



Community Leaders' Observations June 14, 2002

On June 14, 2002, 60 community leaders gathered to consider the findings of Snohomish County Counts, the 2000 U.S. Census, and other recent Snohomish County community assessments. The group included elected officials as well as leaders from both U.S. senators' offices, local business, housing organizations, human services, criminal justice, county government, Naval Station Everett, and United Way. They were asked to summarize key community assets, challenges and opportunities, and a vision for an improved community in 2005. These notes are their responses in those categories. The group also aligned themselves with interest areas for addressing challenges and opportunities.

Snohomish County Assets/Strengths

(number in parentheses indicates duplicate answers)

- Growing diversity (2)
- Wealth of resources
- Strong workforce
- Untapped workforce
- Volunteers
- Willingness to collaborate (3)
- Proactive stance toward change
- Families

Snohomish County Challenges and Opportunities

- Embracing diversity [C, D, J]
- Growing children into more active change agents [C, F, Y]
- Increasing senior poverty / Increasing health costs [S, H]
- Identifying leaders to galvanize community to address issues [A, C, E]
- Keep action going from here (this summit) [A]
- Traffic [T]
- Increase willingness to find a feasible solution [C, E]
- Influx of workers from outside Snohomish County? [J]
- Preventing youth crime and incarceration / connection with education [E, F, Y]
- Disparity between low and high income jobs [D, J, P]
- Create some jobs between high tech and fast food to pay semi- to low-skilled workers enough to live [D, F, J, P]
- Public education re: tax increases and their impacts [E, F]
- Access to services for the young disabled and chronically mentally ill—current services available don't suit the population [B, D, Y]
- No longer look to government to change community issues [C, E]
- Impact of electronic media on creating a sense of place [C]
- Increased poverty for kids and elderly = need for parents, guardians, & caregivers to work together [B, F, P, S, Y]
- Affordable housing [C, D, F, G, P]
- Livable wage [C, D, F, G, J, P]
- Accessible healthcare [D, F, H, P]
- Including prescriptions [D, H, P]
- [Economic] dependence on Boeing [J]
- Balancing population growth and quality of life [C, D, F]
- Increase understanding that healthy health and human services safety net is good economic strategy [B, C, D, E]
- Looking for solutions and collaboration in new ways [C, D, E]
- Youth not feeling valued [C, D, E, F, Y]
- Hidden poverty [C, F, P, S]
- People working too much to maintain income levels = decreased quality of life [C, E, F, P]

Key to Letter Codes for Interest Areas	
A = Continuing summit action	H = Access to healthcare
B = Collaboration	J = Job growth
C = Creating sense of community	P = Poverty
D = Diversity	S = Seniors
E = Education	T = Traffic/transportation
F = Families	Y = Youth
G = Housing	

Vision for Snohomish County on June 14, 2005

- General public recognizes that human services make good business sense [B, C, E]
- Unification of resources – “one-stop shopping” [B]
- Public education about resources [E]
- Unemployment down / poverty down [J, P]
- Senior population in a better place [P, S]
- Economic stimulation [J, P]
- Countywide celebrations celebrating ethnic groups [C]
- Measurable increase in community attachment [C]
- Increased multi-use community buildings/centers [C]
- Decreased general apathy about social and health issues [C, E]
- Commitment (personal, organizational, resources) to build inclusive community [C, D]
- Diverse employment / employees [D]
- Decreased unplanned pregnancies [H]
- Multi-use housing [C, G]
- Increased living wage jobs [J, P]
- Countywide strategy for transporting homeless kids to home schools [B, T]
- Increased collaboration between county and cities [B, E]
- Decreased funding for criminal justice [B, E]
- Increased opportunities for people being released from jail/prison [B, D, J]
- Increased resources for preventing criminal behavior [B, E, Y]
- Decreased violence against women [B, E, F]
- Decreased number of children in protective services [B, E, F, Y]
- Comprehensive plan to address senior poverty [B, P, S]
- 10-17 year olds feel valued by adults [C, E, F, Y]
- Community on all levels [C]
- Lifelong learning [E]
- Leadership working together for balanced changes [B, C]
- Voices of disenfranchised populations heard through voting and participation in events like this [B, C, D, E]
- Access to healthcare [H]
- Supporting youth [C, D, Y]
- Livable communities / re-establish sense of neighborhood [C]
- Strengthen collaboration [B]
- NO homeless kids in Snohomish County [B, C, G, Y]
- Unified, well-supported transit system [E, T]
- More dancing [C]