

Attachment I. Summary of United Priority Cabinet and Councils

Background Information:

United Priority Councils, created in response to the Salina Area United Way's new strategic plan recommendations, are a refined mechanism for community study, planning, priority setting, fund distribution, and results measurement. The goal is to affect significant community improvement through a focused, more inclusive process.

United Priority Councils will develop community expertise in each council area by including more resource people into the study, deliberation, and decision-making and by working throughout the year. Additionally, the new process retains and integrates the functions of the previous councils including

- Partnership Certification Teams
- Investment Grant Applications Teams for Program Funding
- Assessment of Community Resources Teams
- Outcomes Measurement and
- Board approval of volunteer recommendations.

The expectation will be clarified that funded programs will report data that will feed into the community level indicators and will demonstrate progress toward community goals and outcome measurement indicators in addition to program indicators. Funded programs will be given the opportunity to refocus and re-align reporting based on the topics of Education, Income (Financial Stability) and Health. Funded Programs will be given flexibility in deciding what priority topic to request funding and if they are focusing more on basic urgent needs or preventing problems for a lasting change. New funded program admission will be based upon filling service gaps identified by the councils based on the topics of Education, Income (Financial Stability) and Health. Councils will define specific measurable outcomes and improvements to be achieved and design the specific actions and interventions to be implemented in Salina using a basic contract Requests For Proposal (RFP) process from the Salina area community. The Councils will decide and evaluate which proposal will be awarded a Community Impact Grant based on criteria designed to select the proposal that will most effectively and efficiently achieve the desired outcomes.

The Councils and their supporting teams will be composed of human service providers, community experts, SAUW board members, and community volunteers, will study community needs in depth, research local solutions and best practices, prioritize community needs and create an action plan to realize sustainable community improvements. Each council will be lead by a community volunteer chair and co-chair appointed by the SAUW Board President with terms not to exceed three years.

Each chair will be a member of the United Priority Cabinet, which will review each council's reports and funding recommendations in preparation for each funding cycle recommendation to the SAUW Board of Directors. A Board member chairs the United Priority Cabinet.

United Priority Councils

1. Education: Helping children and youth achieve their potential:
 - a. Preventing system problems and creating lasting change
 - b. Addressing urgent basic needs
2. Income (Financial Stability): Promoting financial stability and independence
 - a. Preventing system problems and creating lasting change
 - b. Addressing urgent basic needs
3. Health: Improving people's health
 - a. Preventing system problems and creating lasting change
 - b. Addressing urgent basic needs
4. Outcomes and Measurement
 - Technical assistance with measures in all topics areas
 - Assisting with development of program and outcomes reporting

Council Deliverables

- A complete listing of all resources and assets in the Salina area related to each priority topic. This will include a summary of Kansas 2-1-1 resources, current community resources and a summary of opportunities for improvement in resource information referral and gaps in resources
- A two page summary report of local data and information summarizing the current facts and issues related to current weaknesses and opportunities for improvement in the Salina area.
- Two page summary report of the top two to four weaknesses and opportunities for improvement in the Salina area identifying specific strategies and actions to be taken by certain date to achieve meaningful and measurable goals for improvement.

Council Chair Leadership Skills and Commitment

- Belief in the United Way mission and focus for our community's future.
- Actively recruit and encourage inclusive participation across our community.
- Project Leadership skill including training volunteers, managing timelines to achieve goals and presentation of project deliverables.
- Commitment to coordinate and collaborate with all United Priority Cabinet and Council members to achieve goals and results.

Council Membership Skills and Commitment

- Belief in the United Way mission and focus for our community's future.
- Embrace an open process that encourages/welcomes/ensures inclusive participation across our community.
- Active interest or expertise in the specific focus area
- Ability to actively listen and communicate within a group
- Willingness to approach community data and issues with an open mind
- Willingness to engage in frank and candid discussions
- Willingness to work towards group consensus
- Maintain confidentiality when appropriate.
- Commit to eight to ten meetings during 2010.
- Be prepared for meetings, having reviewed all materials distributed in advance.
- Assess and analyze thoughtfully all data and information brought before the council for evaluation.