

The background of the slide features a blue gradient with a 3D illustration of four stylized human figures holding hands in a circle. The figures are rendered in a light blue color with a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. They are positioned in the upper half of the slide, with their arms extended to connect them in a continuous loop.

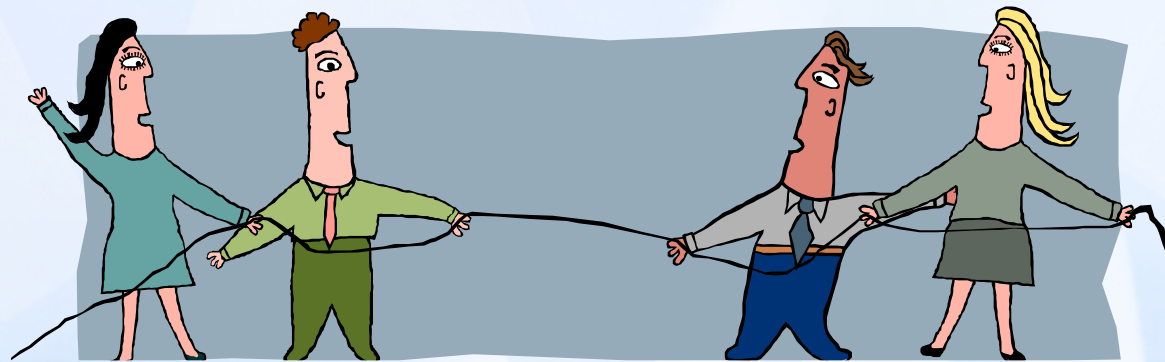
Engaging High Poverty Families Through Collaborative Community Relationships

Presented by: Sherry Slankard, MS
School Counselor

Let's share!



Circle ONE word from the workshop description that pulled you in today!



Background



- **Community Issues**
 - Hungry kids
 - Absenteeism/truancy
 - Juvenile delinquency
 - Increase in teen pregnancy
 - Youth “Gang”
- **Community Assessment**
 - Poverty directly linked to issues
 - Poverty rates increasing

Background



- **Greatest Community Needs**
 - Lack of Social Service Agencies
 - Little Collaborative Effort
 - Food for Children
 - Other basic needs for children
 - Lack of health service providers that accept Medicaid
- **Result – Training for All!**

When lost...seek more knowledge



- Bridges Out of Poverty
 - Week long training
 - Certified Trainer
 - New mindset

To learn more:

<http://www.bridgesoutofpoverty.com/>

Community Training



Representatives of social organizations meet for strategy session

Representatives from area social organizations gathered at Immanuel United Methodist Church on Wednesday for a workshop on poverty. East Richland Middle School Counselor and Certified Trainer Sherry Slankard led the workshop, "Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities..."



By Matt Courte

'Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities' was held Wednesday at Immanuel United Methodist Church.

By Matt Courte

Local Agency Group



- Representation includes:
 - State Representative
 - Law Enforcement
 - Judges & Probation Officers
 - Social Service Agencies
 - Faith Based Community
 - County Townships
 - Representatives from five area counties

Multi-Agency Group



Agency Collaboration



- **Direct Results**
 - Community awareness
 - Backpack Food Program
 - Community Garden
 - Expansion of Clothing Program
 - Multi-agency parenting program
 - Moving forward
 - Community grant writing to address needs
 - Collaborative efforts expanding

Parent Training – College Course



- Investigations Into Economic Class
 - Collaboration between local community college and school district
 - Orientation or transitional course
 - Provided connection from school to college
 - Follow up Sociology course provided at the college with same instructor as a transition

Parent Training – College Course



- Participants Received
 - 3 transferable college credit hours
 - All preexisting & current fees waived
 - Scholarship provided for successful completion of course
 - Childcare & transportation provided
 - Light meal provided

Outcomes – 1 year later



- Success Stories
 - 80% completed course successfully.
 - 100% of those who completed the course currently are still enrolled in college or working.



Outcomes – 1 year later



- Individual Success Stories

- One man along with a local minister taught other parents about budgeting.
- A mother of 4 accepted into a radiology program.
- A mother of 2 found a job working at a preschool program.



Parenting Workshops



- Parent led workshops
- Theme for the year “Thrifty Living”
 - Sewing
 - Budgeting
 - Couponing
 - Crockpot Meals

Childcare



What's the Secret to Parent Involvement?



RELATIONSHIPS!!

Ways to Involve Parents



- **Little Time Invested**
 - Newsletters
 - Mail letters/invitations
 - Use Media to advertise events
 - Referrals from other sources
- **More Time Invested**
 - Calls home
 - Home visits
 - Schedule family meetings



Poverty

What is poverty?

What does it “look” like?

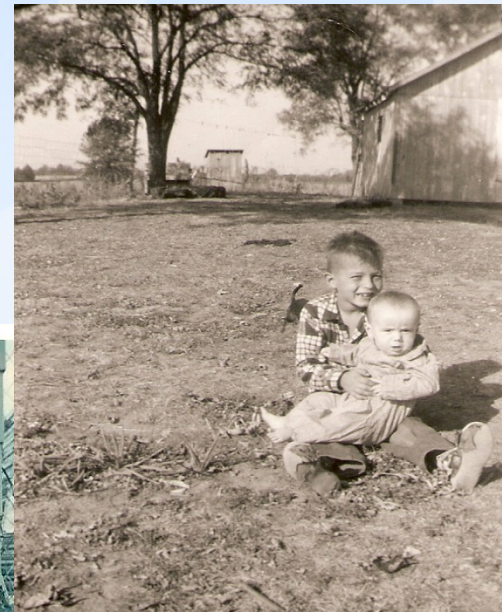
How does it “sound”?

What does it “feel” like?

Perception is Reality!



Pictures of Poverty



Poverty



It is the extent to which an individual does without resources. (Payne, 1998)

Poverty knows no bounds neither race, gender, or culture.

Poverty is relative & is experienced first on a very personal level.

Poverty – Discussion Points



- If you or your employees have not experienced living in poverty what steps have you taken to fully understand what being in poverty means?

Build relationships



No significant learning occurs
without a significant relationship.

(of mutual respect)

–Dr. James Comer

Strategies to Build Relationships



- Listen
- Learn hidden rules
- Use “Champions” at your workplace
- Educate

Listen



Listen with your eyes, ears, and heart!

“When people talk, listen completely.
Most people never listen.”

— [Ernest Hemingway](#)



Hidden Rules



- An individual brings the hidden rules of which he/she was raised.
- In order to build relationships of mutual respect, learn more than one set of hidden rules.
- What are some “hidden rules” at your workplace? Do families know them?

Use “Champions”



- No one is “everything” to “everyone”.
- Use “Champion” relationship builders to grow your program.
- Think of a “Champion” relationship builder on your staff?
 - What are some of his/her qualities?
 - Could he/she train other staff members?

Educate



- Train staff
- Excellent training programs to consider:
 - Ruby Payne's Framework
 - Bridges out of Poverty
 - 7 Habits of Highly Effective People



- ***Share***

one way this information could be applied to existing programs.





QUESTIONS?

Contact Information



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