

La Plata County Children, Youth, and Family Master Plan

What's going on with youth in
La Plata County?

Timeline

2003 – local mentoring program wanted to county to take a more positive view of youth

2006 – idea presented at Community Summit

2007 – County, Durango, Ignacio, and Bayfield put money in their budget

2008 – County hired a PT coordinator and a consultant from Hampton, VA

La Plata County Followed Others

Hampton had just received Harvard University's Innovation in American Government award for their youth master planning process

Also modeled after a similar effort in Jefferson County

Inclusive Research

Seven citizen committees

Surveys

Focus groups

Interviews

Planning workshops

Website for results and taking comments

La Plata County has 150 non-profits
focused on children, youth, and families

Guiding Question

“Are we doing all that we can to ensure that all children youth and families thrive”?

Each citizen committee made a single recommendation by April 1, 2008

Approach: Problem free is not fully prepared, fully prepared is not fully developed, and fully developed is not fully engaged.

Nine Drafts to Define “Thrive”

Thriving youth and adults are steadily growing towards and becoming . . .

People with a positive sense of self

Nurturing and responsible family members

Caring and ethical individuals

Effective communicators

Exemplary workers and lifelong learners

People who make healthy life choices

Innovative problem solvers & appliers of a creative process

Involved community members and responsible global citizens



Developmental Assets Survey

20 external assets

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries and expectations
- Constructive use of time

20 internal assets

- Commitment to learning
- Positive values
- Social Competencies
- Positive Identity

Early Childhood Subcommittee

Recommendation - Make quality childcare services and in-home supports accessible to all children.

Youth in Transition Subcommittee

Recommendation: An info system that connects everyone in the county to the resources they need to thrive.

Youth Development & Education/Afterschool Subcommittees

Joint Recommendation - Countywide youth engagement & service learning system that ensures all youth can be meaningfully involved in the decisions, structures and processes that affect them

Family Economics Subcommittee

Recommendation: Everyone residing in La Plata County has the opportunity to earn a livable wage.

Health and Safety Subcommittee

Recommendation – Positive interactions between all citizens and the health and safety networks that serve the community

Neighborhood & Communities Subcommittee

Recommendation – Create activities, places and organizations that help people find their voice.

What's Happened Since?

- Local governments haven't put money toward implementation
- New round of Development Assets data collected with a grant
- Informal working groups and volunteers continue to push for some of the recommendations