



Community Solutions Workshop Report: Outcomes

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I. Introduction

The second day of the Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days Conference¹ was structured using information collected on the Listening Tour. There was a stronger emphasis on identifying collaborative solutions to pressing regional needs. In the morning, conference attendees participated in Community Solutions workshops focused on the six cross-cutting themes identified as regional priorities (Table 1). Foundation representatives that attended the Listening Tour each hosted the topic that most resonated with their funding priorities and interest areas. In these 90-minute sessions, participants discussed the regional challenges for their assigned focus area. They also brainstormed opportunities to strategically invest in collaborative resources to address the identified needs. The workshops were designed to strengthen relationships and encourage dialogue across sectors. Information gathered through the Community Solutions workshops framed an afternoon funder session focused on the same goal. This report summarizes the outcome heard in those meetings. It is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of all potential solutions to regional needs.

Table 1. Community Solutions workshop topics, hosts and facilitators.

Workshop Topic	Host	Facilitator
Affordable Housing: It is not uncommon for residents of the region to spend 50% or more of their income on housing. What can be done across the region to develop strategies for affordable housing? (30 attendees)	Matt Carpenter, Vice President of Grants, El Pomar Foundation	Illene Roggensack, Owner, Third Sector Innovations
Access to Health Care and Mental Health Services: What technologies, collaborations and resources would be most effective in improving the quality of and access to health care and mental health services across the region? (49 attendees)	Chris Wiant, President and CEO, Caring for Colorado Foundation	Noelle Hagan, Hagan and Associates
Education Continuum from Cradle to Career: How can the region ensure an effective educational continuum from cradle (early childhood education) to career (K-12, higher-education, workforce development)? (80 attendees)	Susan Steele, Executive Director, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation Bill Fowler, Senior Vice President of the Grants Program, Daniels Fund	Brian Krill, Owner, Peak Nonprofit Consulting Dev Carey, Conservation District Manager
Effective Leadership to Affect Change: How can the region more effectively coordinate and provide professional development and training to existing and emerging leaders? (119 attendees)	Tim Schultz, President and Executive Director, Boettcher Foundation Louise Atkinson, President and CEO, The Women's Foundation of Colorado	Mark Ridders, Executive Director, dZi Foundation Maria Fabula, Executive Director, CRC
Multiuse Transportation Support: How can the regions isolated communities work collaboratively to develop multi-use transportation solutions that overcome geography, generation and income gaps? (14 attendees)	Debbie Jessup, Executive Director, Anschutz Family Foundation	April Montgomery, Director of Programs, Telluride Foundation
Senior Care: The region faces an aging population of locals and an influx of retirees. How can we work together to provide the essential senior care this sector requires? How are they an untapped resource? (24 attendees)	Barbara Howie, Executive Director, A.V. Hunter Trust	Sue Hanson, Owner, Sue Hansen Speaks

¹ The 2013 Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days conference took place June 17 – 19 in Ouray, Colorado.

II. Cross-Workshop Themes and Takeaways

Each workshop yielded a similar, four-part, community-based solution. It included these steps:

1. **Inventory:** Develop a regional list of existing services to address the community need
2. **Implementation:** Develop a plan to fill in service gaps
3. **Collaboration:** Engage all sectors to work together to meet this community need
4. **Accountability:** Identify key entities responsible for implementation

III. Summary of Outcomes, per Workshop

1. Access to Health Care and Mental Health Services: What technologies, collaborations and resources would be most effective in improving the quality of and access to health care and mental health services across the region?

Solution Statement: Capitalize on existing regional resources in order to centralize and/or improve access to health services, with an emphasis on regional collaboration and resource sharing.

Component 1: Develop opportunities to collaborate locally or regionally to improve access to health services, including: improved access to tele-medicine, increased sites for FQHC and improved triage services and transportation modes. More robust regional planning from leadership is also needed, as well as collaboration between sources of care and transportation services. A key component of this collaboration is the identification of underutilized resources that can be shared or extended.

Existing resources to move Component 1 forward include:

- Community Health Care Workers
- Connect for Health
- Collaboration between source of care and transport, such as the “Senior Van”
- Emergency Medical Services
- Existing collaborations: Grand Junction MH, HC Leaders Consortium, HC Access and Outreach, HHS Directors
- FQHC in Olathe and Norwood
- Hilltop, Tri-County Health Network
- Midwestern Mental Health Telemedicine and other mental health providers
- Quality Health Network (Mesa County)
- Regional hospitals and school districts
- School-based health care providers
- Systems that can provide services outside of regular office hours
- West Central PH partnership

Key next steps to move Component 1 forward include identification and outreach with key stakeholders and clients, training, obtainment of a planning grant and utilizing currently funded resources.

The main barriers to implementation include transportation and service hubs. Regional road networks do not follow county lines and winter weather is often inclement. Additionally, there are different hubs for different services. Centralizing these services by naturally occurring geographies could help overcome this barrier, e.g. West End, Uncompahgre River Valley.

Component 2: Hire a Community Care Coordinator focused on keeping people healthy by creating a system of community-based portals. This would include:

- Development of dedicated regional resources and programming to assist residents in navigating the health care system, include a center with computer access and a provider/navigator to link services to people.
- Development of a community health network that is culturally sensitive to gaps in the ability of clients to access existing services and includes tele-medicine, home visits, physician reimbursement for travel and a mobile unit.
- Development of a cohesive model for integrating primary care, oral health, and behavioral health services.

The recommended next step towards implementation of Component 2 is to form a collaborative group and develop in-kind funding sources for the position. The structure of who this person reports to and who evaluates the program progress must also be identified. This position should utilize existing resources, including: schools, clinics, community representatives, the RPD program, the public health department, immunizations, insurance companies, hospitals and technology.

The main barriers to implementation include: messaging, insufficient technological infrastructure, geographic isolation, a lack of common training and education and physician buy-in.

2. Affordable Housing: It is not uncommon for residents of the region to spend 50-% or more of their income on housing. What can be done across the region to develop strategies for affordable housing?

Solution Statement: Encourage collaboration and communication throughout the region to collectively review building codes to ensure that policies encourage sustainable housing and development.

Component 1: Develop a regional collaboration with the purpose of more effectively implementing existing models. It should include:

- Campaign to change building codes: intergenerational, spread geography
- Green and Healthy Homes: Built, natural environment and involvement
- School district involvement
- Home Matters, Neighbor Works awareness campaigns
- Hub efforts
- Workforce development, “Circle of Life”
- Working Poor and Veterans: Capitalize on 2nd homes (Eg. Clearinghouse)

Key contacts to move this conversation forward include:

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| ○ Colleen Burke (Montrose) | ○ Sister Karen Bland, Grand Valley Catholic Outreach |
| ○ Julianne Robinson, Habitat for Humanity (Gunnison) | ○ Juanita |
| ○ Jade Joyce, Homeward Bound (GJ) | ○ Jennie Miller, Energy Outreach Colorado |
| ○ Julie Mamo, Grand Valley Peace and Justice | |

3. Education Continuum from Cradle to Career: How can the region ensure an effective educational continuum from cradle (early childhood education) to career (K-12, higher-education, workforce development)?

Solution: Improve accountability across the region’s entire education system (SB191 – Teach Effectiveness) using regional experts, parent education campaigns and a new emphasis on the early college high school curriculum.

Component 1: Utilize community experts to teach students and teachers for class credit. Have experts come into the schools to teach subjects such as writing, art, music, and engineering. Provide additional professional development for teachers and professors who provide integral education services.

Existing resources include: Colorado Humanities, nonprofit organizations and supportive funders.

Additional required resources include: facilities, transportation, training, protocols and a curriculum tied to standards.

Next Steps include: dialogue with existing groups on how best to share resources, develop open communication with schools, encourage community engagement with results, and to determine how to measure outcomes.

Key contacts to move this component forward include:

- Sandy Dorr – Western Colorado Writers Forum
- Laura Kudo – Watershed Education Program
- Linda Skinner

Component 2: Coordinate a regional parent/family information campaign that supports the importance of education from cradle to career, beginning at age zero. Through this program, develop opportunities for high-quality public preschool education beginning at age three.

Existing resources include:

- Parent Classrooms (CMC)
- PACT-Family literacy model
- Early Childhood Councils
- State of Colorado: “Race to the Top” program - \$29.9 million in early childhood funding

Next steps to implement the information campaign include:

- Identify all local/regional public/private/camps/museums
- Use schools as “resource center” locations (but not necessarily the provider)
- First \$10,000 to be used to “market” (Race to the Top program)
- Promote regional database for all EC Educators/Programs
- Investigate “community school” model

Key contacts to move this component forward include:

- Cathi Jones
- Rita Herrigan
- Carrie Andrew
- Dana Burwell
- Nicole Heil
- Lisa Mock
- Martha Clarkson

Component 3: Create early college high school programs that include: apprenticeships, internships, vocational training and career pathways; dual and concurrent enrollment program development; entry-level job and entrepreneurial skill development; and, service learning support. Increase awareness of these “alternative” education programs. Develop resource sharing programs for small districts.

Existing Resources:

- Divisional Vocational Resources SWAP
- Career Pathways Schools in other places
- SEI Vision
- Project “Lead the Way”
- VOTEC, University Center of San Miguel
- Local Colleges, Mycelium, Library
- Youth Conservation Corps, Americorps
- Lamborn Sustainability Program, Teens on Farms, High Desert Center

Next Steps:

- Gathering key players within and outside of schools for a face-to-face meeting, including members of the business community
- Utilizing existing models
- Developing a website for communication
- Generate a start-up scholarship for students

Contacts:

- Jeanne Stewart UCSM
- Addie Cranson – Lamborn Foundation
- Kathy Swartz – Solar Energy International
- Sarah Sauter – Conservation Center
- Dev Carey – High Desert Center
- Jessica McGrath – Teens on Farms
- Shirley Moore – GRID Alternatives
- Matt Jennings

4. Effective Leadership to Affect Change: How can the region more effectively coordinate and provide professional development and training to existing and emerging leaders?

Solution Statement: Implement a regional leadership program(s) that encompass and connects all socio-economic groups, generations, experiences, and roles, and that emphasizes mentoring new leaders, avoiding the burnout of existing leaders, the acceptance of new ideas and the connection between generations.

The proposed community solution includes three components:

Component 1: Identify and aggregate existing leadership resources in the region through the development of an online tool. This tool should integrate existing technologies and include an inventory of resources, key collaborators and serve as a “virtual roundtable.” The Colorado Grants Guide Online tool could serve as a possible model. To move beyond involvement of the existing leadership pool, the information accessed through this pool should be relevant to the region’s varying generations and sectors and address all avenues.

The tool should additionally utilize the momentum of existing programs, including the:

- Colorado Center for Community Development, University of Colorado - Denver
- Crested Butte Youth Council
- El Pomar Leadership, Fellowship Program (Colorado Springs)
- Generation Trainings (Gunnison Valley)
- Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce
- Grand Valley Leadership Program (Grand Junction)
- Gunnison Board Orientation and Training
- Gunnison Valley Leadership Program
- Gunnison Youth Council/Coalition
- Hilltop (Grand Junction and Montrose)
- Montrose Leadership Program
- Montrose Youth Council
- Rural Philanthropy Days Interim-Year Training Program
- Silver Bay Leadership
- Statewide “Institute for Community Leadership”
- Temple Hoyne Buell Early Childhood Education Program, University of Colorado - Denver
- Western Slope Master of Public Administration Program, University of Colorado – Denver

Key contacts to move this component forward include:

- Leland Johnsen, Mark Switzer – Boy Scouts
- Kerry Lassaux – Gunnison Arts Center
- Renny Fagan, Maria Fabula – Colorado Center for Nonprofits
- Walter Wright
- Reeves Brown – DOLA
- Trudy Kareus – USDA RD
- Club 20

Component 2: Identify steps to address existing resource gaps, including: the lack of generational diversity serving in current leadership roles, the mentoring of emerging leadership, the lack of cross-sector collaboration (government, business leaders, nonprofits), the integration among existing services (Club 20) and the existence of low-cost or free leadership programs.

Next steps to address these gaps should include:

- Engaging higher education and community colleges
- Developing a cross-sector leadership program
- Developing a marketing plan using experts
- Initiating efforts to forge relationships among current leaders
- Determining how to inspire and create future leaders

Component 3: Develop a regional leadership program and/or curriculum that can be adapted to community size and capacity and includes existing program leaders. The Hometown Partnership Community Development (Nebraska) should be considered as a potential program model. Local officials should participate in the program's development, to eliminate political barriers to its implementation.

Key contacts to move this component forward include:

- Marilyn Laverty – 970.943.3157 or mlaverty@western.edu
- Woody Sherwood
- Mandy Miller – 970.209-3981
- Bill Wade – 970.433.7619
- Melanie Hall – 970.901.6575
- Community Resource Center, Maria Fabula - 303-623-1540 X120 or fabula@crcamerica.org
- Colorado Nonprofit Association, Renny Fagan -
- Laura Thomas – 970.626.4279
- Angela Fedler – 970.216.7859
- Chris Myers – cmyers@telluride-co.gov
- Walter Wright – 970.209.4370
- Vicki Lane – Vlane@ouraycountyco.gov
- Erica Weeks – 970.209.2315

5. Multi-Use Transportation Support: How can the regions isolated communities work collaboratively to develop multi-use transportation solutions that overcome geography, generation and income gaps?

Solution Statement: Use existing solutions and resources to improve the region's availability of multi-use transportation support by creating a coordinating entity, developing a regional/taxing transportation authority and improving active transportation opportunities for underserved populations.

Component 1: Create a coordinating entity to identify and coordinate existing and potential opportunities and provide marketing to promote regional awareness (smart phone/Uber systems). The coordinator should focus on making services mobile, not just users.

Existing Resources include: vanpods, rideshares, schools, church private vans, volunteers, medical vans and internet and other communication systems.

Next Steps include: determining the agency, geographic area, coalitions, identifying an applicant leader (Region 10, All Points Transit).

Potential collaborators include: All Points Transit, Region 10, Counties, and the Area on Aging.

Component 2: Develop a regional/taxing transportation authority and/or Rural Transit Authority (RTA). Do so by identifying a regional coalition built on public-private partnerships whose goal is to develop a strategic business plan and a marketing strategy that builds awareness and appetite for the RTA. Implementation of Component One is critical to the long term sustainability of a RTA. The RTA should include an inter-city transportation system (Grand Junction – Delta – Montrose), address the intersection between healthcare and transportation, utilize existing rail lines and transportation resources, and build on the work of existing transportation entities.

Next steps include: raising political will for the coalition, identifying subject matter champions and hiring a consultant to create an economically-based business case for an RTA, to be appointed by Region 10.

Component 3: Develop a model program to get kids and seniors walking and biking in collaboration with schools and health-based organizations. Include tools to change culture and identify opportunities for active transportation and transit for the oldest and youngest within communities (“the underserved”). Build the model using existing (and potentially expanded) rail and trail systems and opportunities to connect them using public transportation.

Next steps include: developing a model/pilot program to share with other communities. Mesa County organizations may take the lead in collaboration with schools, seniors, and public transport organizations. A potentially powerful coalition includes local government, schools, health, nonprofits, trails, environmental groups.

6. Senior Care: The region faces an aging population of locals and an influx of retirees. How can we work together to provide the essential senior care this sector requires? How are they an untapped resource?

Solution Statement: Develop a regional Senior Care Leadership Council that communicates with staff and programs across the region with the purpose of connecting seniors to seniors. Utilize existing staff to organize the goals and solutions of the Council.

The Council could include information on:

- Community Garden
- Churches and youth groups
- Library resources
- Community living (preventative), multi-use facilities
 - One stop shop, NPO’s, resources, recreation
- Intergenerational

- Volunteer management
- Umbrella group for services and outreach
- Neighbor to neighbor program
- Transit education program
- Partner with grocers for home delivery and access
- RV service provider, education
- Boomers Leading Change program
- Central location for services (intake and distribution)
- Regional leadership council
- Accessing and utilizing retirees to volunteer

Existing resources include the Community Foundations, 211 Hotline, doctors and staff.

The next steps is to create the collaboration list and to schedule a conference call:

- Contact: Doug Karl, 970.256.9424 x 8 – Homeward Bound

III. Conclusion

This fall, the Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days advisory committee will be reviewing the opportunities identified in Community Solutions report and making recommendations on projects to move forward. If you feel passion around a particular solution, and want to stay involved, please email **Crissy Supples**, the RPD Program Manager, at supples@crcamerica.org to share your feedback.