Moving From Talk to Action: A Summary

PHASE ONE: FINDING A STARTING POINT
Situation, Values, Vision

STEP	ACTION	QUESTION
Describe the Current Situation	Describe the current situation and the factors contributing to it.	What needs to change?
State Core Values	Identify the core values or principles that will guide the group's work.	What matters most? What are the values and assumptions that should guide our actions?
Create a Long-Term Vision	Describe how the situation ought to be in your community in regards to the issue(s) you are addressing.	What should be the long-term results of our efforts?

PHASE TWO: MAPPING THE JOURNEY
Research, Relationships, Program, Resources, Goals

STEP	ACTION	QUESTION
Research: Collect Information	Collect information about what works. What have other communities facing similar challenges done?	What works to address this issue? What are effective strategies?
Build Relationships	Determine who needs to be involved and include them in your efforts.	Who is most affected by the issue we are addressing and therefore needs a voice in the solution? What groups or individuals do we need to design and implement a solution? Who do we need to win over to the effort?
Program Development and Action Plan	Determine program strategies to implement. Define responsibilities and time frames.	Who will do what and when?
Identify Resources	Research sources of financial and other support.	What organizations provide financial support for this work?
Establish Interim Goals	Establish interim goals to track your progress.	What should we accomplish after three months? Six months? A year? How can we track our progress?

Moving from Talk to Action: A Summary is based on the work of MDC, Inc.

PHASE THREE: REVISING THE COURSE EN ROUTE
Celebration, Evaluation, Revision

STEP	ACTION	QUESTION
Celebrate Accomplishments	Celebrate early successes and accomplishments, such as the creation of a new partnership, the release of new information about your issue, the launch of the first stage of a project, etc.	What early successes can we celebrate to sustain and build momentum for the work?
Evaluate Program*	Determine how you will measure the effectiveness of your program.	How can we measure success? What actions are we are taking? What are the results of those actions?
Review and Revise Action Plan	Take a close look at your progress and revise the action plan to meet new and/or unanticipated challenges. Reflect on what you have learned so far and refine your plans to reflect this new understanding.*	What changing or unexpected circumstances are having an impact on the program? How should we take advantage of new opportunities? How can we correct what is not working as planned?

*Module Eight addresses the process of reviewing and evaluating program strategies in more depth.

Moving from Talk to Action: Where do We Begin

1 How can we make our planning process comprehensive and inclusive?

2 What are the barriers for our community to come together to work on the plan and take action?

3 What needs to change for the community to prosper?

4 What would total community involvement look like?

Possible Partners

Developing solutions to complex community problems demands that we come together to understand the issues behind a problem and begin to work on a plan of action using all of our community's assets. Although parents have crucial responsibilities for the care of their children, this issue concerns the entire community. Diverse partnerships among organizations and individuals are important for drawing together the resources and know-how to create positive environments for youth. Partnerships can be made up of community members, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses. In most partnerships, partners contribute time, financial support, expertise, and work toward shared goals. Partners might include the following:

- **Families** seeking safe and nurturing environments that promote the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical well-being of their children.
- **Youth** seeking to be involved in facing today's challenges that tend to be somewhat different from the challenges their parents faced.
- **Teachers, principals, and school superintendents** seeking to improve students' academic performance.
- **Local government** seeking to improve the quality of education and support working families.
- **Philanthropies** seeking new ways to support families and create environments that encourage the healthy development of children.
- **Health and human professionals** seeking support from public and private sectors to increase and improve community-based services for children.
- **Law enforcement** seeking ways to enhance community safety.
- **Community and civic organizations** seeking to provide recreational, cultural, and academic services to youth.
- **Business and industry** seeking to develop the future workforce of the region and retain employees who are parents.
- **Hospitals** seeking to improve the health of the community.
- **Universities and colleges** seeking to link research with community issues as well as to provide students with volunteer and service-learning opportunities.
- **Seniors** who want to become more involved in the community.

Program Model Worksheet

PHASE ONE: FINDING THE STARTING POINT

Current situation:

Core values:

Vision:

PHASE TWO: MAPPING THE JOURNEY

Research–Collect information:

Build relationships:

Program development–Action plan:

Identify resources:

Establish interim goals:

PHASE THREE: REVISING THE COURSE EN ROUTE

Celebrate accomplishments:

Evaluate program:

(More on this follows in Module Eight)

Review and revise action plan: