

Buncombe County HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Community exCHANGE

On August 6, 2015, neighbors – fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, and children – came to the Eddington Center to celebrate the work that has been done to unify communities.

Under the leadership of Rasheeda McDaniels and Keynon Lake of Buncombe County Health and Human Services, volunteers joined hands with them to deliver more than 170,000 pounds of food to our community.

Building on the relationships that have been created through the regular pop-up markets, neighbors came together to give input for better child safety and stronger families in our communities.

“The exCHANGE was all about getting a better idea of what’s happening now in the community,” said Lucia Daughtery, of the Asheville Buncombe Community Relations Council. “When I look around, I see community members forming collaborative alliances around the sharing of crucial resources, such as childcare services and access to food. They are also helping to ensure neighborhood safety,



Community members shared their concerns.

by voicing their concerns, and connecting more on a personal level.”

With around 100 people in attendance, the exCHANGE made it clear that the seeds of promise exist right now in our communities. “When I look around to see what’s going on in the community, I am so hopeful about the future of vulnerable neighborhoods. Residents are becoming increasingly aware and

knowledgeable, and they are taking the initiative to help change their own communities. “Additionally, service providers are working to be more realistic in their approach of providing assistance to vulnerable communities,” Daughtery added.

If we look carefully we will see the richness. We can build on that richness but we need the perspective of everyone in our community to shape a better tomorrow.



Forming collaborative alliances.



Child Safety

Did you know that data tells us who is most likely to harm a child – especially those under six years of age?

Here is what we know...

Perpetrator characteristics: unemployed, mid-20’s, male, history of abuse or neglect as a child.

What we learned from the community is that often times young men grow up in a culture where they are experiencing violence. These young men get overlooked as we continue to shore up support for women. Based on this community input we are going to focus more on what we can do as a community to better support and educate our young men.

**Keep Babies Alive.
Know about Safe Sleep.
Tell others about Safe Sleep.**

When a baby dies, it’s hard on a community. But, we have learned a lot about the dangers of unsafe sleep habits and how tragic they can be. Many parents think it will never happen to them.

A sleeping parent can easily suffocate an infant by accident. This might look like a parent who is tired and maybe has a drink or two and then places their baby to sleep in the same bed with them. By knowing what contributes to rollover deaths, we can do a better job to protect our most vulnerable infants.

It’s also important to place a baby alone, on its back, in a crib. While it might not seem like a very warm and fuzzy thing to do, it is the best way to keep infants safe. Also, no toys, blankets, or bumpers in the crib with the baby. Research shows that these items contribute to infant deaths.



Lay baby on back to sleep.



Place baby on stomach to play.

Most moms and dads want to add toys and blankets to make the crib seem warm and inviting, but these are dangerous for infants. Babies should always be on their back in an empty crib. We need to continue to find a way to get this message out.



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