



Community Needs Task Force Update October 2016

BACKGROUND: In 2015, the San Juan Island Community Foundation invited a broad range of community leaders and stakeholders to participate in facilitated, roundtable discussions in several areas of interest. The goal of these discussions was to identify the most current and pressing community needs and seek strategic sustainable solutions to those needs. Each workgroup produced a prioritized list of perceived needs and suggested strategies to meet those needs. The 2015 Community Needs Task Force Report can be found by visiting our website: <http://sjicf.org>. Hard copies may also be obtained from the office, 360-378-1001. This was and is an open process. All are welcome to participate.

It's been a year since the formal convening of these groups and the Foundation is pleased to provide this update to the community.

The updates below reflect general community progress that The Foundation is aware of. The Foundation is dedicated to tracking needs and facilitating local organizations (nonprofits & government) in creating and implementing solutions. The Foundation will support, but not take the lead, in the implementation of these strategies as best as possible.

HOUSING WORK GROUP		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Affordable rental housing	Consult and update the 2011 County Housing Assessment. Collect additional data to quantify demand. Facilitate conversations with core organizations (San Juan Community Home Trust, OPAL Community Land Trust, and San Juan County Public Health Department) to address needs.	San Juan County Housing Workgroup formed to specifically address these issues and an interim report was presented to the County Council in August 2016. Specific action plans will be presented in the next report. County-wide awareness of this issue appears to be on the rise. Several non-governmental (non-profit and private) efforts to add additional affordable housing units to the current inventory are in the preliminary phases of start-up, as well as an effort to preserve existing units.
Substandard housing	Organize local volunteer efforts to make repairs to substandard houses. Consult Hearts and Hammers' program.	Preliminary discussions underway between Island Neighbors and San Juan Rotary Club regarding the potential start-up of a limited-scope Hearts & Hammers-like program with Rotary support.
Homelessness/emergency housing	Meet with San Juan Island Family Resource Center to identify needs more specifically. Assess potential resources.	Safe San Juans (formerly DV/SAS) is in the preliminary planning stages of a program to comprehensively address this issue.

OUR FOOD SUPPLY WORK GROUP		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Community commercial kitchen at Fairgrounds	Build a community kitchen that can provide space and equipment for classes, support business opportunities and serve as a community gathering place.	The project has been delayed. It is still very high on the list of priorities and the San Juan County Parks & Fair Department is working to launch this idea.
Cold Storage Unit	Establish a cold storage facility to act as a hub for distribution of local food to the food bank, grocery stores and restaurants.	The Ag Guild received a grant to do research and create a business plan for hubs on the three larger islands. That project is near completion and the Ag Guild has submitted a grant application to implement the business plan. Results of this application are expected in the Fall.
Education and healthy food choices	Form and support partnerships for school gardens.	There are individuals with experience in school garden programs and curriculum working to assemble a strategy and review school initiative to support a local school garden movement.
Greenhouses and/or Hoop Houses	Expanded use and access to green houses and hoop houses to extend the growing season and improve the access to local food year round.	This issue was partially ameliorated when the council voted to not initiate more restrictive regulations for greenhouses.
Availability and access to local food	Initiate a campaign to increase the supply of local food in grocery stores and restaurants. Provide subsidies to low income individuals, families and seniors to enable the purchase local food.	The Ag Guild restarted the "Island Grown" program to connect consumers and restaurant/grocery store owners with a more local food educated consumer. Momentum is building and the hubs and new farmer initiatives will work in concert to increase local food consumption. Minimal progress has been made to date on low income subsidies.
Reestablish and revitalize farming/agriculture	Collaborate with retiring farmers and seek young farmers to mentor. Establish a mentoring program (ex. Viva Farms). Support campaigns to promote the pride and history of agriculture on San Juan Island.	The Ag Guild, Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC), and Agricultural Resources Committee (ARC) organizations in Island County have applied for a grant to train, mentor and provide access to farmland for new farmers. Results of this application are expected in the Fall.

EDUCATION: SECONDARY-COLLEGE WORK GROUP		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
San Juan Island Public Schools face declining enrollment and subsequent budget gaps	Campaign to better inform the community of public school funding and state mandates. Partner with Skagit Valley Community College and San Juan Island Library to utilize combined resources.	SJI School District superintendent is leading efforts to expand public outreach and educational partnerships.
Support for Skagit Valley Community College	Provide scholarships for the Skagit Valley Community College, vocational and technology programs, and for incidental needs such as living expenses. Focus on those who did not take the usual route to college and need to balance employment with gaining additional skills.	The San Juan Island Community Foundation Scholarship Committee will actively consider applications meeting these criteria.
Scholarships for Spring Street International School (SSIS)	Provide and direct scholarships to island students to provide alternative educational opportunities and choices.	Grants to support this process have been applied for. SSIS is working to generate additional revenue by utilizing the campus for science camp activities in the summer.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORK GROUP		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Effective communication and personal preparedness	Outreach campaign to educate the community about safety and self-reliance in an emergency. Promote regular Red Cross training. Partner with local schools.	County-wide efforts to inform the public about disaster preparedness continue. A grant to fund a study of the extent to which County facilities meet current seismic standards has been applied for.
Point of contact in an emergency	Convey the protocol for communication in the event of an emergency. Establish and promote the San Juan Island Library as a central hub for information. Fund a generator for back-up power and charging stations.	A fully integrated disaster communication system (single frequency shared among first-responders) remains unrealized.
Emergency care for small and large domestic animals	Collaborate with the animal shelter, island veterinarians, (current and retired) to coordinate after-hours emergency care with a volunteer call center.	Preliminary efforts are underway to form a steering committee to address this issue.

SOCIAL SERVICES WORK GROUP		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Outreach and resource guide	Develop a comprehensive directory of social services, programs and facilities.	<p>Peace Island Medical Center (PIMC) is spearheading this project. A small committee has been formed and is moving forward on creating a web-based County Social Services/Human Services Resource Directory that will have a printable option.</p> <p>San Juan County Health & Community Services has updated and distributed a County-wide Resource Directory of mental health providers.</p>
Case management	Establish a single point of contact for personal case management. Integrate person to person services for direction and guidance to navigate social services.	<p>No single point of contact for case management has been identified and established, but some progress has been made.</p> <p>PIMC has launched a successful Behavioral Health Case Management program in conjunction with the PIMC Medical Clinic.</p> <p>A limited amount of case management is being provided via the county's three Family Resource Centers. The Centers are currently exploring funding options for increasing general case management hours. SAFE San Juans (formerly DV/SAS) is exploring the possibility of creating a case management position for older youth/young adults.</p> <p>Additional supportive programs (Island Neighbors, Community Paramedicine) are being developed and implemented in the coming year – these programs will integrate with case management services and provide an array of support services that will help to simplify case management needs for vulnerable clients.</p>
Monthly social service meetings	Establish monthly meetings for those who work in the social services to support and encourage lateral conversation, create a platform to share knowledge, and create a collaborate environment for programs and services.	A Community Network meeting process was formalized and launched in March 2016. The meeting occurs once every two months. San Juan County Health & Community Services currently funds hours for a consultant to plan meetings, communicate with attendees and take/distribute minutes. An employee from SJ County Health & Community Services facilitates; teleconference equipment enables the meeting to include attendees from Lopez, Orcas and San Juan Island.
Drug and alcohol intervention	Create a task force to address issues and solutions. Facilitate collaborations and partnerships with prevention organizations.	<p>San Juan County Health and Community Services Human Services Division has taken the lead in this area by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing for the conversion of North Sound Mental Health Administration to a Behavioral Health Organization effective

		<p>April 1, 2016 and the associated transitioning and integration of Substance Use Disorder services with mental health.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Planning for the possible closure of Pioneer Center North and the North Sound Evaluation and Treatment Center which may occur in 2018. This requires a regional effort to relocate 141 substance use disorder treatment bed and 16 Involuntary Treatment Act beds. 3. Planning and implementing SafeCare, a home visiting program for at-risk families with children ages 0 – 5. 4. Compiling a behavioral health provider directory and continuing to work on Medicaid expansion related activities under the Affordable Care Act. 5. Working with PIMC on the Community Health Needs Assessment process and several work groups under that umbrella, including a resource guide and behavioral health work group, to work on care coordination and other issues related to Health Care integration. 6. Compiling local data from various needs assessments and community processes across the county related to behavioral health issues and service needs (including the work done by SJICF) which will be distilled and brought back to local stakeholders for review, additional input, and prioritization of needs for future planning around recovery oriented systems of care. 7. Maintaining and monitoring the Community Wellness Program. 8. Working with North Sound BHO, Compass Health, and the Lopez and Orcas Island School Districts to embed a mental health professional in the Orcas and Lopez schools. The lack of affordable housing, as well as other barriers, has impacted the ability for Compass Health to hire staff. 9. Expanding the Prevention Coordinator position back to county-wide prevention and working with community members on Orcas to develop a prevention coalition on Orcas Island.
--	--	---

EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD (BIRTH – GRADE 6) WORK GROUP		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Coordination of services	Develop a directory of resources specifically for early childhood development.	Under discussion for 2017. Possibly a section in a new Community Services Guide.
Behavior-home visits/support	Establish a home visit program to strengthen at-risk families and improve the lives of children. Make programs available to all families in need.	Awaiting a local organization to spearhead this project.
Holistic wellness program	Implement programs that will address childhood behaviors, wellness, health and nutrition, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Calm Yoga, and Mind Up.	A team from Friday Harbor Elementary School (FHES) attended a two-day training for a multi-tiered system of support for early childhood trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). At the elementary school there has been a recent increase in the number of students exhibiting the effects of ACEs in their lives. Working to collaborate with the County Health department to explore bringing programs to train more FHES staff, and include private school and preschool colleagues. This project will also help build program integration between our local preschool and the K-6 formal education system. (See below).
Foster grandparent program	Partner with organizations such as Friends and Neighbors and 4H to set up training for seniors who would be well suited and interested to volunteer as a foster grandparent.	First steps taken with a Community Foundation grant to the Family Resource Center to restart the disbanded Friends & Neighbors now called Island Neighbors.
Programs fostering broad childhood success in K-6	Introduce educational programs into the classrooms that encourage student questions and inquisitiveness.	Community Foundation grant funded a partnership with U of W Department of Philosophy to introduce and train elementary teachers in the value of student questions especially those without clear-cut answers. Very positive response from all levels of students and from the teachers.
Program integration between our local pre-schools and the K-6 formal education system.	Increase information flow between the various pre-schools and the FHES with an eye towards a seamless transition for the child.	FHES is discussing developing such a program and looking at budgetary considerations. (See above). Budgetary considerations are paramount in providing substitute teachers to allow staff the time for professional development.
Strengthening Art, Music & Science training in the FHES K-6.	Focus on new programs in K-6 Art, Music & Science.	Recent school levy will provide funds for a “STEM” program facility at the FHES campus, which will free up space for increased Art & Music offerings. Staffing remains one of biggest challenges.

OUR ENVIRONMENT WORK GROUP

2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
<p>Stewardship education and outreach</p>	<p>Fund the update and reprinting of existing environmental educational materials for kids' programs, visitor outreach and community stewardship. Support a plastic bag ban initiative.</p>	<p>San Juan Nature Institute (SJNI) received a grant from The Foundation to provide education and outreach on the WSDOT Ferry system. SJNI is in the process of procuring other grant sources and working with WSDOT as well as other organizations to put video messaging on the ferries serving SJI.</p> <p>San Juan Island Nature Institute is in partnership with Island Rec to continue Science at Camp Eagle Rock for youth. They also completed a course Introduction to Watersheds for elementary students (K-6) at Friday Harbor Elementary School with support from The Foundation. Our report included links to essays by 6th graders that were used by San Juan Preservation Trust in their campaign for Zylstra Lake.</p> <p>There is now a Youth Corps on Orcas, Lopez, and San Juan and a high school group as well. There is potential to incorporate Salish Sea waterways with tribes for youth outreach and education. The Youth Corps will be functioning under the San Juan Island Conservation District.</p> <p>The Whale Museum received a grant to create narratives in multiple languages for educational outreach pertaining to the surrounding Salish Sea and Orca.</p> <p>The Terrestrial Managers Group is a working group comprised of agencies, NGOs, & individuals involved in land management, research, education, and preservation in San Juan County who have led the Leave No Trace Principles (Program) for San Juan County. Leave No Trace Initiative has been working to educate locals and visitors both on ways to enjoy the islands with minimum impact with workshops on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan.</p> <p>The Terrestrial Managers Group Leave No Trace Initiative has been working to educate locals and visitors both on ways to enjoy the islands with minimum impact with workshops on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan.</p>

		A plastic bag ban was proposed to the County Council. This is in the early stages and the Council is considering.
Water conservation	Promote education and outreach for the need to conserve water. Raise awareness of limited capacity on San Juan island.	No specific actions noted.
Address climate change	Fund a climate resiliency feasibility study to determine the risk and effects of climate change in our local environment.	Islands Climate Resilience is working on several fronts with their primary goal of community level planning for impacts of climate change. A lot of education and outreach is being done on San Juan Island with occasional partnerships on other islands. They continue to seek funding.
Noxious weed removal	Foster a joint effort with schools and organizations to eradicate noxious weeds. Partner with the San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corp to establish work parties on a monthly basis.	These efforts are ongoing.

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK GROUP		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Database of nonprofits	Form a steering committee to create a community network to share information and resources.	A local volunteer has agreed to spearhead the effort to develop a nonprofit-specific resource guide. PIMC received a grant from The Foundation to hire a consultant to create a Word Press online community resource guide for health & social services. The Community Network will serve as the source for community health and social services and most likely, will be the source for the person hired to create the guide.
Outreach and education for nonprofit boards	Promote monthly board education conferences organized by a steering committee, to facilitate training and build organizational capacity.	The SJC Economic Development Council recently partnered with Washington Nonprofits and the Washington Secretary of State to offer two workshops on excellent board practices for nonprofit organizations. Workshops were held on Lopez and San Juan Islands.
Skills and experience bank	Coordinate willing and vetted participants with professional experience to volunteer time to support nonprofits.	No specific actions noted.

TRANSPORTATION		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Reliable year round affordable public transportation	Promote partnerships with schools and Mullis Community Senior Center to utilize vehicles not in use. Promote taxi and shuttle to participate in County Transportation Voucher Program	No specific actions noted.
Minimize environmental impact of seasonal transit	Incentivize visitors to leave their cars on the mainland and provide reliable shuttle services to populated and scenic areas.	No specific actions noted.
Focus public awareness on public transportation	Outreach campaign to draw awareness to community transportation needs.	No specific actions noted.

HEALTHCARE		
2015 Identified Needs	2015 Suggested Strategies	2016 Update
Local support for Mount Baker Planned Parenthood, greater presence and higher level of service	Outreach and awareness to generate financial support for the local Mount Baker Planned Parenthood office. Quantify the demand for higher level of services.	Mount Baker Planned Parenthood has reached out to the San Juan Island population through a series of mailers addressing services, programs, and the importance of supporting the San Juan Island Planned Parenthood Health Center. Because of this, donor support is at the highest in the health center's history and has increased donor rolls by more than 10%.
Shortage of mental health professionals	Peace Island Medical Center (PIMC) to form consortium to address this need.	Compass Health is currently looking to hire at least four new providers but there has been little progress. There is still no adolescent or pediatric providers. The Telepsychiatry program at PIMC is still on-going. PeaceHealth may have a decrease in coverage until October due to contracting issues with private practice providers. Integrating behavioral health with primary care is sustainable with a newly hired a Behavioral Health Consultant.
Low immunization rates	San Juan County Public Health Department programs and Peace Island Medical Center consortium to address this need.	The Immunization Workgroup has worked to increase childhood immunizations by outreach to SJC providers to increase registry entry, working with the Orcas & Lopez School District to reduce personal belief exemptions, and continuing to grow a community-wide task force. This group is also focused on actively increasing adult immunization rates. PIMC may pilot the use of the new state registry for adult immunizations.
Coordination of care	Peace Island Medical Center to form consortium to address this need.	Two meetings were convened when awaiting the outcome of the SJI EMS levy. The levy was passed in August so SJI EMS will continue to attend regional community paramedicine strategy and policy meetings. This group will focus first on a referral system that can be utilized by all the stakeholders for the target group that needs case management.

COMMUNITY ARTS	
2015 Identified Needs	Suggested Strategies
Housing for actors and artists	No specific strategies were proposed.
Scholarships for art schools	No specific strategies were proposed.
Scholarships for student Friday Harbor Film Festival projects	No specific strategies were proposed.
Art programs in the Friday Harbor Elementary and Middle school, visual vocabulary and literacy	No specific strategies were proposed.
Increase public support of the arts through repetitive outreach campaigns.	No specific strategies were proposed.
Support the San Juan Island Community Theatre scholarship program	No specific strategies were proposed.
Support artists directly, not just organizations	No specific strategies were proposed.
Volunteers and housing for Island Stage Left actors	No specific strategies were proposed.

RECREATION	
2015 Identified Needs	Suggested Strategies
Ballfields: Completion of Phase III	In progress.
Island Rec: Establish LaFarge gravel pit as a community park	No specific strategies were proposed.
Island Rec: Build capacity and content for Study Time and Afternoon Recreation (STAR) Program and Camp Eagle Rock	No specific strategies were proposed.
Island Rec: Financial assistance for San Juan Nature Institute programs	No specific strategies were proposed.
Island Rec: Increased programming for children. Educational specialist to provide programming continuity throughout the year	No specific strategies were proposed.
Island Rec: Expand programs and outreach to better meet Hispanic needs	No specific strategies were proposed.
Island Rec: Increase the variety of programs with partnerships	No specific strategies were proposed.