

Community  
Action Angels  
News York

2019-2020

Child Needs Assessment

*"Every Child Deserves A Champion"*

Presented by: Pat Standish



## *Background:*

### **Community Action Angels Commission for Children**

The Commission is an organization of dedicated members assembled from diverse avenues of expertise committed to improving the social, emotional and character development of children, empowering them to tackle life's greatest challenges.

### **Mission**

“We impact emotional character development of children ages 6-12 by empowering them to deal head on with the challenges they face every day. Our goal is to help them their best lives.”

### **Vision**

“All children will have the life skills needed to grow into competent, successful adults who live happy and fulfilling lives: capable of teaching the next generation.”



## *Purpose:*

To explore the diverse needs of children in communities across New York State and take Community Action Angels NY to the next level of service.

The next level is a focus on the right priorities, increased awareness and funding needed to make a real impact on the transformational outcome of the lives of children and their families.

The information gained will be used for the purpose of building a catalog of the most current and relevant childhood needs from which the Commission could develop a more effective strategic plan of action.



## *Methods :*

### **#1**

Statewide Input at Meeting of the Minds, September 2019, in Syracuse.

Commission member, Julia Kivistic, National Director, Corporate and Cause Partnerships at Boys and Girls Clubs of America, developed a series of five questions and posted around the conference venue.

Seventy-five participants of the Meeting of the Minds were divided into five groups and proceeded to each posted question to call out answers which were recorded.



## ***Data Collection – Meeting of the Minds***

*The 5 questions posed to those in attendance.*

### **What do you think/feel is the greatest need of our kids?**

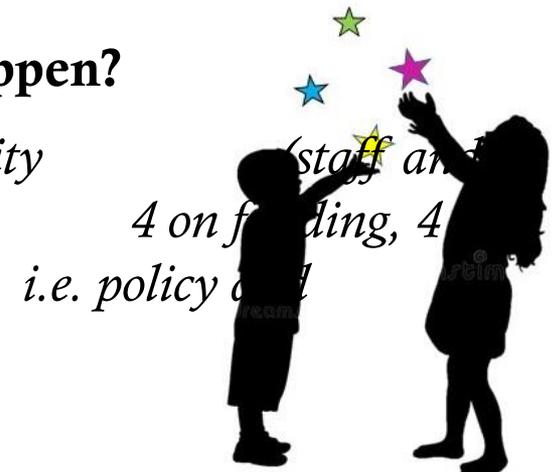
*Response: Out of 102 responses -77 focused on emotional and social needs, 21 on personal and health needs and 3 on education.*

### **What are the greatest challenges you face every day as "leaders on the ground" in your communities?**

*Response: Out of 38 responses-11 focused on staff, 10 on funding/resources, 8 on measuring outcomes and marketing, 9 on other. i.e. racial inequity, transportation, competition/politics, parent addiction, parent education.*

### **What are the resources you need to make things happen?**

*Response: Out of 42 responses-16 focused on human capacity (staff and volunteers), 6 on data collection tools/technology, 4 on marketing, 2 on workplace safety, 10 on other. procedure, motivation, leadership, community involvement.*



## ***Data Collection – Meeting of the Minds***

*The 5 questions posed to those in attendance.*

**What is your vision of what's possible to make a real transformational change for children and their families? Name five most important things needed.**

***Response:** 1. Remove stigma. 2. Feel safe in surroundings. 3. Increase communication and trust in providers and authority. 4. Family Counseling/ Parent Education. 5. Security (food, childcare, educational and emotional needs met)*

**What is the ONE THING you would like to see happen?**

***Response:** Out of 33 responses-29 focused on emotional on basic needs.*



## *Methods*

### **#2**

A meeting of the Community Action Angels Commission convened at the Meeting of the Minds to discuss the commissions focus and mission based on needs identified by commission members.

### **#3**

Interviews and formal discussions focused on needs of children were held in both rural and urban areas. One on one interviews were conducted by both staff and volunteers.

### **#4**

Group presentation and feedback sessions were implemented by both staff and volunteer efforts. Those participating were organizations whose work focused on needs of children in homes of addiction and poverty in both urban and rural communities. Fifteen (15) organizations participated.



## *Key Findings:*

Children need positive social and emotional development to influence their self-confidence, empathy, ability to develop meaningful relationships and a sense of importance and value to those around them.

Children need a strong social and emotional foundation in childhood to impact positive attitudes and behaviors, academic performance, career path and adult health outcomes.



## *Key Findings:*

Children need to be nurtured and surrounded by a strong network of supportive adults and peers who can offer practical and emotional support, build positive character traits and teaches them to trust and communicate with others.

Positive role models and connectedness at home, school and in the community can buffer or redirect a child on a trajectory of risk by encouraging healthy choices, boost their ability to cope with stress and trauma, provide encouragement and beneficial opportunities.



## *Key Findings:*

Children need to feel safe and should never be deprived of basic needs that can result in a wide variety of challenging behaviors, physical and mental health issues, social isolation, poor grades and hopelessness that will follow them through life.

To make real transformational change for children and families agencies need to increase both agency and human capacity.

*i.e. sustainable funding, marketing, data collection, measurement, assessment, staff support and buy-in from leadership, and family focused programming to educate remove stigma, child and family focused partnerships, community support and*



## *Final Word*

“There needs to be a worldwide consensus that children are the key to the future and their voice needs to be heard.”

## *Recommendations*

