



Community Council

2013 Annual Report

Community Council marked its fifth year in existence in 2013 by celebrating the impacts of its study process: the citizen-driven, consensus-based, problem-solving process which entails study and action!

The depth and breadth of the impacts of Community Council's study process were displayed at the Full Circle Celebration luncheon on November 6th, attended by over 200 people. Representatives from a number of local government, business, education, and law enforcement entities described the impact a particular study had on their organization, generating changes that ranged from individual growth to system changes.

Rick Griffin, Executive Director of Jubilee Leadership Academy and chair of the *Reducing Gang Membership Through Prevention* study committee reported: "I observed committee members grow in confidence and in trust for one another. The co-learning environment seemed to inspire a sense of commitment to the subject. Most of all, I could almost feel the pride emanating from the group as we came to consensus about our recommendations. Those are all great qualities that I would want for our students at Jubilee Leadership Academy to experience."

Nabiel Shawa, Walla Walla City Manager, talked about the impacts of the study *Improving Communication Among Citizens and Government*, which is still in the implementation phase of the study process: "The Community Council's 2013 focus issue on communicating with local government could not have been better aligned with the City's increasing priority on improving communications with citizens. Building on [the Council's] good work, the City intends on revamping and expanding our communication channels and processes. One area that we hope to work closely with Community Council members is improving citizen understanding and engagement with the City budget. We're excited that [the Council's] members are willing to take time, learn and help us with this effort!"

Harvey Crowder, Walla Walla County Public Health Administrator and Interim Director, Department of Human Services, talked about the effects of the 2008-2011 study *Enhancing the Educational Attainment of Our Region's Children*: "The results of the first study gave the impetus to develop a community-wide plan to improve access to behavioral health services in conjunction with our partners in the healthcare community and make that plan come to fruition. Without the vision created by that study there would continue to be a lack of behavioral health services in our community."

The positive individual and community changes resulting from Community Council's study process exemplify the power of the citizen-driven, community problem-solving model. Citizens and organizations are realizing the benefits of civic engagement.

STUDY PROCESS COMMITTEES: PROGRAM, STUDY, AND IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation Task Force: *Reducing Gang Membership through Prevention*

Completion of the three-year study process for this study was celebrated at the Full Circle Celebration luncheon on November 6th with over 200 people in attendance. Community results from this study include:

- direction given to a consortium of groups working to develop a comprehensive, integrated community-healthy youth initiative that will, as one of its goals, continue to promote prevention of gang activities in the community;
- a Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce roundtable session on gangs;
- collaboration among Walla Walla Area Crime Watch, Sherwood Trust, and City of Walla Walla to purchase and house a glass-bead blasting machine to assist with graffiti removal;
- a citizens' group, working through the Milton-Freewater Chamber of Commerce, discussing the development of a graffiti removal program in Milton-Freewater;
- launch of a College Place middle school program that couples social-emotional behaviors and conflict resolution skills with class mentoring;
- education of medical professionals about local gang issues and available resources;
- establishment of a Nurse-Family Partnership program which strives, through home visits by nurses, to empower first-time mothers living in poverty to change their lives and the lives of their children; and
- collaboration among a number of local organizations, businesses, and individuals to create and operate a cutting edge new program for tattoo removal, mentoring, and assisting individuals with their pursuit of positive alternatives to gang membership, known as the Ink-Out program.

All of the results are described fully in the Implementation Task Force's Final Report on the Community Council's website, www.wvcommunitycouncil.org.

The Task Force, led by co-chairs Jim Sporleder and Julia Leavitt, included:

Charlotte Bouta	Mark Higgins	Larry Mulkerin	Cynthia Selde
Linda Byerley	Stan Hughes	Eloise Phillips	Damien Sinnott
Tim Copeland	Johnny Johnson	Jose Quijano	John Turner
Federico Diaz	Dorothy Knudson	Ted Richerzhagen	John Witwen
Allison Davis-Gingell	Sarita McCaw	Veronica Sandau	
Guy Gingell	Chris McGill	Peggy Sanderson	
Cindy Godard-Gross	Danielle McMahon	Carla Schettler	

Study 2012-2013: *Improving Communication between Citizens and Government*

This committee learned about the challenges and opportunities of communication between citizens and government from the perspective of governmental leaders, area residents, and members of the media. The committee shared its completed report, with recommendations, at the Study Report Luncheon on June 19th, which was attended by almost 100 people. The study report can be found at Community Council's website.

The committee, chaired by Douglas Carlsen, included:

Punkey Adams	Aubrey Hill	Linda Moats	Dick Swenson
Christian Bell	Carolyn Keyes	Skip Nichols	Jay Turner
Nancy Butler	Ted Koehler	Ralph Perkins	Bob Withycombe
Linda Eki	Sarita McCaw	Bart Preecs	Robert Zagelow
Cindy Godard-Gross	R.L. McFarland	Damien Sinnott	

Implementation Task Force: *Improving Communication between Citizens and Government*

The recommendations from the Study Committee were passed to the Implementation Task Force, which developed its strategic approach to implementing the recommendations in the study report. The Task Force began advocating for those recommendations in late 2013 and will continue in 2014. The list of the recommendations can be found in the study report on Community Council’s website.

Task force members, led by Bob Withycombe, include:

Punkey Adams	Aubrey Hill	Sarita McCaw	Robert Zagelow
Douglas Carlsen	Carolyn Keyes	R.L. McFarland	
Cindy Godard-Gross	Ted Koehler	Dick Swenson	

Program Committee

The committee, which selects the new topic for study, was led by Damien Sinnott, and included:

Michelle Conner	Bonnie Luntzel	Angela Potts
Alex DeMambro	Brad McMasters	Mari Prieto
Federico Diaz	Becci Moore	Jeff Reynolds

The committee winnowed the many issues before them to two potential study topics for Community Council Board’s adoption. The Board adopted Decreasing Food Insecurity; the title was later changed to *Improving Food Security*. The framing question for the topic is: “How can we ensure that all residents of the region have access to adequate amounts of nutritious foods and the means to utilize them?”

Study Committee: *Improving Food Security*

Anne Haley agreed to chair this committee. The Study Management Team was formed in late 2013 and the first study committee meeting took place in January 2014, with over 35 people in attendance.

Jubilee Leadership Academy Mini-Study

Rick Griffin, director of Jubilee Leadership Academy, who served as the Gang Prevention Study Committee chair, wanted to bring the Community Council study process model to his students. Community Council wanted to experiment with a mini-study, one that could be concluded in one year instead of three. The match was perfect!

The collaboration between Community Council and Jubilee Leadership Academy began in 2013 and continues into 2014. Jubilee Leadership Academy, a residential school for young men located near Prescott, has incorporated a modified study process into their Leadership Academy programming. Community Council staff and board members are teaching students to use the study process’ decision-making format, and school administrators and faculty will guide the students through a practical application of the process. The students selected their topic, *How can helping youth speak up about bullying reduce bullying in our schools?* The study phase of the course will be completed by the spring of 2014, with students presenting what they learned and their recommendations to school administrators, school board members, and Community Council staff and board members. Implementation of the recommendations will take place in the 2014-15 academic year. Students will earn academic credit, gain confidence in their ability to affect community decision-making, and find gratification in making a difference in their community.

INDICATORS

Community Council's Board of Directors, wanting a more interactive set of indicators, decided to change from the Walla Walla Regional Vital Signs website to a more hands-on indicators program that is currently being developed. Craig Christensen, Community Council's immediate past president, is serving on an advisory committee to help develop a statewide "healthy community indicators program." Walla Walla, under the auspices of Community Council, may be one of the early sites to use the data to analyze local trends. The hope is that this project will be a precursor to developing a program of community discussions about priorities and goals, and that it will be a tool to measure the work of Community Council's study process.

OUTREACH

Community Council continued its tradition of outreach through socials: this year in Dayton at the Weinhard Hotel, in Milton-Freewater at the Nine Trees Inn, and in Walla Walla at Seven Hills Winery. About 25 people attended the Dayton event, over 50 attended the Milton-Freewater event, and almost 100 attended the Walla Walla event.

Almost 100 people came to the Study Report Luncheon to celebrate the work of the *Improving Communication between Citizens and Government* Study Committee's work.

Over 200 people attended the Full Circle Celebration Luncheon, many of whom had never before been involved in or aware of Community Council.

Study and implementation reports were sent to media, community leaders and elected officials, funders, study speakers, study committee members and Community Council members.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Officers for Community Council's Board of Directors in 2013 were:

Craig Christensen, President
Damien Sinnott, President-elect

Brian Dohe, Secretary
Brian Anderson, Treasurer

Directors serving the full year were:

Brian Anderson
Sandra Cannon
Craig Christensen
John Cress
Harvey Crowder
Brian Dohe

Roger Esparza
Yolanda Esquivel
Kip Kelly
Vicky McClellan
Bill Neve
Tana Park

Mari Prieto
Marleen Ramsey
Tom Sawatzki
David Shannon
Damien Sinnott
Pat Yenney

STAFF

Julie Reese, the Community Council's first executive director, retired at the end of 2013. We all are deeply grateful for her work and wish her great fun in her retirement. The Board of Directors conducted a search in the fall of 2013 and selected a new executive director, Mary A. Campbell, who started work on January 1st.

2013 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Many individuals, businesses, and foundations helped make Community Council's study process and operations possible. Thank you to all!

Community Council

Balance Sheet Summary

As of December 31, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	\$124,421.20
Accounts Receivable	60.00
Other current assets	0.00
Total Current Assets	<u>124,481.20</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

124,481.20

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	451.35
Other Current Liabilities	<u>2,339.66</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,791.01</u>
Total Liabilities	2,791.01
Equity	<u>121,690.19</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

\$ 124,481.20

Profit & Loss

As of December 31, 2013

Income

PROGRAM REVENUES	
Event tickets	\$11,840.00
Interest Earned	<u>1,071.23</u>

Total PROGRAM REVENUES 12,911.23

PUBLIC SUPPORT

Donations	37,963.00
Grants	19,000.00
In-Kind Donations	11,277.00
Membership Dues	5,140.00
Sponsorships	<u>5,500.00</u>

Total PUBLIC SUPPORT 78,880.00

RESTRICTIONS RELEASED

Total Income 91,791.23

Expenses

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	19,557.83
MARKETING & PROMOTION	2,856.23
PERSONNEL	94,168.58
PROGRAM MATERIALS, ETC	<u>23,820.67</u>

Total Expenses 140,403.31

\$ (48,612.08)