Question	Prioritized Responses	
	Session IA	Session II
What is working well in your community for families with young children?	 Great range of services Consortium of after-school, summer care programs Participation in early literacy programs Many services in area High school mothers' child care Increased child care options Healthy Families Chance for adults to increase education and have children Prevention programs Preschool opportunities Super shot days Hoosier Healthwise Counseling services Baby Talk, Even Start, Parents as Teachers (PAT), Fatherhood program Boys and Girls Club Collaboration of child care centers in providing training Volunteers, active community Many free children's activities Center for the Homeless Children's Health Museum Great safety net – Sliding Fee clinics Libraries, Notre Dame story time, low cost activities Focus on early childhood through Community Foundation, Memorial Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, IUSB Good collaboration among early childhood education organizations Adolescent health center in the schools Open Door Health Center Great medical Facilities 	Family Literacy First Steps Pediatricians Joint Services Preschool New waiver Collaboration of LEAs to support transition Autism Center of Michiana Michigan City schools – good autism team YWCA United Health Services Insource

September 2, 2004 Page 1 of 15

	Session IB	
What is working well in your community for families with young children?		

September 2, 2004 Page 2 of 15

Question	Prioritized Responses	
	Session IA	Session II
What are some barriers related to raising young children?	 Child Care Issues Lack of child care vouchers for working moms Quality summer programs and after school programs Loss of centers serving low-income children Quality of some child care providers (some homes and ministries) Cost of services Lack of slots or coverage area for Title I preschool and Head Start No Early Head Start No Early Head Start Parenting Issues Negative societal influences Safety – children don't go out to play Lack of parenting skills Mothers/Families overwhelmed (coping issues) Mental stress Finances for basic needs: food, shelter, clothing Lifestyle of low income, transient etc. Time to devote to parental role Single parenting Both parents working Language/communication Losing access to Hoosier Healthwise because of application process Hours services provided 	 Coordination of Services Lack of coordination of services Knowledge of available resources Fragmented sources of specialty care resulting in poor coordination Fragmentation of services (would benefit from centralization) Lack of information about the services available therefore not accessing them Clear information regarding 3rd part payors (Medicaid, waiver etc.) Working Poor Isolation Lack of quality Early Care and Education programs Child Care Decreasing funds to support families living in poverty (voucher and SSBG) Earn too much for vouchers, too little to pay for quality child care No smoking classes for parents Family/parent support opportunities (especially in early intervention) Parenting classes (coordination, transportation,

September 2, 2004 Page 3 of 15

- Household safety issues: CPR, first aid
- Information/Awareness
 - Educating parents on utilizing services
 - Working with public school systems
 - o Lack of information in one place
 - Navigating available programs
 - Little networking/communication with services

Other Issues:

- Location/transportation
- Neighborhood watch programs

- effective teaching)
- Parent accountability
- Increasing numbers of children having children therefore multiple layers of needs
- Case management
- Specialty Care
 - o Reimbursement for nursing care at home
 - Funding for therapeutic equipment for sensory dysfunction
 - No help for behavior problem for bright 4 year old of working parents
 - Lack of resources to address social-emotional needs of toddlers and parents
 - Lack of medical expertise for special needs populations
 - Nurses for home care of medically fragile child
 - 24 calorie formula (WIC/ formula company issue)
 - Shortage of providers (e.g. speech therapists)
 - Physicians with specialty for children

Other Issues:

- Cultural
 - Barriers related to language and culture
 - Need for culturally competent parent education especially for poor, high risk families
 - o Prejudice

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September 2, 2004 Page 4 of 15

	Session IB	 Transition Early childhood to school Lack of coordinated transition to schools Transportation Poor mass transit CPS Issues Not enough well trained CPS workers Lack of coordination between FSPs and CPS/Foster Care (kids get lost in system)
What are some barriers related to raising		
young children?	 Parenting skills Capacity for parent education is too small to meet all needs Teen parents with: few resources for education and moving out of poverty Multiple births, no skills Place to learn or get good examples for parenting Need for more mentors Need for more parenting programs Lack of promotion of family planning Lack of understanding of when and how learning begins Lack of understanding of child development Child Care	

September 2, 2004 Page 5 of 15

- Ahead funded child care
- Inadequate child care is most affordable
- Family Issues
 - o Poor access to Health Care
 - o Too little family time
 - Parents with low paying jobs needing to work overtime to make ends meet and time away from families
 - o No health insurance for parents
 - o Lack of employment
 - o Too many low pay, no benefit jobs
 - Limited funds limits access
 - o Single parent homes, little support
 - o Families living in poverty
 - Too many families don't/can't qualify for services/programs with no alternatives

Other Issues:

- Quality mental health services
- Transportation
 - Lack of bus services on weekends, late nights
 - o Affordable
- Safety
 - o Violence
 - o Inconsistent environment
 - o Inadequate CPS workers
- Access
 - Coordination of services and agencies
 - Parents understanding the rules of Hoosier Healthwise
 - Culturally sensitive and appropriate rules, information and

September 2, 2004 Page 6 of 15

0	education materials Disconnection of non-English speaking parents Changing and unclear rules for	
0	qualifying for programs Lack of support from local health department to have immunizations available when parents can go there	
	Hoosier Healthwise works if you are healthy Parents not knowing how to navigate the systems that are there to help Broken systems Falling through the cracks Needed services not well advertised or reaching the minority population	

Question	Prioritized	Responses
	Session IA	Session II
What does your community need to do to ensure that children are safe, healthy and ready to learn?	 Early Care and Education Subsidy programs to assist with cost of quality child care Increased resources for local CPS offices Mental health consultants for child care More Head Start, Early Head Start, and preschools through the schools Affordable, high quality child care Coordination 	 Parent Information Increased funding and services to Parents as Teachers Educate and motivate parents as partners in the process Parent education regarding quality care and education Teach parents how to advocate Well baby screenings Teach families correct use of emergency room – good insurance All natural parents should have to
	 Coordination between schools and 	complete criteria of potential

September 2, 2004 Page 7 of 15

- early childhood education centers
- Services for children residing in rural areas
- Service availability/access
- Service coordination
- o Clearinghouse for community service promotion
- Medical Services
 - o Primary medical provider for all
 - Access to family planning services
 - More basic awareness initiatives (nutrition etc.)
 - Proper prenatal care

Other Issues:

- Jobs with living wage
- More bi-lingual workers in service agencies
- Parent Education
 - o Early intervention and education
 - Parenting workshops: before and after birth
 - Education on the services available to improve quality of life

adoptive parents

- Quality of Health care
 - Improved access to medical experts
 - Increased education/training of family practice doctors in care of children
 - Educate physicians on sensory dysfunctions
 - Improved coordination between medical service providers and community agencies
 - Increased number of car seat safety instructors
 - Safety teaching: road safety (crossing roads)
 - Provide funding for programs that are not financially rewarding
- Early Care Issues
 - Free before and after school programs
 - o Summer programs
 - Boys and Girls Clubs
 - Increased pay and training for daycare workers – living wage
 - o Funding for child care programs
 - Regulated early care programs, registered ministries, homes, and centers
 - Combine "back to work" training with good day care and parent training – expanded family literacy
 - Day care for evenings and nights (so boyfriends don't need to babysit)
 - Supplement excellent daycare with extended hours

September 2, 2004 Page 8 of 15

What does your community need to do to ensure that children are safe, healthy and ready to learn?	Session IB Access to High Quality Early Care and Education Funding of good, affordable childcare Increase children's book experiences Provide funding to support programs dealing with child development Early Head Start More accredited child car sites Working Head Start program with trained, qualified staff Using school buses to ensure transportation is no longer a problem	 Early Head Start Early Intervention programs provided by schools Special Needs preschool opportunities
	programs dealing with child	
	· ·	
	1	
	Stronger link between employers	
	and schools	
	 Invest time and money in our 	
	children through arts, etc.	
	 Competent parents 	
	 Parenting skills – part of K-12 	
	curriculum o More parent involvement in	
	o More parent involvement in programs providing/addressing	
	parenting issues	
	o Train community (parents, families, providers) on preschool	
	standards (early learning)	
	·	
	 Mandatory child development and 	

September 2, 2004 Page 9 of 15

- life skills classes to graduate high school and to receive state funding (Step Ahead vouchers)
- Enhance Parents as teachers programs
- Children's Mental Health
 - Not enough quality and affordable child care
 - Mental health service that understands children and parents and is affordable
 - Children's acces to health and mental health services through early education
 - Develop programs to help children deal with stress – coping skills
 - o Make sure kids are fed
 - o Healthcare for everyone
 - Bring free services into neighborhoods
 - o Easy access to programs
 - Improve the services available through Hoosier Healthwise
 - Easier enrollment
 - More physicians
 - Appropriate payments and supports
 - o One stop shopping sites
 - o Choices in mental health services
 - o Improved access to health care

Other Issues:

- Cultural Sensitivity
 - Culturally sensitive and ethnically diverse agencies and staff to meet community needs (not just a class)

September 2, 2004 Page 10 of 15

 Easy access to translators Safety Improve sense of neighborhood Increase neighborhood safety programs

Question	Prioritized Responses	
	Session I	Session II
What does your community need to do to ensure that children have access to comprehensive services?	 Leadership Community leadership that buys in to the "cause" Increased awareness as to the value of early childhood and need to meet these needs Screening in early childhood care centers No Child Left Behind for Community Care Collaboration/Communication Access to family care coordination Comprehensible government services Education of services available Funds set aside for collaboration efforts Child programs provide information Clearinghouse/one stop resource Communication among agencies Collaboration of services Access Adequate transportation services Facilities in all locations that are neighborhood based Flexible hours for accessing services 	 Financial Accessibility A way to attract specialty doctors (pediatric neurologist) Support respite care services for "at risk families" Respite care Medical services available in the evenings and on weekends Adequate funding for children's special health care needs Increase Medicaid disability and waivers One stop shopping Parent resource hotline or center Redesign public housing areas to have safe parks, community centers Homes where single moms could raise kids together Have one stop shopping centers for low income areas (cluster medical services, community agencies, groceries, etc.) Improved transportation to needed resources Coordination Streamlined case management Better state to local coordination

September 2, 2004 Page 11 of 15

		 Less red tape
	Other Issues:	p
	 More child care vouchers/subsidy 	
	 Access task forces 	
	Session IB	
What does your community need to do to ensure that children have access to comprehensive services?	Funding for Services Better reimbursement to primary care providers Increase capacity of providers to adequate numbers Have services affordable and available Fund ongoing successful programs Funding adequacy (multiple) Capacity Building Mentally change – service based on need vs. convenience People providing the services that really care for people Better follow-up measures so people don't fall through the cracks Adequate resources to reach all in need Social workers available in all hospitals to address issues at birth Good responsible service providers Good responsible parents Community understanding and devotion to services Buy-in by all citizens Adequate staff Marketing Services 211 statewide Educate parents about services and how to access them	

September 2, 2004 Page 12 of 15

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	community resources	
0	Have a comprehensive checklist of	
	what is available	
0	Collaborative projects and grants	
0	Paid coordination	
0	Taxonomy of Information	
	Resource and Referral – paid staff	
0	Better marketing for all	
	Campaign – Children Count	
	 Most precious commodity 	
Other Issu	ies:	
■ Ph	ysical Access	
	o Go to the community with the	
	services	
	 One stop shopping 	
	 Transportation system 	
	o Flexible hours	

Question	Prioritized	Responses
	Session IA	Session II
What does your community need to do to ensure that services are coordinated, cost effective and community based?	 Collaboration Lots of frequent and regular communication and collaboration from all agencies More collaboration of services (partnerships) Determine services available at agencies and align them Referrals between organizations Leadership Start with community leaders and volunteers Leadership Top down initiative for coordinating services and agency leaders 	 Early Childhood Systems of Care Social needs not adequately covered beyond preschool Create a local or regional council representing medicine, education, community agency representatives Better trained social workers and case managers in community agencies Programs that support the family as well as the child Early Childhood Coordinating Council/Task Force- regional Increase programs from birth to five to Birth to Eight Programs that are integrated

September 2, 2004 Page 13 of 15

	 Aggressive community boards/committees Information Independent clearinghouse that is community based Examples of what works in other communities Better marketing of organizations 	rather than fragmented (location, personnel, funding) Medical Care More home health nurses Hospitals working together A children's hospital and the resources that it would bring Recruitment and retention of specialists in the local area
	Session IB	
What does your community need to do to ensure that services are coordinated, cost effective and community based?	 Local coordination Paid coordinators Value community-based organizations that target special populations No duplication of services Service agencies working together Write collaborative grants that help us be more accountable to each other and the community Team with each other Local clearinghouse for state and federal funding requests Services made available from a central office to all communities in a contracted, timely manner. Monthly reports to all communities Guide that includes requirements to receive services Advertise the services to each other and community so we know better how to coordinate Support local planning efforts (Step Ahead, Health Families, Healthy Communities) all of which need to coordinate Return local responsibility and 	

September 2, 2004 Page 14 of 15

- authority to Step Ahead
- Divide the state into regions for all programs
- Accountability
 - Have a report card system that gives the community true facts
 - o Use report card to hold ourselves accountable
- Communication Systems
 - Don't start new services until we know what is available and working
 - Keep community-based organizations in the loop, if not at your tables or meetings

Other Issues:

- Adequate resources
- Achieve buy-in on goals from all stakeholders to reduce duplication and enhance coordination
- Have programs developed by actual providers
- Keep programs county based
- Involve our officials in the process
- Involve neighborhood leaders in the planning
- Local governmental involvement and support (including funding) for coordination
- Local private corporate involvement (tax incentive)
- Increase parent involvement at all stages
- Cooperation of all players
- Business and social service teams

September 2, 2004 Page 15 of 15