

Granville County Focus Group Moderator's Guide

Hello. I want to welcome you and thank you all for coming today. My name is _____ and I am working with the Granville County Assessment Team. This team is a group of people and organizations that have come together to see what are the strengths and weaknesses of our community. Our purpose is to gather information from people throughout the county in order to determine what are some important concerns, and what can be done to improve the health of Granville County residents. To do this, we have to better understand community members' views about the County. We are interested in your views on all aspects of health, including physical and mental health, and any other aspects that you may feel are important.

We appreciate your willingness to take the time to join this discussion. You have been asked to participate because we think you can tell us what you and others in our area are experiencing related to health, health care, and other social areas. Please remember that there are no right or wrong answers to the questions I will ask, only opinions. It is also important to realize that not everyone will agree, and that is fine. We encourage you to offer your opinions, even if they differ from what someone else has said.

Please talk one at a time so we can be sure that your views are heard. My role is to focus the discussion by asking you questions and then to listen to what you think or feel. Your views are important to us, because we want to make sure we understand what things you feel are important for us to consider.

With me today is (name) . So I can listen closely to what you are saying, I would like to ask your permission to have name make notes and tape record this discussion. We do this so when we are summarizing this discussion, we can be sure we have your statements recorded as accurately as possible. Please keep in mind that what you say today will be kept confidential. This means that we will not share the tapes with anyone outside of this group and when we summarize what you have said, no one's name will be listed with any written summaries of the discussion. We will only report on issues for this group as a whole. Do I have your permission to tape our conversation? Good.

We also need your agreement to not discuss any information shared by individuals in the group with anyone outside of the group. Will everyone indicate their agreement by nodding their head? Great! Do you have any questions before we begin?

To get started, I would like each of you to introduce yourself to the group. Please tell us your first name and what you like best about living in Granville County. My name is _____, and the thing I like best about living in Granville County is _____. (Go to next person.)

Let's continue to talk about your perceptions of Granville County.

1. **A) In Granville County, what are the diseases that make people get sick or disabled?**
B) What diseases make people die in our County?

(Cancer, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, pneumonia/flu, mental health issues)

2. **A) What are the main health behavior issues in our community?**
B) Which issues affect teens?
C) Which issues affect the elderly?

(Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, STD's, unplanned pregnancies, violence-domestic or otherwise, delinquency, accident-car or otherwise, suicide)

3. **What are the primary environmental issues in Granville County?**

Car accidents
Farm/work related accidents/diseases
Water/air quality
Safe streets/highways
Adequate sidewalks and playgrounds

4. **What are the main family issues in our community?**

Alcohol, drugs
Money management
Family conflict
Schools
Neighborhood safety—policing, gangs, drugs, lack of streetlights, safe play/walking areas
Childcare
Adult day care

5. What kinds of services would be most helpful for families with children and adolescents?

Support groups for teens or parents?
Childcare-affordable? Available? Drop-in?
Information about children's needs
Call-in line for information or counseling
Transportation
After-school care
Services for children with disabilities
Services for pre-school children
Routine health care
Health insurance coverage

6. What are the primary mental health services needed in Granville County?

Therapy—outpatient, group, family, in-home
Education and support groups—substance abuse, violence prevention, sex offender treatment, parenting skills, anger management
Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization
Group homes

7. What do you think are the barriers that prevent people from receiving dental, medical, mental health, educational, or other services?

Transportation
Cost
Stigma
Hours
Location
Waiting time
Confidentiality
Language barriers
Staff attitudes
Complicated paperwork
Lack of insurance coverage
Doctors that don't accept Medicaid

8. What would help the community solve the health, behavior, and social issues?

More services? Which? ER, hospital, medical, MH, education, treatment programs (Types?), mentoring, policing
Better transportation?
Better housing?
Better recreation opportunities?
Bilingual staff
Subsidies for Medicaid or childcare
Publicized information about services—best ways to do this?
Expanded service hours? Locations?
Reduced waiting time
Reduced paperwork
Insurance incentives
Patient advocates
Emergency room care alternatives
Early screening for at-risk kids

Have we missed anything?

Thank you for participating. We appreciate your thoughts on all these issues. Your opinions will be summarized along with those of other listening groups in Granville County that are sharing in these sessions. The results will be used by the Granville County Assessment Team to help determine some of the more important issues that should be considered when deciding on programs that are needed in Granville County.

Thanks again to host, who provided refreshments, and the host facility that provided the meeting space.

Distribute stipends, get receipts.

Offer refreshments.