

Stockley Initiative Background

Introduction

In 2012, the State of Delaware recognized that the Stockley Center, a vital part of Sussex County's history and present, might serve the residents of the County and the State in ways that would complement and expand upon its current vital uses as a medical center and treatment center for adults with disabilities. After a thorough and inclusive process, we have identified priorities in four areas, and are ready to plan and structure implementation. The Stockley Collaborative is being formed to be responsible for planning the implementation of priorities that emerged from the two-year effort to identify potential uses of the Stockley property in Sussex County.

Background

During 2012, Delaware began an initiative to identify priorities related to the needs and potential uses of the Stockley Center facility by:

- Inviting a broad range of individuals to contribute specific ideas in response to this question: *"If the Stockley Center and its surrounding property were open to all in Sussex County, how do you think you, your family or members of your community might use the facilities and outdoors to improve health and well-being?"*
- Gathering information about how people perceived the ideas, and how much priority individuals associated with specific thoughts
- Producing results, or concept maps, that link the concepts to each other, and show the differences and similarities in perceptions of priority among the ideas
- Presenting the results to Sussex County residents, advocates and other interested participants to discuss together.

The project then formed a Task Force, whose members contributed to articulating specific priorities to be implemented to fulfill the promise of Stockley. The Task Force contributed to a set of formal recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Social Services, the State agency responsible for the Stockley Center. The Recommendations are posted on the State website here: http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/admin/files/stockley_finaldraft101513.pdf

During the Task Force's work, over 150 resources, assets or related organizations were mentioned as potential contributors, collaborators or leaders in accomplishing the priorities described in the Recommendations document.

To develop a workable structure that would be responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation, the Task Force recommended ... "that a permanent group called the 'Stockley Collaborative' be created and maintained to manage collaboration, and oversee and report progress related to the recommendations in this report. We recommend that appropriate State and County agencies, advocacy organizations, interest-specific agencies in Sussex County, and of course the Stockley operations and management leadership be included. The Task Force recommends that the leadership develop and obtain consensus related to formal charge and structure, including but not limited to: participant roles, decision-making processes, reporting timeline, funding mechanisms and alignment with related local, state and regional activities."