

Wellbeing Initiative Update

Chittenden East Communities

Update to Richmond Selectboard
Monday, June 21, 2021, 7:00PM

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Our Work/Who We Are



What We Bring

- Tools for framing local wellbeing work and action planning
- Data (banked questions and key indicators)
- Deep systems thinking (analysis of the landscape of actors across systems in your community)
- A commitment to and passion for racial equity and language justice
- Engaged global and local networks, deep experience in municipal and community engagement

Civic Wellbeing Partners is a startup project whose mission is to develop and promote civic innovation through engagement and partnerships. We harness data and create equity-focused solutions to improve the quality of daily life in Santa Monica and beyond.

Process: Wellbeing in Tri-Town Area

CONTEXT

Town Plans, strategic framing, community conversations

2018 & earlier

CURRENT WORK

Current Work: visioning and planning for initial implementation

May thru June 2021

IMPLEMENTATION

Initiative begins with dedicated staff and year 1 plan

October 2021 and beyond



2019/2020

July thru Sept 2021

DASH Mentor Grant & Gap Analysis

United Way of Northwest Vermont Funding



Background: Wellbeing Work in Tri-Town Area

Town Plans

Richmond: “We value our unique combination of authentic Vermont character, **diverse local services** and accessible location. We want Richmond to be an affordable and appealing place for people to **live, work, shop, play, and connect**. We will take a **forward-thinking approach** to emerging opportunities and challenges while honoring and strengthening our **close-knit community and rural character**.”

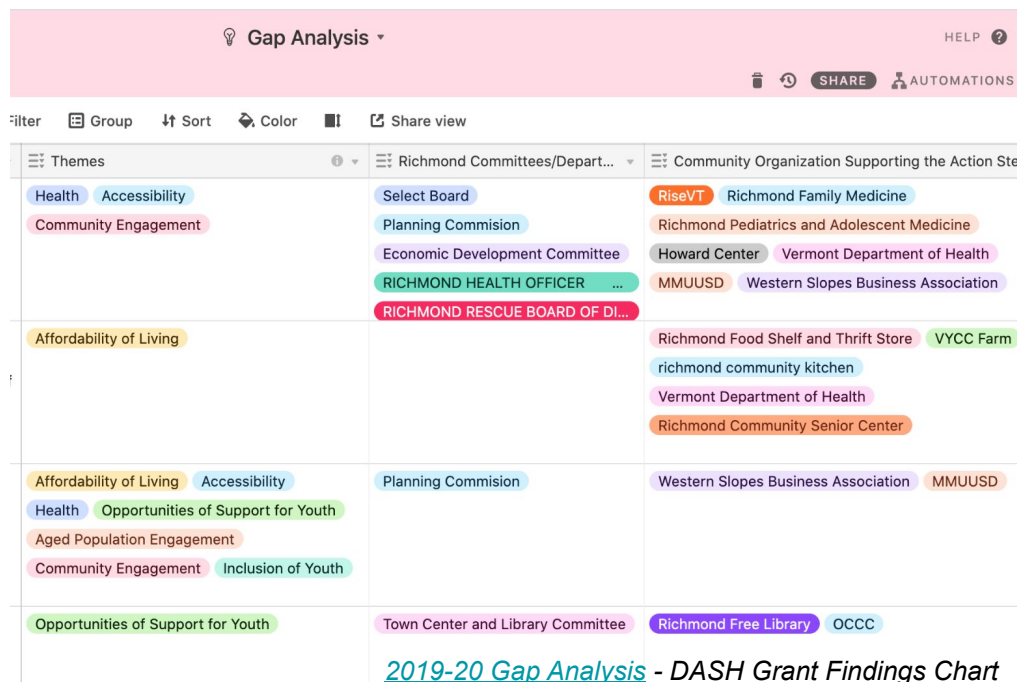
Bolton: “**People**. Our vision is to foster community connections, vibrant neighborhoods, and gathering places.... **Prosperity**. Our vision is to cultivate a fiscally sustainable community that promotes local businesses, encourages options for affordable housing, energy and transportation, and provides the necessary infrastructure and services needed for the **safety, health and well-being of our residents. Place**. Our vision is to responsibly steward our natural resources and working farms and forests, and to preserve the health and beauty of our mountains, waterways and wildlife, and access to the outdoors.”

Huntington: “Promote a diverse, viable, and creative local economy that allows residents the **opportunity to live and thrive**.. Retain and steward Huntington's historic, scenic, and natural characteristics while ensuring the **preservation of its working landscapes for future generations**.... Restrain rapid, large-scale, or otherwise inappropriate growth that would negatively affect Huntington's fiscal condition, **environmental quality**, and/or **rural character**... Promote energy conservation... Support a safe, well-maintained range of **transportation options**.”

Background: Wellbeing Work in Tri-Town Area

Gap Analysis Findings

- Institutions are working across areas that contribute to wellbeing like *affordability, accessibility, community engagement, health, opportunity* and more
- **Needs:** strengthen the connections across these areas
- **Opportunity:** *community wellbeing* as strategy for strengthening connective tissue

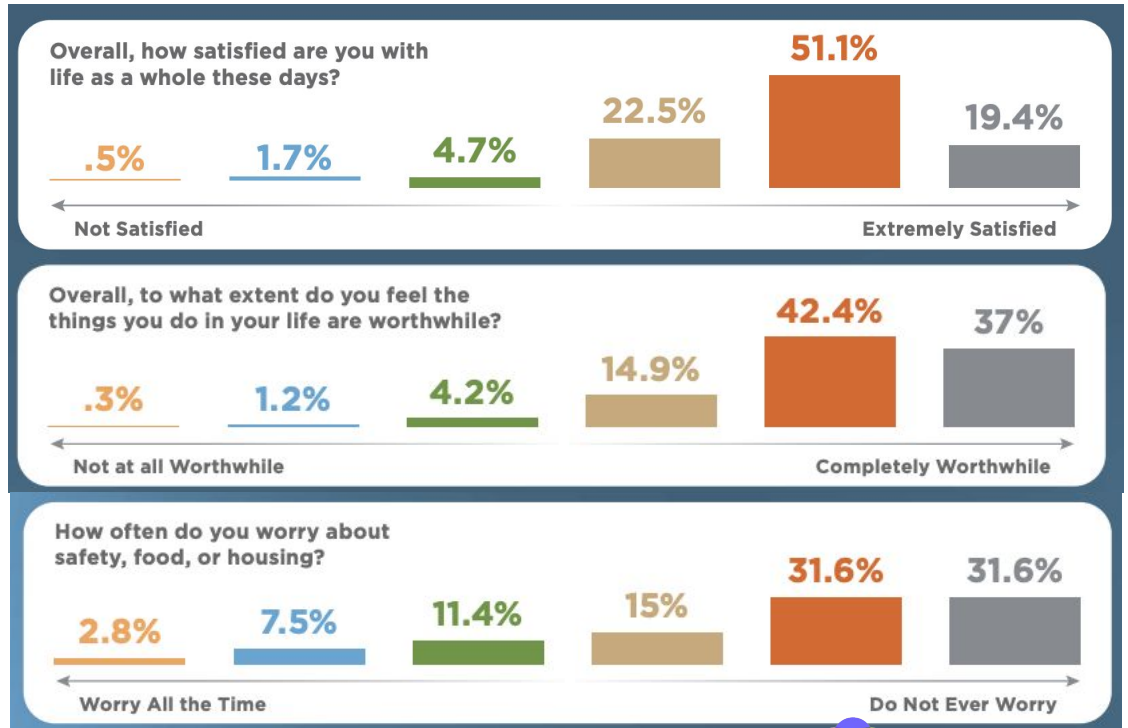


Background: Regional Wellbeing Data

Community wellbeing data is available **regionally**.

It is still needed **locally**. And it needs to be **put to use**.

[University of Vermont Medical Center - Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, Vermont Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019](#)



Background: Regional Wellbeing Partners



[University of Vermont Medical Center - Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties, Vermont Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019](#)

Wellbeing Initiative: Our Work with Tri-Town Area



Wellbeing Initiative: Overview

Goal of initiative: Using coordinated communication and data to enhance **equitable access to wellbeing and recreation opportunities** in Chittenden East Communities.

Process Points: April - June 2021

- *COMPLETE*: Review of background documents and onboarding with Richmond stakeholders
- *COMPLETE*: Wellbeing coordinator position description
- *COMPLETE*: Summary of Wellbeing Initiative
- *COMPLETE*: 3 Stakeholder Interviews
- *COMPLETE*: 2 Facilitated Group Sessions
 - Richmond Recreation Committee
 - Tri-Town Stakeholder Group*
- *IN PROGRESS*: Funding Opportunity from United Way of Northwest Vermont
- *IN PROGRESS*: Grant Preparation for DASH CIC Grant to be released Aug/Sept. 2021

***Stakeholders with Expressed Interest:** Vermont Department of Health, Howard Center, United Way of Northwest Vermont, University of Vermont Medical Center, Mount Mansfield Unified School District, Richmond Recreation Committee

Wellbeing Initiative: What We've Heard

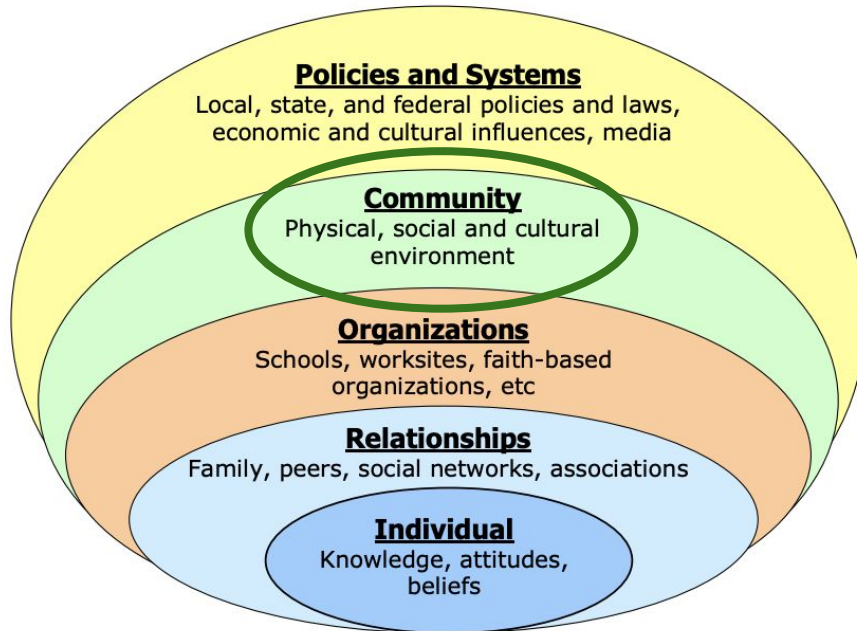
Themes & Opportunities for Action

- **Assets:** Community connectedness, mental health, trust, leadership, creativity, interest in collaboration, strong volunteer-led efforts, support for prevention work
- Possible **launching off points for the wellbeing work:**
 - Richmond *Town Center* visioning initiative
 - *Brown's Court* opportunity to reinvision
 - *Town Website* as opportunity for wellbeing framework & asset coordination
 - *Senior Center* opportunity for volunteer management
 - Managing partnerships + *volunteer capital*
 - *Youth focus:* real needs and possibilities for youth perspective on local issues
 - *Economic inequality:* reach out into the margins to design this initiative with all in mind
 - *Equity:* how might we build in strategies for equity early on in this work?
 - *Mental health:* lack of acute care facilities locally
- **Challenges/needs**
 - Getting started while holding the vision
 - Bringing people along in this moment
 - Establishing management and funding for a new staff position
 - Establishing governance and funding to sustain the initiative

Opportunity/Decision Point: United Way of Northwest Vermont funding is available for prevention and wellbeing efforts.

Funding Opportunity: United Way of Northwest Vermont

Vermont Prevention Model



- ADAP subgrant
- \$10-20k
- Prevention emphasis
- Community wellbeing as framing to broaden and deepen this work
- University of Vermont's leadership in prevention has synergy with wellbeing and have been a compatible organization in this effort.

Funding Opportunity: United Way of Northwest Vermont

Concept for Initial Wellbeing Initiative Implementation (July through September):

<p>Focus on Prevention and Wellbeing UVM Extension</p>	<p>Community-wide Connection and Resources UVM Extension Civic Wellbeing</p>	<p>Communication Civic Wellbeing UVM Extension</p>	<p>Planning Civic Wellbeing</p>
<p>Facilitator training for Strengthening Families Program (SFP 10-14) (an evidence based prevention program currently established at Camels Hump Middle School, but could be offered throughout the community in different venues).</p> <p>Advance place-based initiatives (ex: Town Center or wellbeing microgrants).</p>	<p>Community-wide educational opportunity focused on parenting, communication, or emotions.</p> <p>Offering community events and education.</p> <p>Lay groundwork for community infrastructure surrounding upcoming retail marijuana legalization impacts from an economic, equity and health impact on tri-town area.</p>	<p>Building a network of resources for community members, focusing on prevention and well-being efforts; utilizing established mutually reinforcing programs and activities.</p> <p>Advance wellbeing framework and asset coordination through the Town website. As the Town proceeds with website, explore possibilities for a data dashboard.</p>	<p>Plan and support structure for the wellbeing initiative and position</p> <p>Establish ongoing budget to maintain wellbeing and protect community</p> <p>Finalize details related to position (see draft linked here)</p>

Selectboard Recommended Action

1. The Selectboard approve of the concept of a collaborative effort to apply for this funding opportunity. As presented in the concept, this funding will support continued progress towards goals identified by local stakeholders. Grant applicant will be the Town of Richmond (on oversight), with Civic Wellbeing Partners (on coordination, visioning, use of tools, data, and program development) and PROSPER-UVM (on implementation, prevention work, community engagement, and local coordination functions).
2. The Selectboard direct Civic Wellbeing Partners to submit a United Way funding application on behalf of the Town of Richmond and its partners as based on the presented concept plan, by the end of June 2021.
3. The Selectboard acknowledge the need for a dedicated position to act as a community wellbeing coordinator as outlined in the draft job description [linked here](#) and affirm that the next phase of work will require supporting this in order to sustain the wellbeing initiative based on funding availability.

Thank You

Feedback & Discussion Welcome

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**Civic Wellbeing
Partners**