

Community of hope

We are a **community of hope.**

As you might already know, we held a Community of Hope Summit on September 26, bringing together 200 partners from around Boulder County for a discussion about our community's safety net. Among the questions we asked in the breakout session: what are the biggest opportunities right now for strengthening our safety net for families and individuals? What's working well? And - where are our primary challenges?

The information we collected was remarkable, both in its depth and in its commonalities.

In the months to come, we will share the top takeaways with you in this newsletter as well as in a 2015 Community of Hope Report.

We'll also lay out the next steps as we see them according to those takeaways.



We know two things: clearly we have some very exciting opportunities for making our safety net more family driven, prevention oriented, and holistic; and the strength and vision of our partnership with you (and your partnership with others) is a big part of the reason why we are a community of hope.



The Breakouts: Early Results



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Prevention Excellence: Dr. David Sanders



The keynote address at the 2014 Community of Hope Summit was given by Dr. David Sanders of Casey Family Programs. Dr. Sanders highlighted the need for increasing our focus on prevention opportunities in order to further strengthen Boulder County's families and individuals. Please [watch the video](#) of this keynote and share it widely. We've found it to be incredibly inspiring and a compelling reminder to us about why we do what we do.

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During the Community of Hope Summit, 22 groups of 8 participants tackled 4 major objectives: with regard to our collaboration on Boulder County's safety net, identify 1) what's working well today, 2) our areas of greatest opportunity moving forward, 3) the major challenges we face, and 4) the support that's needed to overcome these challenges.

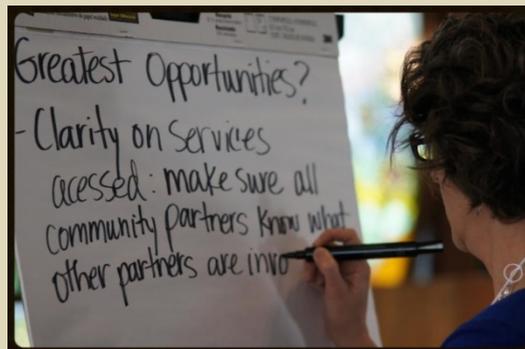
Among the greatest *opportunities* we have right now to strengthen our community's safety net, **increasing communication** was one of the most commonly mentioned. There are ample opportunities for us to work with our partners collaboratively to educate each other - and our clients - about the prevention-oriented services we provide and how clients can qualify for and access them. Alongside this, increasing communication - both from us to our partners and from all of us to our clients - would clearly be beneficial for our community. And yet another message is that many safety net organizations across Boulder County are eager for more regular communications between community partners about the opportunities for collaboration that are ahead of us.

Participants also mentioned the need to coordinate funding decisions more strategically, using data-driven community-wide indicators, and to creatively leverage funding to provide more prevention-oriented services for families and individuals. The need for more data-sharing was also a central theme across many of the objectives. [\[read more\]](#)

Next Steps

Following the 2014 Community of Hope Summit, we are carefully reviewing, categorizing, and cross-referencing over 1,260 statements made by participants during the breakout sessions.

The outcomes of this review will ultimately help identify our next steps together. At the same time, we know this information - in its entirety - will need to be considered collectively by our community as well.



We have many options in front of us in terms of advancing the excellent and thoughtful work done at the summit. Among them is the creation and convening of work groups to dive deeper into the ideas shared at the summit. You'll see and hear more from us in the months ahead on this.

Also, please know that this newsletter itself is the beginning of **more regular communications** from us to you. We want you to know more about what we do as an organization, and we want to share progress on the Community of Hope initiative itself. We also want to know

more about you, as well. Please [send us your ideas](#) for stories we can include in this newsletter: perhaps you'd like to share a client success or simply let others know about a new service you're offering to Boulder County residents. Regardless, this forum will be a way for you to regularly keep in touch with us, as your voice (and the voices of your staff and clients) will be important to this effort going forward.

Visit the Community of Hope web page at www.BoulderCountyHope.org, and **please share this newsletter** with anyone you believe would benefit from being part of these communications!

The Summit: How was it?

Feedback at the event and afterward has been excellent. A vast majority of participants said they had a great experience, both with the speakers and the breakouts. In particular, the breakout discussions were rated as highly productive and informative. We also heard fairly consistently that we should consider holding a similar event within the next year.



Our goal with this summit was to begin a conversation around our community's safety net and lay the groundwork for additional, more targeted discussions in the months ahead. Our deepest gratitude to those who gave their time on the morning of the summit, and to those who have continued to provide feedback afterward.



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