

# Key Points

The University Northside Partnership Community Meeting  
May 25, 2006 - 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Shiloh Temple

The information on the next 13 pages is from consultants' notes. Much of it is paraphrased and intended to represent the intent of what was said rather than the exact comment. No attempts have been made to validate the information.

## Summary

On May 9, 13 and 16, 2006 Northway and Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) sponsored three informational meetings to inform community residents about the University of Minnesota's Northside Partnership (UNP), a proposal to invest University financial, human and intellectual resources in the community; and build partnerships that emphasize the capacity of the community and its residents to jointly research, plan and develop a more vital community. The May 25, 2006 meeting (the last of four information sessions sponsored by Northway and NRRC) presented opportunities for residents to hear responses to some of the questions that were raised at sessions held earlier. Approximately 125 people attended the May 25<sup>th</sup> forum. The host organizations welcomed participants. Information about the University's history in North Minneapolis and University educational, entrepreneurial and other opportunities available to the Northside community were noted, and reasons that the University is interested in having a visible presence on the Northside were highlighted. Those attending received a 15-page document titled: "The University of Minnesota Northside Partnership Frequently Asked Questions and Answers." Also available was an information sheet on the University's Center for Early Education and Development (CEED). NRRC, which is the citizen participation organization for the Near North and Willard-Hay neighborhoods, is working with community residents and organizations to develop a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that will be negotiated with the University of Minnesota. A community review and recommendation meeting (the community votes) regarding the development rights for the property at Plymouth and Penn will be held July 10 and on July 17, the NRRC board will vote on property development and send recommendations to the Minneapolis City Council. NRCC and Northway will put notes from the information meetings and answers to questions on their websites. Those without web access can come into the NRCC office and request the UNP community information meetings file.

## Welcome/Purpose

The meeting hosts, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) and Northway Community Trust, welcomed participants and explained that the meeting format would be to respond to questions raised in previous meetings. Participants were asked to complete the feedback forms that were handed out because the meeting format did not allow enough time for everyone to ask questions or make comments (**A summary of "Comments, Questions, and Identified Needs" from the audience feedback forms is attached.**)

All meeting participants received a copy of the 15-page document titled: "The University of Minnesota Northside Partnership Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" that contained answers to questions raised at previous meetings. NRRC, which is the citizen participation

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organization for the Near North and Willard-Hay neighborhoods, sees the UNP as an anchor and economic development project and is working with community residents and organizations to develop a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that will be negotiated with the University. A community review and recommendation meeting (the community votes) regarding the development rights for the property at Plymouth and Penn will be held July 10 and on July 17, the NRRC board will vote on property development and send recommendations to the Minneapolis City Council. The May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting was the last of four Northway and NRRC sponsored community meetings to share information prior to the Minneapolis City Council vote on property development.

## Presentation

The University of Minnesota's vision, interest and opportunities was briefly discussed, comments were heard from potential partners and supporters of the University Northside Partnership (UNP), and University staff focused on some of the questions that community members raised in information meetings held May 9, 13 and 16. The audience was referred to the 15-page document titled: "The University of Minnesota Northside Partnership Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" which contains responses to questions raised at previous sessions. They were also told that 50 copies of a paper that has information about the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) was available. Staff from four University of Minnesota Offices (Systems Administration; Office of Business, Community and Economic Development; Center for Early Education and Development; and Family Center) commented on questions raised at previous meetings. Time did not permit comments on all questions.

### University Vision, Interest, and Opportunities (Robert Jones, VP Office of Systems Administration)

- The University of Minnesota's role is to serve the needs of the state and entire community. It has a research agenda and part of its urban agenda is to serve the needs of the Northside, a historically underserved community.
- There has been a long history of disinvestment in the North Minneapolis community by institutions. "We live in an economic society that obstructs progress and it's necessary for North Minneapolis to gain access to equal economic opportunities."
- The Office of Systems Administration, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Jones, was given a charge by the president of the University to help the University become much more effective in working with communities—the number of faculty that have worked in North Minneapolis for years is not enough.

### Office of Business, Community and Economic Development (Craig Taylor, Director)

- The University's work in the community is a core part of its mission and University staff are excited about the possibility of a partnership with North Minneapolis that could bring more resources to the Northside.
- The University Northside Partnership (UNP) is an opportunity to bring remedies and value at a time the community needs pride and hope.

- The partnership is about impacting future generations. “It’s about the future of our children not about personal self-interests.”

Center for Early Education and Development (Scott McConnell, Professor)

- The Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) has a long history of training childcare program staff. The CEED website ([www.education.umn.edu/CEED](http://www.education.umn.edu/CEED)) lists centers that can be contacted regarding the individual growth and developmental training work that CEED has done.
- Parents, teachers, professionals can use CEED’s help to prepare kids to be good readers and to obtain tools to measure and document change.
- In the 1960’s, the University of Kansas (KU) trained professionals of color to be a central part of its Juniper Gardens Children’s Project (JGCP). The program started when residents of Northeast Kansas City joined with KU faculty to address concerns about child development in a low-income community. Their goal is to improve children’s developmental and educational experiences, and academic and social achievements. Since its inception, the project has sought to develop meaningful solutions to what local citizens view as major problems. JGCP concentrates on problems that local citizens (parents, teachers, and community leaders) have defined as major concerns and it provides a place for KU faculty and students to learn from the wisdom and experiences of the community. Together, the community and KU have designed programs to intervene in and improve the parenting, care, and instruction received by children. JGCP has been successful producing outcomes meaningful to the community. The advice CEED received from Kansas is to start small and go where you’re invited. That’s why CEED’s focus is on childcare providers and their works with families and children.

Family Center. (Dante Cicchetti, Director)

- Dante Cicchetti is devoted to the work he’s doing today (working to establish a family center as part of the University Northside Partnership) because of his family background.
- The experience of the Mt Hope Family Center has in Rochester, N. Y. strongly suggests that children can avoid foster care. There is a disparate rate of out-of-home placements in North Minneapolis that can be decreased if work similar to that occurring at Mt. Hope can be completed in Minnesota.
- The goal of Dr. Cichetti’s work is to prevent recurring child maltreatment and to promote resilience in children, youth and families.

Comments From Potential Community Partners/Supporters

Ten minutes was set-aside for potential community partners and supporters to speak. Three people (Minneapolis City Council Member Don Samuels, NorthPoint Health and Wellness CEO Gary Cunningham, and Dr. Harvey Linder, psychologist and manager in the county’s child protection system) offered support for the University Northside Partnerships (UNP). Comments were:

#### Don Samuels (Minneapolis City Council)

- The proposed family center addresses one aspect of the development of the children and families in the Northside community and tries to address more holistically some of our issues.
- Community is not men in blue running around and grabbing people. Community is not about the financially challenged being pushed out for a wealthier population. Community can be about ways to develop our children who seem to have no way out. It can be about ways to help children turn their lives around.
- "I'm convinced that this project can address community concerns. There are risks involved, but we have to trust the folks involved. We need to join together and welcome them. At the same time we need to hold institutions accountable in a polite and dignified way."

#### Gary Cunningham (CEO NorthPoint Health and Wellness)

- NorthPoint's CEO came to NorthPoint to make a difference regarding "the development of our children. When you keep doing the same things you get the same results. The University Northside Partnership is an opportunity that can make a difference, we shouldn't let it slip through our hands."
- NorthPoint's CEO went to Rochester, New York to investigate Dante Cichetti's work and saw families that have been helped. Many of the children in the North Minneapolis community are going into out-of-home placement, "these are our kids." Dante Cichetti's work includes scientific methodology that makes a difference. "I ask all of you to think about it. Think about the reasons for making a difference for our children and others. Think about the reasons to hold institutions accountable. Think about what's happening to our children today. Think about if we can focus on children and families and make a difference today."

#### Harvey Linder (Psychologist and Manager Hennepin County Child Protection)

- Most of the people that Harvey Linder sees in his work include children who have been abused and neglected. As a manager in the county's child protection system, Dr. Linder believes the community needs a program like the University Northside Partnership (UNP). "We see lots of families who need help, we take kids out of homes because their homes are dangerous." No one can be required to participate in research when they don't want to, no one can be forced to participate. "I've known Dr. Cichetti for many years, we were classmates together, if he's off track I can tell him."

#### Responses to Questions and Comments

Nearly an hour was devoted to questions raised in three previous information meetings about the University's vision, interest, and resources. A total of nineteen questions covering the nature of the partnership, proposed services, accountability, research, and jobs/economic development were discussed. There were brief responses to 11 of the questions and the audience was referred to the 15-page document titled: "The University of Minnesota Northside Partnership Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" for more details and responses to questions that time did not allow partners and others to address. Time did not allow for responses to 4 questions that were asked at the end of the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The responses, questions and comments are from consultants'

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notes. Much of it is paraphrased and intended to represent the intent of what was said rather than the exact comment. No attempts were made to validate the information. The paraphrased questions, comments and responses are organized according to 5 headings: Partnership, Community Benefits Agreement, Family Center, and Research. **The questions and responses are followed by a summary of “Comments, Questions, and Identified Needs” from the audience feedback forms.**

### Partnership

**Q.** *This is my first meeting can someone explain the basics of what the University is trying to do?*

**R.** The partnership's goals, vision, and expectations are to work with the community to bring more of the University's resources to North Minneapolis. Examples are:

- The resources of the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED);
- The Founder's Opportunity Scholarship initiated about a year ago (If students do well in school they can get free tuition to the University of Minnesota for four years; 30-35% of these scholarships will go to students of color. People assume it costs \$35-40,000 to attend the University of Minnesota. It takes about \$8,000);
- Continuing education courses;
- Business and economic development resources (The University is a \$2.6 billion a year operation. Members of the North Minneapolis community came to the University about 8 years ago and said “we want to make sure that when the University has projects and contracts they can be directed to women and minority-owned businesses.” The Office of Business, Community and Economic Development, was created about 8 years ago to improve the University's relationships with minority and women owned businesses.) and;
- Child and family center resources to enhance what's already in North Minneapolis and specifically to address the high rate of out-of-home placements.

**Q.** *Where is the money coming from for the University Northside Partnership (UNP)?*

**R.** Currently, the University's staff does not have details regarding funding. The development of the UNP is a process and this is the early stage. Staff want to bring the ideas and concepts to the community prior to budgeting for the partnership. It is hoped that the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin county, foundations, and partners with financial resources will contribute to the partnership in different ways. At this point, the UNP is a vision and partners will work hard to make it happen. It's anticipated that it will take \$30-35 million to do the project.

**Q.** *It looks like the University is going to come into this community whether the community is on board or not, how can the community impact the final results?*

**R.** A goal of the community engagement process that being completed is to determine whether the community is on board and to ensure the community impacts the final results. If the community doesn't want the University Northside Partnership (UNP) it will be important to listen to the community's perspective. It's also important to know who speaks for the community. “We respect those who would say *no* the UNP, but we want to help people understand what we are trying to do here and what they would be saying *no* to.

We're listening to everyone and having multiple conversations. At the end of the information sharing and listening phase, the community has to decide what's the collective decision and what's the will of the community." The University has contracted with GrayHall LLP (Karen Gray and Nora Hall, the two women facilitating the meetings) to write about the model of the University's work with North Minneapolis. GrayHall will critique the process as either a successful or unsuccessful model for partnerships between universities and communities.

- Q. *There are references to an existing Institutional Review Board (IRB) that's already in place for University research, how can the community give input to that board?*
- *Who's on the board?*
  - *How does a community person get access to the board in order to protect human subjects?*
- R. Many major institutions, such as Hennepin County Medical Center, have institutional review boards (IRB). No research involving human subjects can be approved without a board weighing the risks and benefits to the people involved. Research cannot be done without the full consent of those participating or the guardian's consent to participate if the person is a child or teenager. Consent is fully revocable (a person can cancel) at anytime without any negative consequences. The University's Review Board reports to the federal government about the research being conducted at the University. Contact the University IRB by telephone (612) 626-5654; e-mail: [irb@umn.edu](mailto:irb@umn.edu); or web: [www.research.umn.edu](http://www.research.umn.edu).
- Q. *How will the University Northside Partnership (UNP) be governed?*
- *Who's in charge?*
  - *To what degree will the community be involved?*
  - *Have there been grants offered to the organizations already located here who do this work?*
- R. Details regarding governance and who's in charge are not decided. The partners will agree on governance and leadership as the UNP moves through various stages. The University of Minnesota recently created an Office of Public Engagement. It envisions what the University needs to do to sit and talk with the community about partnerships. Currently, about \$50,000 is available to do alternative-based research in the community.
- Q. *What is the timeline for the University Northside Partnership? ? There doesn't seem to be a date in the literature provided.*
- R. This is the listening stage of the process. The building process may be completed within the next two or two and a half years.

Below is one question about the partnership that was not answered and a comment and response regarding expectations of the partnership.

- Q. *If you [Robert Jones, vice president, Systems Administration] can do the job so well at the University, why aren't you my director [of the University Northside Partnership]?*
- *Why do you have to bring a white man here when I relate better to you [as a black man]?*

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- The President of the Minneapolis Urban League, Clearance Hightower, visited Mt. Hope Family Center in Rochester, New York and saw about 70 people working at the Center and only one staff member was a person of color. The League's president is predisposed to support the University Northside Partnership (UNP) but three issues have to be addressed before the Urban League supports the UNP:
  - An oversight committee, comprised of practitioners of color, is in place to respond to concerns on behalf of people of color.
  - UNP services are contracted out to the African American organizations in the community to ensure that the services are culturally specific and competent.
  - Opportunities are provided for people from the community to work on the new construction. (It would be a problem if a building was constructed and none of the folks in the community were given jobs.)

Staff of the University's Office of Business, Community and Economic Development (BCED) have considered a number of the issues raised and discussed strategies with community partners, specifically acting as developers of opportunities for workers. There are specific strategies that the BCED uses, including engaging the community in the process, and making sure the University can leverage employment opportunities in the community. BCED staff will have more conversations around those issues. Dr. Cichetti will also be donating time to a lot of the existing organizations and encouraging partnerships. He guarantees the faces of the Family Center's staff will reflect the community it serves. At Mt. Hope Family Center in New York, 5 staff members are people of color, including one African American staff member.

#### Community Benefits Agreement

The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council's (NRCC) board is in Phase I of its process prior to sending recommendations to the Minneapolis City Council regarding the development rights for the property at Plymouth and Penn. NRRC is the citizen participation organization for the Near North and Willard-Hay neighborhoods. As noted earlier, NRCC is working with community residents and organizations to develop a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that will be negotiated with the University of Minnesota. A community review and recommendation meeting (the community votes) regarding the development rights for the property at Plymouth and Penn will be held July 10. On July 17, the NRRC board will vote on the property development and send recommendations to the Minneapolis City Council. The NRCC board is holding community meetings, asking questions, and giving the community information in order to make good decisions. "If the property development decision gets past Phase I," according to NRRC's Executive Director Sherrie Pugh, the NRRC will strongly encourage the University to provide opportunities for economic development, and will propose including benchmarks of these opportunities in a legally binding agreement (CBA). "The Urban League has identified some benchmarks they're concerned with. There are other benchmarks. We need to reach out to many in order to make this work," Ms. Pugh said. She identified eight categories of measurements and outcomes that NRRC has considered for inclusion:

- What community ownership means for North Minneapolis
- Long term employment in addition to construction contracts, vendor opportunities, and construction jobs,

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- Building design and construction,
- Education (scholarships, access to quality education), and
- How to link the University efficiently to our organizations and make links with the black psychologists and social workers, bringing those professionals into the UNP family center.

### Family Center

Q. *Since the project focuses on children and families, what services will be available for seniors?*

R. The Family Center is not just for children. It's a work in progress. The door is open to the elderly. Right now the focus is on children, peer programs for youth, and others. The university will consider a senior component to the programming and is open to all ideas at this point.

Q. *What will be the requirements of the people coming into the family center?*

- *What's their life like?*
- *Do they have drug histories?*
- *How will you treat children or adults currently receiving medications like those receiving ADHD medications, you're not a physician, you cannot prescribe medications.*

R. See response to the questions, "What kind of research and treatment does Dr. Cicchetti do? What kinds of things will happen at the Child and Family Center?" on page 6 of "The University of Minnesota Northside Partnership Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" document. The way it reads is the way it will happen.

Time did not permit responses to the following questions and comments. Partial answers to questions and some comments can be found in "The University of Minnesota Northside Partnership Frequently Asked Questions and Answers" document."

Q. *How do we empower the parents? (It's not just the kids that need help. We need to build the parents up. Parents are looking for answers.)*

Q. *Will Dr. Cichetti be around in 2010?*

Q. *Will there be any benefits for the African American community? (Many Native Americans are not around to utilize the benefits taken from them they are on reservations. Don't tell us what you're bringing to the community. Be clear about what you're taking from the community. Most of our young might be locked up or have HIV- consider prevention and put money into prevention not intervention.)*

- *I'm a pediatrician and mother of three, and I am concerned about the amount and type of medicines used in treatment of children.*
- *You're perpetuating a pseudo-science. You have no real degree. You didn't take the doctor's oath. You're theorizing on the lives of our children. Take your theories back to where they came from. We don't need them in this community.*
- *We need recreational facilities for the youth living in this community. The youth are walking around on the street getting into trouble. I'm 80 years old and have lived in the community for over 42 years. We need youth facilities in this community.*

- I'm 17 years old and believe there is no need for medications. I was diagnosed with ADD and I don't take the medicines prescribed for me. It's not just me – there are others who don't need to be medicated.

### Research

Q. *We are not incompetent – the [child protection] system that's in place is broken, who is going to research the social workers at Hennepin County Child Protection?*

R. Approximately 98% of the Mt. Hope Family Center (Rochester, New York) children avoided out-of-home placements, according to Dante Cichetti who hopes to bring family center resources, like those used at Mt Hope, to North Minneapolis. When staff at Mt. Hope looked at youth who received treatment using the community standards that were in place in Rochester and children receiving care at Mt Hope, about 30% of the children treated under the community standards were more likely to go into out-of-home placement compared to about 6% of children treated at Mt. Hope. When the research exist to back up successful treatment, family center staff can go in and say, to an agency like Hennepin County, “what you're doing doesn't work,” said Dr. Cichetti. Hennepin County Administrator Sandy Vargas has asked Dr. Cichetti to train county workers in order to improve their practices.

Q. *It's a research center, why not call it what it is? I'm offended that you don't want to call the research you want to do research. Your hesitancy in saying what it really is creates a trust issue for me.*

- *Who will be involved in the research that represents our community?*
- *Will black doctors and psychologists be involved? Have you contracted them yet?*
- *Why didn't you look in our community for [experts] first before going to Mt. Hope to recruit Dante Cichetti?*

R. The work of the proposed family center is not purely about research. It's about helping children and families. Professionals are more likely to believe what you say when you have research to back up what you say. It's good to have research to support an opinion” when you say to someone you're doing something wrong. Time did not allow response to the last four questions. The University of Minnesota Northside Partnership Frequently Asked Questions and Answers” document will be updated to include all questions and responses.

Following is a comment and response regarding research:

- Twenty-five percent of African American students have emotional behavior disorders and are in Special education classes in Minneapolis Public Schools. They are working with the staff that has the lowest level of seniority in the system. The students do not have access to quality education. The [University Northside Partnership (UNP)] is parallel to the Tuskegee study. [The UNP] is not implementing solutions, you are studying what exists. You do not intend to solve problems or help the people solve their problems, you intend to do research.

- University of Minnesota staff are trying to frame the things the University has expertise in and offer the solutions that have proven to work. For example, the Consortium on Post Secondary Educational Success has said, “you have been remiss in working closely with K-12,” there’s an unsatisfactory level of achievement among students of color. University staff do not have all of the answers, but the University does have expertise it can bring to assist in helping the community address school success. University staff can begin conversations with educators. Staff can convene people to start a dialogue.

## Attachment

### Comments, Questions, and Identified Needs

# Comments, Questions, and Identified Needs

University Northside Partnership Feedback Surveys - May 25, 2006

The University Northside Partnership Community Feedback Surveys were provided to all participants in community meetings as a way to collect additional comments and questions, as time did not allow the partners and community organizations to hear from everyone in attendance. The survey form asked respondents to answer three questions about activities that could benefit the community (Question 1); other programs or activities they would like the University to consider (Question 2); and to list any questions or comments they'd like responses to (Question 3). The forms included a space for respondents' contact information if they wanted a direct response from the University of Minnesota. Ten people completed the survey form and one question was submitted.

Table 1 displays the 10 respondents' preferences for activities that would benefit the community. They were asked to indicate whether the following seven categories of resources would be helpful:

1. Economic development (e.g., small business/nonprofit development, job creation),
2. Early childhood education (e.g., parenting education and childcare provider training),
3. Treatment programs for children and adults (e.g., after school programs, camps, parenting groups, treatment for depression and other mental health issues),
4. Help becoming a University of Minnesota student,
5. Having educational programs in the community,
6. Help finding a job at the University, and/or
7. Grants for community and University partners to work together on projects in North Minneapolis.

Respondents checked more than one category of activities that would benefit the community and their responses are very close in frequency (Table 1).

**Table 1: Activities Respondents Think Would Benefit the Community**

Resources	Number of Responses
Economic Development	9 (75%)
Educational programs in community	9 (75%)
Early childhood education	10 (83%)
Grants	9 (75%)
Treatment programs for children and adults	10 (83%)
Job at UM	5 (42%)
Admissions (becoming a UM student)	7 (58%)

N = 12 – Respondents may have selected more than one response

Comments, Questions and Identified Needs

Respondents' comments, questions, and identified needs included 5 topics as indicated in Table 2. The most topics (6) were specific requests for services such as services for seniors, a center for youth, and a community liaison.

**Table 2: Comments, Questions, and Identified Needs**

Topic	Number of Comments	Number of Questions	Number of Identified Needs	TOTAL
Educational Access	0	0	3	3 (17%)
Family Center and Treatment	0	0	4	4 (22%)
Jobs/Economic Development	0	0	3	3 (17%)
Services	2	0	4	6 (33%)
University Northside Partnership	1	1	0	2 (11%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 (17%)</b>	<b>1 (5%)</b>	<b>14 (78%)</b>	<b>18 (100%)</b>

N = 12 – Respondents may have selected more than one response

Identified Needs, Comments, and Question

Below are the 14 needs that were identified followed by the three comments and one question:

Family Center and Treatment

- Use different media to help children achieve goals in life when their parents use drugs, are prostitutes, or negligent about how to be a father.
- Assist children of incarcerated parents.
- Parenting education is very important.
- Social activities after school – midnight basketball, state productions, poetry slams.

Services

- Provide a community center to give people opportunities to grow intellectually, socially, artistically
- Provide services to seniors
- I would like to see a community liaison(s) – independent – serve as advocates and disseminators of information regarding progress of center.

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- Oversight commission is needed badly as you move forward for this proposal.

#### Educational Access

- High school geared [toward] college-level courses to prepare or “jump start” college attendance. Partner with North High/Patrick Henry
- Admissions help is needed after other results showing students are ready for the UM.
- Building self-confidence (probably addressed in other activities listed on survey). Get the community colleges and Metro State involved with young people’s education.

#### Jobs/Economic Development

- Encourage entrepreneurship in the African American community.
- Promote employment of locals.
- Location (1 place) and seed money to start new businesses – all in one place.

#### **Comments:**

- Intercultural integration is important. We are an extremely diverse community.
- Open this information to immigrants of this community as public media TV/radio/news.
- Have shorter intro of speakers

#### **Questions:**

- How early will this project reflect the benefit to the community?