

2019

honestly OKC

SUMMARY & OBSERVATIONS

FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS

1000feathers



MEETINGS HELD

November 5, 2018	(SHAG and Steering Committee Meetings)
January 24, 2019	(kick-off luncheon; follow-up w/ SHAG, Steering Committee)
March 6, 2019	(breakfast with Visioning Council, Steering Committee, SHAG; follow-up w/ SHAG, Steering Committee)

“I think we can do better. Build from the ground up. Hear what the community wants and go from there.” – SHAG member

“We don’t want to be robots. We take breaths. We re-evaluate, not just where we are, but where the community is. As we grow. We don’t want to become robotic.”
– *honestly* staff member

“The community is primed for this conversation – we are a progressive, growing, caring community.” – Visioning Council member

SUMMARY OF THEMES

1. Youth Involvement is Key

- Need to build a new culture around sexual health that is inclusive and includes the voices of youth.
- Need to do better telling the stories of those we serve.
- Think about the “pathway” from a young person’s perspective.

2. Advocate for Adolescent Health (and put in context of larger social issues)

- Need to be known in our area as big advocates around sexual health.
- Insert our work where there is momentum - i.e. education, workforce development, criminal justice, economic development, mental health.
 - » Translation is key – messaging, website, handouts
 - » *“OKC has had a major cultural shift – environment for opportunity is here. We now see hope in young adults. There was a time that young people left OKC and didn’t come back, but now there is potential for a life in OKC.”* – Visioning Council member
 - » *“We need to latch on to momentum in other areas – ie., workforce development; civic engagement; generational handoff of leadership in OKC; domestic violence.”* – Visioning Council member
- Need mandatory comprehensive sex education
- Minors need to be able to access free contraception
- Need faster access to LARC
- Medicaid expansion

3. Build Trust Amongst the Collaborative

- Who holds who accountable? Who sets the standard?
- Partners need role clarification and clear expectations
 - » *“We need to un-silo the pillars and make this all one effort.”* – SHAG member
- Need clarity around expectations of members. First role clarification, then we can discuss who/how we add others.
- Embrace the unequal weight/focus of each pillar.
- Need to clarify existing and historical structures of the group (ie. Collective impact).

4. Collaborative Needs to Identify and Serve Priority Populations

- Identify (and serve) priority populations.
 - » LGBTQ
 - » Fostercare
 - » 18-19 year olds should be a key focus - how to reach them?
 - » Growth of Hispanic population – what are we doing about it?
 - » Multiple access points for education and services (not all kids are reached in schools - homeless, home schooled, etc.)
- Meet young people where they are.
 - » Help providers create a willingness to share resources; accessible hours, programs, and services.
 - » Better technology and outreach

5. Improve Communication

- We don't clearly communicate just how much is at stake around the work we do.
- Need better and more consistent forms of communication – to the community and to each other in the collaborative.
 - » *“Could add more value if we were telling our story better.”* – SHAG member
- Need a new mission statement, elevator pitch - all collaborative members need to be trained on who we are and what we do.
- What is everyone doing? We need a list of partners and the services they provide that can be shared.
 - » *“Is there a shared document or comprehensive list of all partners?”* – SHAG member
- Keep adolescent health on the public agenda and top of mind.
- We need transparency and clear communications.
 - » Collaboration newsletter?

6. Engagement and Involvement

- Collective impact has a bad rep about being top/down instead of community driven.
- A directory of clinics (telling teens where/how to go) is a must.
- Parent education
- Build a network of trusted adults.
- Remove silos in the community - ensure providers are working together.
- **honestly** needs to be the resource hub for young people and their families.

7. Equity

- Note that frame hasn't come up as consistently in group conversations but is an expressed need based on data.

WHY ARE WE HERE? (SHAG)

- ✓ To lower the teen birth rate
- ✓ Healthy kids
- ✓ Improve quality of life in Oklahoma
- ✓ Educate kids
- ✓ Reverse cycles of poverty
- ✓ Clear set of directions – a plan of how to do these things
- ✓ Improving quality of life for all – relationships, parent/child, kids/friends so we can all be happy and successful
- ✓ Decrease stigma around sex ed
- ✓ Apply effective best practices
- ✓ Reduce poverty and equitable outcomes
- ✓ Intergeneration
- ✓ Allowing youth to focus on what really matters/bringing childhood back

How Do You DESCRIBE *honestly*?

This question has been asked of *honestly* staff, SHAG group members, and Steering Committee members. As per the below responses, there remains confusion on how to describe *honestly* (the organization) vs *honestly* (the collaborative). Responses below are unedited captures from small and large-group discussions.

- A nonprofit, leading a public/private partnership to reduce teen birth rate; we work with... education, medical and community at large (faith leaders and youth).
- Start off by saying, “We are a collaboration; we work with...”
 - » When we say “we” I think it makes people think we do this, but we don’t deliver the information. People get confused about who is doing the work. Need to give more credit to the partners/community.
- Collaboration typically works on teen pregnancy prevention and sexual health promotion.
 - » Intentional about describing *honestly* as the head of the collaboration.
 - » I think it matters how partners are describing us; otherwise we have no reason to be here.
 - » *honestly* is the convener or the facilitator; the administration...
 - » Partners have lots of issues they cover, the collaborative brings it back to sexual health.
 - » Backbone organization of a collaboration working to reduce teen pregnancy in Oklahoma.
- *honestly* is an organization that’s making Oklahoma City better for kids, by successfully partnering to reduce teen pregnancy.
- *honestly* is a community coalition of multi-disciplinary organizations...
- *honestly* is an organization that works with a variety of community groups...
- *honestly* is a sexual health collaborative that helps to ensure 1) parents and community members; and 2) that young people...
- *honestly* is a collective impact organization with the goal of reducing teen pregnancy in Central Oklahoma... improving overall quality of life.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE COLLABORATIVE?

Recognize that the group has identified they desire “*having criteria that are tied directly to the collaborative*” such that programming offered/promoted through the collaborative does not do harm to young people being served. The list below could be considered a beginning of such criteria. This list is a reflection of a number of conversations with SHAG and Steering Committee. Things included in *red/italics* come directly from the “polarity thinking” exercise the group participated in.

- ✓ **We recognize that we are stronger together.**
 - » 77 partners – working in collaboration with each other (is this true?)
 - » Diverse voices make for better understanding
 - » Focused energy on a single issue
 - » Leverage resources and reduce duplication
- ✓ **We advocate to ensure adolescent health stays top-of-mind.**
 - » Educate decision makers
 - o How do we decide which policies to get behind as a collaborative?
 - » Could add more value if we were telling our story better: track and celebrate our shared successes
 - » Create a narrative of this public health success
- ✓ **We are committed to being outcome focused and data driven.**
 - ✓ Willingness to ask hard questions: look at systems level change, evaluate ourselves
 - ✓ Challenging status quo
 - ✓ Who holds who accountable? Who sets the standard?
 - ✓ Focus on continuous quality improvement

- ✓ **We believe the best prevention approaches are medically accurate, comprehensive, evidence based – and grounded in an equity framework.**
 - » *The goal is to deliver the best possible information to students and young people.*

- ✓ **We honor and respect the voices of youth and community.**
 - » Youth centered
 - » Youth have rights
 - » Youth investment
 - » Inclusive
 - » *Our approach is to serve ALL youth while understanding that targeted approaches are necessary to see continued progress reducing the teen birth rate.*

Suggested Guiding Principles

- » We share the belief that we are stronger together.
- » We believe the best prevention approaches are inclusive, medically accurate, age appropriate, comprehensive, and evidence based.
- » We are committed to an inclusive and judgement free approach to adolescent health.
- » We listen to and respect the voices of youth and community.
- » We are grounded in an equity framework and understand the needs of young people are not the same.
- » We are guided by data, research, and outcomes.
- » We advocate to ensure adolescent health is a public health priority for our community.
- » We are committed to continuous communication that leads to learning and improvement.