

State of the Community Summit II

Healthy Community Council Selects Priorities

The State of the Community Summit II, co-sponsored by the Healthy Community Council and the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce was held on May 8th at Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community's Detwiler Auditorium. More than 120 business and civic leaders from Harrisonburg and Rockingham County attended the meeting and participated in the priority setting process.

Based on the 2006 assessment data and input from Summit I attendees, 8 themes emerged as potential focus areas and included:

- Promote planned growth and "green" infrastructure
- Decrease risky behaviors in children and youth
- Assure access to affordable health and mental health care for all
- Develop a regional public transportation system
- Actively integrate and assimilate diverse cultures
- Increase availability of affordable, accessible housing
- Eliminate homelessness
- Reduce incidence of obesity in all ages

Summit II participants used a prioritization tool (posted on the Healthy Community Council website) individually and then came together with members at their table to determine the **top 3 priorities** for the next three to five years in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

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- 1. Promote planned growth and "green" infrastructure**
 - 2. Decrease risky behaviors in children and youth**
 - 3. Assure access to affordable health and mental health care for all**
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The next step will be to develop action plans and outcomes based around these priority areas. This process will begin at the next quarterly Healthy Community Council meeting to be held on June 12th at 8 am at VMRC Detwiler Auditorium. **Everyone is welcome.**