Gary

Question	Prioritized Responses	
	Session I	Session II
What is working well in your community for families with young children?	▪ CASA ▪ Hilltop and Portage Medical Centers ▪ Head Start ▪ First Steps ▪ Networking with other social service agencies (referral process) ▪ IU Northwest Literacy Academy ▪ Maternal Child Health Network ▪ Faith-Churches ▪ Good collaboration with local universities ▪ Healthy Families ▪ Parents as Teachers Program ▪ Collaboration among agencies	▪ Parents as Teachers ▪ Healthy Families ▪ Head Start ▪ Collaboration

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What are some barriers related to raising young children?	▪ Family Dynamics
	  o Servicing the whole family
	  o Lack of motivation, different priorities
	  o ESL, multicultural
	  o Cycle of poverty
	  o Families inability to try new things
	  o Not aware of service that are available
	  o Lack of Support (extended families, close knit communities)
	  o Isolation
	▪ Cultural Division
	  o Prejudice
	  o Segregation
	  o Past frustrations "trust"
	  o Difficulty accessing services
	▪ Childhood Exposure/Environment
	  o Violence
		▪ Fragmented Services
		▪ Violence
		▪ Funding
		▪ No vision of the future

	o Drug endangered children o TV/Video/games "babysitting" children o Lack of consistency Other Issues: ▪ Accessibility to services (transportation) ▪ Health benefits and increased funding for child care providers ▪ Low funding for childcare for low income families	

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What does your community need to do to ensure that children are safe, healthy and ready to learn?	▪ Leadership
	  o Mentors from within
	  o School leadership
	  o Early Childhood advocates
	  o Faith-based leadership
	  o Positive media exposure
	  o More people to care about children
	  o Identify community leaders, peer leaders. Provide them with incentives to build cohesion
	▪ Community Awareness
	  o Recognizing agencies are there to support, not condemn families
	  o Increased sense of community
	  o More collaboration among agencies
	▪ Increased funding
	  o Funded community retreats
	
	Other Issues:
	▪ Access to Services:
	  o Quality Medical Care
		Increase parent education opportunities (PAT)
		
		Increase community awareness of the issues around early childhood-how important the early years are
		
		Give children good role models
		
		Reduce amount of time watching TV and playing violent video games
		
		Help families with working parents so children receive appropriate, quality child care

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| | o Early Childhood Education
o Early Childhood Mental Health services
▪ Families who are safe, healthy and ready to learn
▪ Cultural Awareness | |

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What does your community need to do to ensure that children have access to comprehensive services?	▪ Enrollment
	  o Streamlined enrollment
	  o Simplify application process
	  o Funding
	▪ Clearinghouse
	  o Information sharing
	  o Delivery of service directories door to door
	  o Collaboration among agencies for referrals
	▪ Transportation
	  o Improved transportation
	  o Grants awarded specifically for transportation
		Increase funding for programs that support families so they can help themselves (PAT)
		
		Take the programs to where the families are (Mobile clinic-clinic in a bus)
		
		Educate the parents about what is available
		
		Educate the other programs and services about each other so if family goes to one, they can learn about others
		
		Improve community image: so people have pride in their community and want to live, and work there.

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What does your community need to do to ensure that services are coordinated, cost effective and community based?	▪ Collaboration
	  o Lots of frequent and regular communication and collaboration from all agencies
	  o More collaboration of services (partnerships)
	  o Determine services available at agencies and align them
	  o Referrals between organizations
		▪ Simplified process
		  o Universal application
		  o Standardized procedures among programs offering similar services
		  o Combine programs that duplicate services
		  o Regional service coordinators
		▪ Early Childhood
		  o Knowledge of what an early

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	- Leadership - Start with community leaders and volunteers - Leadership - Top down initiative for coordinating services and agency leaders - Aggressive community boards/committees - Information - Independent clearinghouse that is community based - Examples of what works in other communities - Better marketing of organizations	childhood professional is - Create hiring pool of qualified potential employees - Supplement child care staff salaries (qualified, educated) - Stakeholders - Use of volunteers - Local government support - Family involvement in decision making