

McCall In Focus – Focus Group Summaries from September and October

Youth Meeting - September 26, 2023

A Focus group targeting the topic of Youth was held on September 26, 2023. The meeting shed light on various aspects of youth engagement, challenges faced by young individuals, and potential opportunities for improvement in our community. Here are the key takeaways from the discussion:

- Overall, Health and Wellness

A need for instruction and preparation for life: Emphasize connections to job opportunities, apprenticeships, and mentorship programs to help youth transition into adulthood successfully. Promote and engage in Mental Health Initiatives: Implement suicide prevention programs like Hope Squad and encourage community dialogues on mental health.

Parental Involvement Ideas: Provide critical incident training for parents and facilitate their involvement in offering services during times of widespread distress in schools or the community.

- Youth Activities and Access

Address transportation challenges, including the lack of Uber or Lyft services and limited bus schedules, particularly at night.

Improve safe access to trails, create safe biking pathways, and install bike racks downtown for kids' bikes especially down 3rd Street.

Implement an E-bike safety code to promote safe biking practices.

Find ways to encourage or support an Increase staffing for buses to enhance routes and drive times to address late night needs.

Recognized the need to Diversify youth activities beyond sports, including the creation of more clubs and safe spaces ('3rd Space' options) where youth can gather, especially during winter.

- Community Engagement and Communication

Online Presence: Improve platforms for easier access to information.

Communication Channels: Consider creating a newsletter and an email sign-up list to alert residents about upcoming activities and events or better promoted TextMyGov for youth goals.

Comprehensive Calendar: Develop an all-inclusive calendar featuring activities from all organizations in the area, promoting a unified community approach.

Economic Development Involvement: Collaborate with the Economic Development team to address transportation issues, emphasizing that these concerns affect not only youth but the entire