energy.

Kids can't spell when they look information up on the Internet (tweens). Also, I do a youth services program to promote literacy.

A large part of what we do at PALS involves literacy; as a result, we are always looking to grow and expand, recruit volunteers and place them.

Library staff member.

Lifelong work with urban families and children, preschool through college, with speech, language, reading, and writing needs.

Literacy is an issue for many of our parents, and I want to learn about how our organization can be helpful to them and their children, our members.

My editor [invited me] - from local newspaper.

My role and concern and interest in the topic (tutoring director).

Public libraries offer almost limitless avenues of literacy improvement and education.

Prior work with students of low reading ability. In-laws are Italian immigrants who can't read English very well.

Reading and literacy are very important to me. The teachers I work with are doing everything they can to help produce functionally literate adults.

Six years ago, I received assistance and ideas from literacy programs all over Florida in starting our own library literacy program in Collier County. Time to give back.

To be inspired and to learn how I can do more to promote high school graduation of Sarasota's minority youth.

Work as literacy volunteer, how to improve commitment to community, help others, new ideas, personal mission.

Question #2

Share your excitement about any two literacy endeavors underway in our community.

About 82 Unique Programs Listed by Participants
(from 85 Response Cards, Each Listing Multiple Programs)

Basic literacy tutoring; Born to Read for kids and adults.

Beginning Reader book club.

Big Brothers Big Sisters in partnership with University of South Florida. We are conducting a research project with USF to demonstrate the effectiveness of one-to-one mentoring in regards to literacy.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Reading Rotarians Program. We partnered with Rotary District 6960 to provide help to children who need assistance reading in local schools.

Book Fair downtown.

Books - Asolo - *Pride and Prejudice*.

Born to Read.

Born to Read.

Brothers and Sisters Doing the Right Thing, every Saturday tutoring and full-time young teen program, reaches volunteers up to North County Library from all over the county.

Children First hosts Take Your Dad to School Week and Take Your Mom to School Week to engage parents in their child's education and regular parent meetings.

Children First.

Chip Program.

Church of the Palms has provided one-on-one tutoring for 14 years. We may serve over 250 students during the year and have over 200 volunteers.

Continuation of "Read and Rise" distribution from NUL.

Dad's Initiative (Children First) and Familias Triunfadoras (Girls Inc.), literacy summer programs in the library - Sing, Spell, Read, and Write.

Dictionaries to schools.

Digital audio book programs.

Earning by Learning Program.

English as a Second Language.

ESOL - parents and children separately.

English classes in the workplace - teach non English-speaking employees to speak English and read.

EWT grants for businesses that can mitigate training costs for workplace English/Spanish.

Exploring renewal of partnerships with tutor providers and community agencies whose clients need services.

First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota recruited members to teach English to Hispanic members.

Florida Partners in Education: literacy training targeting populations that may feel challenged. Dr. Angela Martin of the University of West Florida has two great programs that are Family Building.

Forty Carrots' mobile van that travels to Englewood and North Port at the libraries, and teaches moms how to read to and work with their children.

Head Start.

Healthy Families.

HIPPY North Port Library partnership through Gold Seal

HIPPY YMCA.

Hospital Newborn Bags; 5,000 participants/year.

Informal reading instruction in Pot of Beans groups (empowerment of women, health literacy, and neighborhood-based).

Institutional program from Barnes & Noble.

Jewish Family and Children's Service - B.E.S.T. and SATOSS Programs.

Junior Program in Schools League.

Laurel Civic Association has homework/reading assistance.

Literacy Council of Sarasota survived after so many long months of battle.

Literacy Mentor programs through the Early Learning Coalition to train directors in child care programs.

Literacy Mentoring Training for early childhood teachers.

Manatee Community College - CLOP, bridge, CSI, kids' college, Academic Resource Center, Sail, and tutoring labs.

Manatee County used to have a program for children and parents in evenings for literacy, English, GED, Comp. Skills, and family games.

Mentorships through Volunteer Connections.

My family literacy program -- four-pronged approach to lifting the level of literacy for all family members, free to families, includes child care.

New blood at Sarasota Literacy Council.

Next Generation - preparing students and teachers to meet the challenges of a "flat world."

Our newspaper has decided to create random sections for students - one for middle school and one for high school; encourage community letters to editor and guest columnist for the paper.

The Pepper Tree is being used by many schools as curriculum in the language arts classes.

The Pepper Tree seeks writings of young students.

Pre-literacy skills woven into the Venice Pre-K program.

Preschool literacy program at Janie Poe.

"Project Light" in Bradenton.

Reading help at Sheriff's Boot Camp.

Reading Rotarians and Big Brothers Big Sisters

Reading specialist in the schools - Next Generation!

Revive Literacy Council of Sarasota and Newtown projects.

Sarasota County Public Library Programs--

Emergent Literacy area at the North Port Library.

Emergent Literacy at North Port Library/YMCA.

Emergent Literacy centers at libraries.

FCAT tutoring program at North Sarasota Library.

Infant storytimes.

June's conversation class at North Port Library; our Literacy Study Rooms at North Port Library.

Literacy volunteers at the Venice Library. However, this tutoring is done at all libraries in Sarasota County.

North Port Library's Learning Center.

One Book One Community book discussion.

Programs (storytimes) which attract parents and children to libraries.

Programs in our library that encourage young people to read and write essays.

Reading to dogs.

Sarasota librarians attending People and Stories training.

Selby offers computer literacy classes in Spanish.

Summer Reading Program at Selby -- Pigs, Pigs, and More Pigs.

Sarasota County Public Schools programs--

Middle school and high school Read 180 program (YesRead and literacy coaches elementary, middle, and high schools

A new K-2 tutoring program at Emma E. Booker run by Ruthie Maass/PALS office at school--Landings.

Parenting classes in Cyesis which reach newborns.

Partnership between ESE 5th graders at Wilkinson and toddlers for reading and short stories once every two weeks.

Public schools' Accelerated Reader program.

Programs for high schools that bring in authors to talk about their books.

Reading First Grant: 3 elementary schools focus on improving reading skills.

Reading Partners at Southside.

Rockin' Readers - identifies kindergarten students struggling with reading; partners them with reading volunteer.

PALS - placing volunteers in schools Pre-K through 5, through Read First/Rockin' Readers.

Sarasota County Schools now have a K-12 reading plan in place to help guide the progress.

Some elementary schools have family labs with computer training with small groups.

Story boxes funded by the Education Foundation provide our toddlers and teen moms with a classroom set of 10 boxes - each containing a story and prop materials for craft activities. After each family gets an opportunity to explore all 10 boxes, they will select their favorite, and grant money will allow them to take it home.

Teachers are inviting publisher to come in and speak in front of class.

Tutoring for FCATs.

Volunteers providing assistance at schools.

With referendum money, we are able to put literacy coaches in each of our schools.

Workplace Literacy and ESOL available from the School Board - makes it easy for adults with jobs and families to participate.

YesRead - School System.

YMCA Reads! Fruitville Elementary grant from Department of Education to the Y to help first and second graders learn to read. The program has been running since October, and we have seen such an improvement in children.

Sarasota Reading Festival. The number of attendees every year; authors excited about being there; free books for children.

Speech clinic in South County and also help with school readiness.

Study Anime - read, write, and create our own Anime.

Success by Six and Gold Seal.

Success by Six and "Getting Ready for Kindergarten Calendar."

Summer Reading List for schools featured on displays at Borders all summer.

Sure's "Education Begins at Home" program for parents of preschool children.

This meeting (Literacy Summit).

Through the 21st CCLC grant in partnership with Girls Inc., parents and children may take bilingual education courses in the evenings to facilitate their English speaking and reading skills.

Training new reading tutors: 2005-28; 2006-40 goal.

TRAM - Teen Reading and Meeting.

Tutoring at Boys and Girls Clubs and other agencies, purchase of library materials specifically geared to assist and promote literacy efforts of ESOL teachers.

Tutoring Adults Program.

YMCA at Newtown site, and summer camp.

Youth reading program.

Question #3

What possibilities can you imagine for fostering literacy throughout our community?

Answers fell into the following categories--

Business/church involvement increased (13/146)

Clearinghouse of literacy programs (13/146)

Creating models (7/146)

Easier access to services (11/146)

Learn fundraising techniques (3/146)

Library involvement - new ways of providing service (6/146)

Literacy for all (9/146)

More publicity (4/146)

More volunteers/tutors/tutor training (10/146)

New types of programs (23/146)

Parent/family involvement increased (11/146)

Partnerships/centralization (24/146)

Periodic meetings/summits to update (6/146)

School involvement - new ways (6/146)

Business/Church Involvement Increased (13/146)

All corporate organizations pledging a percentage of staff to tutor in programs in schools, workplaces, etc., in communities.

Borders can act as a liaison to area businesses interested in establishing lending libraries to employees for themselves or children.

Businesses need to interject their resources.

Create a culture of literacy in all workplaces throughout our community in which employers take action steps to engage their employees at work and at home, in activities that engage adults, children, and families in reading and literacy.

ESOL; possible to use churches of Sarasota city and county to sponsor ESOL programs.

Funding dedicated search (not just grants) from taxes, also underwriting by local businesses to support programs.

Involve private industry; creative ways to disseminate information.

Macy's has a place called "Partners in Line" in the workplace that can be emulated.

Many faith-based organizations working together to recruit tutors and to train and teach within their own organizations.

Re-establishing the First Book chapter in Sarasota County through Borders. First Book is a national organization that acts as a clearinghouse, funding money to bring books free of charge to underprivileged children.

Speakers to address business community.

Take literacy work to restaurants, businesses, parks, events, movies.

We have many resources available to agencies in Sarasota. We need to promote the needs and encourage businesses to increase their social responsibility.

Clearinghouse of Literacy Programs (13/146)

Awareness is needed. There are a lot of initiatives and good programs, but people need to know about them in order to use them. Bilingual Directory (blue book) is very helpful in doing this.

Book (2-1-1 format) listing all literacy providers.

Brochure with all programs available.

Catalog all literacy programs, best practices, and resources.

Central location/phone number listing organizations. We don't know about each other, and the community doesn't know all of them.

Clearinghouse (age level, geographic, services, recruitment of tutors).

Compile a list of agencies that provide these services and make a commitment to communicate their usefulness throughout the community. "Marketing" to the people who are most in need of the services being offered.

List of resources, volunteer recruitment and training.

Listing of literacy agencies.

Literacy website operated by Literacy Clearinghouse.

One place to present all literacy programs (website) to make community aware of programs.

There should be a literacy volunteer network between the schools, libraries, and other community organizations. If anyone needs help with literacy, someone should have the answer of where to go.

Umbrella organization.

Creating Models (7/146)

Be a community that is a gold standard for other communities.

Community-wide theme embraced by all.

Every agency working with people should be in a position to recommend literacy programs. We should pull in the big guns, TV, radio, and sports personalities to promote literacy volunteers. Takes a village!!

Having a higher skilled workforce to compete globally.

Programs to increase joy of reading and goal attainment throughout reading.

Seamless provision of services that are properly staffed and funded.

Youth teaching youth; bringing heroes to Sarasota to reinforce the importance of reading; more cooperation of various agencies to understand which people are receiving help. A council for literacy coordination.

Easier Access to Services (11/146)

Easier assimilation of foreign-born residents.

Expand resources to languages other than English and Spanish.

Family/child literacy program in Laundromats.

Information available in a non-reading format.

Libraries are the last places an illiterate person will go to. Social services agencies, they will.

Making sure materials are available.

No one child or adult left behind because of "availability" of many and varied educational programs.

Reducing stigma associated with illiteracy.

Remove barriers from sectors. More parity between "haves" and "have nots."

Transportation for families to the library and the programs they offer.

Unified message; easy access to services from many portals.

Learn Fundraising Techniques (3/146)

Board training for nonprofits in fundraising.

Get big guns in to help with funding and PR. Get countywide involvement.

Ongoing training of board members to pupils to help them learn how to fundraise.

Library Involvement - New Ways of Providing Service (6/146)

Build more libraries; have more facilities available for tutoring; loosen rules.

Have school work with library system as in South Carolina.

Libraries without walls (no more fines; free access to computers and Internet on street corners).

Make new connections in the community; e.g., libraries going into businesses to assist with literacy (rather than just being sponsored by businesses).

Set aside at least two rooms per library on a weekday evening and on Saturday for literacy tutoring; continue meeting parents at birth of children through the Born to Read program.

Use libraries to set up tutoring, like at the North County Library.

Literacy for All (9/146)

Among minority or reading-resistant populations - video games without sound - must be able to read instructions to use.

Continue current programs and expand.

Doing pre-literacy work would seem more "cost-effective" than remedial tutoring.

Encourage reading to all races and promote early learning; promote volunteering for our organizations.

Every child ready and excited about reading when they enter kindergarten.

Identify adults who need services.

Making sure we meet all literacy needs.

No one falls between the cracks.

To empathize better with the public.

More Publicity (4/146)

Advertise your work more in local newspapers.

Getting local TV and churches to promote literacy.

Publicize what's available and how to contact.

Services/direct-focused marketing campaign community-wide to provide awareness.

More Volunteers/Tutors/Tutor Training (10/146)

Best practices - tutor/teacher training.

Focused programs to target specific literacy needs; collaborated training for volunteers; more parental involvement; mentors modeling literacy.

Let's try to recruit more retired people as volunteers.

More mentors for middle and high school students to help them stay in school.

More volunteers.

Ongoing training of tutors; ongoing affirmation.

Publish need for volunteers.

Recruit more volunteers and give them proper training to effectively teach reading skills, pair them with the programs in place to strengthen existing programs.

Sharing information about current and future programs to promote to both volunteers and those needing services.

Strong network and partnership; to have every student in need partnered with a tutor, every family in need partnered with a program.

New Types of Programs (23/146)

Adult tutoring programs in workplaces as part of benefits plan for "unskilled" workers.

Look at the Okolona Project inspired by Bill Raspberry (*Washington Post*); "It takes a village."

Bring to Girls and Boys Clubs and Scouts.

Channel 6 program for ESOL.

Community book clubs focusing on fostering reading for middle and high school students, perhaps using the community "One Book" concept.

A county-approved seal (or sticker) that tutor volunteers can put on their business cards, shop doors, etc., to let people know that they take part in ending illiteracy.

Cross-county projects for underprivileged and privileged areas to help each other.

Cross marketing/mixing opportunities for reading material - e.g., at countertops; site visits by county staff (on the back of bills, code violations), using icons to lead to materials (encourage as part of your home hurricane kit).

Doctors' offices, public and county offices.

Educate the public reading clinics.

Establish Borders Kids as an open forum for volunteers to mentor to children. Also to invite families in for reading time to children.

Free multiple tutoring programs are need (bilingual), Russian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Spanish.

High school and college credit for tutoring.

Incorporate therapy with literacy, like at health expos, for lower income communities, and explain to people that life can change for them.

Mentoring database where only one clearance is needed.

Offering a scholarship (this person would be willing to provide under right circumstances).

Partnering with day care centers and in-home care groups could be a quick fix. In a recent *New Yorker* magazine, visiting nurses taught parenting skills to Louisiana backwoods mothers as young as 14, 15, or 16 who didn't know how to relate to children - then would Channel 7 dedicate time to reading - pictures with subtitles (for hearing impaired). Half-hour, daily show could draw attention to programs on Channel 19 or 20.

Sarasota County Arts Council/Art Center sponsor English through painting.

Sponsor anonymous reading clinics.

Spreading the need of learning to read through programs such as Sing, Spell, Read, and Write, which targets children who are not reading well within the traditional system.

Training our young adults to tutor/read to elementary or younger students - even possibly visiting child care centers.

Visual techniques to spread literacy.

Work toward small demonstration projects to test ideas.

Parent/Family Involvement Increased (11/146)

Adopt a family type of program.

Better funding to focus on prevention, start at birth-age 5 instead of remediation in third grade; enough volunteers to mentor academically struggling children in school and after school and involving their parents; parents learning how to be their child's first teacher, so all children begin school ready to learn, with parents cheering them on.

Better health literacy, especially on the part of parents of young children.

Concentrate on reading fathers!

Creation of a parent-attractive session to get them preschool assistance.

Exploring new strategies to engage families in partnership for their child's education.

Involve parents.

More and more parental involvement in realizing that they are their child's first teacher; continue fostering that parent-teacher connection as a tag team.

More early intervention - birth to age 5; working with young families raising children in language development and pre-reading skills.

Ways to address literacy needs of entire family, offering babysitting if necessary.

We must find a way to reach out to the parents. Parents are the heart of a child's success or failure in school, and to show they learn. All the programs in the world can't solve literacy problems if parents do not support the child!

Partnerships/Centralization (24/146)

All agencies working together to make this happen.

All resources in county devoted to education and early childhood learning in county be coordinated with citizen efforts and school system and each other.

Centralized coordination.

CERTAIN = Celebrate, embrace everyone, young or old, reading everywhere, thematic integration across agencies, increase capacity (people, locations, funding), negotiate/share resources.

Combined board for literacy.

Commission a report on existing programs.

Coordinate efforts of different agencies.

A coordinated, community-wide effort to reach everyone who needs help reading so that all our citizens can take advantage of the opportunities that are available in creating their future.

Coordinated effort among all literacy providers.

Coordination and collaboration of efforts to help immigrants learn to read and write English.

A county literacy council to deal with the issue effectively and efficiently. There is too much overlap and concern about maintaining your own "rice bowl."

Countywide coalition (made up of all the groups) but with one name - collaborative PR and strategic locations to reach communities in need.

Countywide literacy coalition and match clients with programs best suited for them (a la Friendship Volunteer Center).

Exploring the depth and range of potential partnerships around family literacy.

Focused partnerships among CBOs, libraries, schools, faith-based organizations, community center for literacy tutors, reading partners, family literacy programs.

Funding more coordinated; less competition for same dollars.

Link agencies, corporations, families, schools in a common way without prejudices and limitations, with the understanding that everyone can learn.

More partnering, working together to make the already established programs even more successful, or duplicated in other areas.

Partnerships - business/schools/libraries ("one effort-one community").

Possibility to partner with other organizations by helping with training, state and national literacy initiatives.

Sarasota Literacy Council, with representation from each agency to share.

Something centralized rather than all over the map. Sarasota is becoming white collar industry, and if our workforce isn't literate, companies will move elsewhere.

Collaboration of schools, government, and private sector.

Try and define specific goals and develop a framework to work together as one - involve schools, YMCA.

Working together and not in isolation.

Periodic Meetings/Summits to Update (6/146)

Coordination of focus groups to follow up on this meeting within neighborhoods and invite them to tell us what they need, and shape what programs they want.

Dissemination of information.

A Literacy Day - perhaps one in North and one in South County. All of the agencies' representatives here today would be able to have information tables; testimonials by those who have benefited would also be good.

Periodic "literacy summits" to update all involved on recent developments and to make new partnership connections.

Quarterly sharing sessions.

What if? Program. Ongoing focus groups (such as this) to connect and see directions.

School Involvement - New Ways (6/146)

Community awareness that our literacy efforts must continue for secondary students.

Extend the school day so that every single child can take an art/music/dance class - to learn some form of artistic expression, and also participate in a sport. This should be continuous so that child can find an art and sport they do well in. Multiple intelligences.

Institute silent reading times in schools.

No third-grader being held back for failing FCAT reading.

Offering middle schools books in English that excite them to read (Harry Potter), not the same old boring Shakespeare, etc., that turn them off!! We need change; ask youngsters what they like, and they will learn. Do book drives and then give out to needy children.

Reinforce early educational opportunity in public schools and community - if referendum passes next week - encourage School Board to emulate what school districts across Florida are doing. Add money and effort to early childhood education.

Question #4

What concerns do you have about improving literacy in our community?

Answers fell into the following categories--

Cultural barriers (3/129)

Denial of problem; indifference (11/129)

Don't reinvent the wheel (6/129)

Families too busy (5/129)

Increasing diversity in the conversation (3/129)

Lack of business involvement (5/129)

Lack of coordination; territoriality (18/129)

Lack of funding (18/129)

Lack of new ideas (4/129)

Motivating those who need services (10/129)

Not affordable (4/129)

Not enough volunteers/personnel (8/129)

Political issues (4/129)

Prioritizing (2/129)

Reaching those who need services/differing needs (14/129)

Sustaining the effort (9/129)

Time (3/129)

Cultural Barriers (3/129)

Concerns that Hispanics are mostly nonreaders; being Hispanic, I can attest to this. No great emphasis on reading and literacy as a concept.

Cultural literacy of volunteer.

Non-reading "culture" among some non-literate populations.

Denial of Problem; Indifference (11/129)

Apathy of clients and public.

Denial. Many people do not want to admit that Sarasota County has a literacy problem. Sarasota, just like every county, city, and state, can improve literacy.

Does the broad population really care about literacy sufficiently to support it?

Elitism runs rampant in Sarasota - "We don't have this problem." In truth, 67% of our high school students are not reading on level.

I think the most effective programs are one-on-one, but doubt enough retired or semi-retired people will make the time for tutoring, giving up golf, boating, and everything else here in paradise.

Lack of public interest (always same people volunteering for social service programs).

Moneyed indifference.

The number of people who share our concern for literacy seems to be small compared with those concerned about, say, flowers in public places. Other competing concerns.

Retired rich community - no interest to invest in schools and literacy.

Some public resentment.

Tolerance, acceptance of coexistence - will Sarasota embrace them?

Don't Reinvent the Wheel (6/129)

Don't reinvent the wheel - call on state and regional literacy organizations for support.

Lack of involvement for those [for whom] the programs were intended.

Next meeting - about making a difference - don't you think the people in this room are already making a difference?

Sometimes connecting the dots results in creating a bigger entity, and services end up being less specialized. I think this can be overcome.

Trying to fill all problems with one solution or organization.

We should explore what shelters (such as Salvation Army) offer or require residents to do in learning - as prisons require schools for under 18s. Do they require literacy for adult prisoners? If not, why not?

Families Too Busy (5/129)

Best intentions get lost in day-to-day busy lives.

Families' requirements to attend - time, money, transportation.

Parents are the key, but society has them so busy.

Parents who work two jobs, have several young children, and are too tired.

Program has to be easy for busy people.

Increasing Diversity in the Conversation (3/129)

Increasing diversity at these meetings.

Each person must take responsibility to involve those who were not represented today.

Our failure to involve young, or community-based, or less well-connected residents in this effort.

We are a big and growing county, and I'm concerned that we are leaving out some important people and not reaching them. The people here today are all committed in some way.

Lack of Business Involvement (5/129)

Businesses don't commit to being more involved for the long haul.

Corporate indifference.

How to motivate employers to offer incentives to illiterate workers.

I think it can be done. If we involve workplaces that make one half-hour of tutoring required for a paycheck, then it can be done. If we require businesses (large) to contribute tutors or money, then it can be done.

Involving all sectors of the community, particularly business.

Lack of Coordination; Territoriality (18/129)

Being able to get all concerned groups to coordinate, not duplicate, efforts. On the other hand, independence fosters creativity and has the necessary lack of dictatorial control.

Clearinghouse.

Coordinating the advocates.

Coordination of effort without money; competition for grant money getting in the way of the outcomes, and finding the right agency to coordinate the effort (who?).

The difficulty of coordinating efforts is that individual groups are hesitant to give up autonomy, control, and - potentially - funding sources.

Doubts about coordination of issues with the number of organizations focused on unaddressed needs.

Duplicated efforts without taking advantage of the multitude of outlets.

Follow-up on coordinated efforts.

Good intentions: Too much competition for those who want to be in the limelight.

Great ideas have been generated today. We really do need to centralize all that Sarasota County is doing for literacy. My concern is who? how? financial? time?

Hesitancy to collaborate and grow.

How do we get all these programs to work together and under one center? How do you engage the ESOL community?

I don't want to leave here today without a commitment to develop a "clearinghouse" or "database." I also want to recruit reading tutors for the summer.

Lack of organization.

No real impetus for people to collaborate.

People or organizations not wanting to relinquish control of their own, and not embracing others' ideas, to preserve their own organization instead of truly joining forces.

Sustaining the collaborative conversation.

Territoriality - need to get over turf issues and collaborate to deal with above issues.

Lack of Funding (18/129)

"Capitalism should not be the highest priority of a civilized nation." - George Soros. We spend more money on childhood education and remedial education and prisons than on supporting families and parenting skills.

Collaborating versus competing for funding.

Competition for funding could come into play.

Competition for funding dollars.

Cutback of local or federal funds.

Funding.

Funding. Also, can we bring the resources together, as has been suggested several times, to compile all the programs available so the community knows what's out there? How can businesses get involved?

Funding issues for literacy should be a statewide concern, not just on the local level.

Inability of nonprofit literacy groups to raise awareness and raise money.

Lack of funding.

Lack of funding.

Lack of resources to achieve goals.

Money/staffing - can be very tight for many organizations involved in literacy.

Not enough funding.

Our current systems "promote competition and division."

Overcoming the overlap and competition among providers of literacy help.

People not willing to share, especially when money comes in.

The usual resistances - It's been tried. Where will money come from? Who has the time for more?

Lack of New Ideas (4/129)

Difficulty in encouraging creativity. Special effort to reach men.

Lack of imagination in our community.

People or existing organizations not embracing new ideas.

Same old ways - nothing much new or innovative - what is "community?" Global.

Motivating Those Who Need Services (10/129)

Concerns about improving literacy centers around our inability to reach non-literate parents and have them become partners.

Enticing the kids - especially poor and the young pre-adolescent males.

How can we work through the sociological barriers that hinder non-readers, particularly in immigrant populations (e.g., illiterate parents may hamper children's development), to help non-readers discover the value of learning to read.

How to reach out to non-reading parents.

How to reach parents to start reading, to teach their children to read.

Low self-esteem of parents to participate in programs or look for services they need.

Motivating families to become involved and wanting to stay involved.

Offering opportunity without causing further injury.

Social concern - attitudes that need to be overcome about low self-esteem, and no desire to learn to read or improve lifestyle.

Trust - winning the trust of people who have poor language, self-concepts, and bleak outlooks.

Not Affordable (4/129)

Income of parents to pay for services.

Lack of computers and computer literacy.

Not enough will change. The underprivileged citizens who have the highest illiteracy rates will be squeezed out of our county's boundaries and will no longer be "our problem."

We forget the limited resources of low-income people when getting the information out or offering the program.

Not Enough Volunteers/Personnel (8/129)

Are there enough passionate people?

Are there enough volunteers for this entire community to cover all the various areas that need to be covered?

Enough bilingual volunteers in many languages.

Enough volunteers in other languages; effort involved in getting the information to folks who can't read.

Finding volunteers/locations to teach.

Having a seasonal population limits yearly participation and involvement and commitment.

Personnel to "man" and fund.

Volunteer shortage - recruitment.

Political Issues (4/129)

Latent hostility to undocumented immigrants - desire not to "reward" illegal presence.

People who need it fear the government.

Some ethnic communities may be hard-pressed to reach - Haitian, Vietnamese, etc.

Many illiterate people are transient or illegally in the US so may not declare their needs. But their illiteracy impacts us nonetheless.

There is also a political issue regarding ESL training and immigration issues. Some volunteers and some funding sources are hesitant to act if there is a possibility that a student is not here legally.

Prioritizing (2/129)

How do we prioritize?

Reading won't be seen as a priority.

Reaching Those Who Need Services/Differing Needs (14/129)

The ability to reach those who really need it; I think we're only skimming the surface.

Accessibility (the income gap, the education gap).

Doubts about helping children and their parents at the preschool level.

Doubts about identifying and servicing adults who can't read.

59 languages other than English spoken in the county.

Finding ways to work with English learners outside of school system.

Forgetting adult new readers - spending most resources on children.

Getting to the population which is at most risk in taking advantage of literacy programs.

Hidden nature - we don't really know nor serve day laborers and their families.

North Port has one of the largest Ukrainian and Russian populations in Florida, and they definitely need encouragement to have this kind of help.

People not willing to reach the illiterate at their level, where they are - churches.

Reaching the people who need help. Different needs.

Securing resources and getting information to the families that need it. Effectively initiating joint efforts amongst agencies.

That literacy achievement can truly reach the underprivileged, impoverished, and delinquent children. That all can see their potential enough to turn away from bad influences. To obtain 100% literacy.

Sustaining the Effort (9/129)

Everyone is so busy, and doubt follow-through.

Fear that this discussion stays here instead of an action plan.

Just because this is such a persistent problem and because our popular culture emphasizes the noise and color over thought and absorbing ideas, I think the job of getting everyone to read is a huge and daunting one. Do we have the patience and persistence to do it?

Lack of long-term commitment.

Lip service -- will there be an ongoing, sustained effort?

A lot of talk, but no follow-through.

Maintaining a "driving force" to keep awareness of need and programs in the public's attention.

Sustaining the effort.

To be able to update this effectively to all communities.

Time (3/129)

Time and lack of, for those involved in many initiatives already.

Time - attention is focused on an issue for too "short" a time.

Time - we're all so involved in our own businesses that it can be very hard to find the time to make new connections.

(END)