Photovoice as a Tool for Hearing
Every Voice in the Community

By Omari Richins, MPH
Panelist

Lisa Wade & Patricia Chesbro
Overview

• Why
• What is Photovoice?
• How
• Results
• What we Found Out?
• Looking Forward
Why

2019 Mat-Su

Community Health Needs Assessment

Hearing Every Voice

December 2019

• Steering Committee
  – Strengths-Based Approach
  – Hear Every Voice
Steering Committee

• Traditional methodology

• Community-Based Methodology
  – Self determination
    • Planning, data collection & use of results
  – Tell stories
Values of the CHNA

• Clearly state whose voice is being heard
• Strive to hear voices from many different situations/circumstances/cultures
• Groups have self-determination
• Must have authentic partnership
What is Photovoice?

Photovoice is a way of capturing perspectives on a community issue. With Photovoice, people take pictures in response to a prompt(s), discuss them in a group, write captions and themes, and create a community exhibit for social change.
How

• Before Group Leader Trainings
  – Trained by PhotovoiceWorldwide

  – Competitive Request for Proposal (RFP)
    • 4 Bids
    • Dr. Amanda Latz and Dr. Robin Phelps-Ward from Ball State University
    • 2 day Train-the-Trainers in Mat-Su
Recruitment of Group Leaders

Brainstorming

Commitment

Incentives
Methodology

- Group Leader Trainings
- Meeting 1
- Meeting 2
- Meeting 3
- Data Findings entered into CHNA

Exhibition + Social Change

Provided with information
Group Leader Trainings

• Two-day 3.5 Hour Trainings: Aug 7\textsuperscript{th} & 8\textsuperscript{th}
• Teach Group Leaders about Photovoice Process
  – Micro-Exhibition, ethics, case studies, Q&A

• Equipment Form Given to Group Leaders
11 Photovoice Groups

- Chickaloon Traditional Council –
  - Elders
  - Sutton Women’s Group
  - Tribal Citizens
- Knik Tribe (Women)
- Latinx Residents
- Kabayan Inc. Filipino Community of Mat-Su

- People of a Certain Age
- Williwaw Community Residents
- Parents with Purpose
- Mat-Su Health Services
- Youth Leadership Council
  (from R.O.C.K. Mat-Su)
Prompts Selected

1. What about your life and/or community is challenging to your health?

2. What about your life and/or community is supportive to your health?

3. Other relevant prompts
Provided with Information

- Photovoice Description
- What is health
- How to take pictures
- How to caption pictures
- How to find themes
Group Meeting 1

• Discuss what health means
• Highlight goals of Photovoice Process
• Teach how to use cameras & informed consent
• Asked to take ~25 pictures prior to meeting 2

(Debrief with Community Health Fellow)
Group Meeting 2 & 3

Meeting 2
• Distribute prints
• Caption 3-5 images per participant
• Begin to identify themes

Meeting 3
• Have prints with captions
• Reflective group discussions on captions and themes
• Exhibition Planning

Data entered into CHNA
Group Overview

61 total group participants
*Not all took pictures

263 total pictures
Themes – Similar to CHNA

• Drug abuse including the opioid epidemic
• Mental health and suicide
• Family safety and youth violence (bullying)
• Senior issues (building connections with youth, isolation)
• Healthy accessible activities for children and families

• Access to healthy, affordable food, subsistence food
• Pollution/lung issues – healthy environment and climate change
• Economics – poverty, homelessness, poor housing, lack of transportation affecting income
Themes – Different from CHNA

- The importance of cultural values and community
- Racial equity and discrimination
- Environmental stewardship
- Affordable family activities
- Spirituality feeding the soul
- Social connections (youth connecting to others, affordable family activities, geographic isolation)
Stories
PICTURES & CAPTIONS FROM GROUPS
“Our grandmothers: Spiritual advisors are all around if we know how to listen.”
“What we are taught about our history can help us create a healthier future.”
“Our rainbow children are our hope for the future.”
“Culture is not static and it needs to be shared.”
Chickaloon Traditional Council - Elders

“When I am ready to ask for help.”

“Singing Dene’ songs and traditional dances always makes me happy.”
Chickaloon Traditional Council – Sutton Women’s Group

“Mental health – addiction, homelessness, unemployment, poverty.”

“Our future blossoms!”
**Detailed Account Activity**

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Knik Women

“The Mat-Su Valley has a plethora of hiking trails and recreation spots that are not only accessible but abundant with healthy and nutritious natural resources. This can encourage healthy behaviors including physical activity and nutritional & traditional eating habits. It can also bring families together and allow them a space to strengthen relationships.”
Latinx Residents

“Lack of transportation = no access to classes = no good job opportunities.”
Latinx Residents

“Fruits and veggies are very expensive.”
“ADDICTION – you are alive and existed but yet NO SOUL.”
Williwaw Community Residents
Williwaw Community Residents
Parents with Purpose

“Hope for the homeless.”
Parents with Purpose
“That Is Why We Are Here.” Sounds Corny. But it Works ...Most Of The Time.
“No paths, where do I go??? Exciting, scary, lost, thrilling... overwhelming!!!”
Youth Leadership Council
(from R.O.C.K. Mat-Su)

Homeless Vs Home
Youth Leadership Council
People of a Certain Age

“Lonely Senior.”
“Bullying.”
“Picking up trash to save the stream.”
“Winter Reading.”

“My mom once said, “I won’t buy any more books until I’ve read all the ones I’ve got.” I said, then I laughed and laughed.”

“Fishing in Paradise.”
“Short hours for the hungry?”

“Grow Palmer.”
Discussion

• HQ cameras
• Time-frame
• Still missing groups

• Photovoice was a success
• Gave data stories
• Rich group discussions
Looking Forward

Photovoice Exhibition at the Mat-Su Health Foundation

Thursday 6th February 2020

4pm-7pm

• Will be hosting a Photovoice Training either February/March
Thank You to all the Group Leaders that helped in this process, the Mat-Su Health Foundation, Dr. Melissa Kemberling & Robin Minard, and Dr. Latz, Dr. Phelps-Ward.
Contact Information

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