

Goal Statement:

Advocacy Action Group

Effective grassroots advocacy places human services among the top priorities at all levels. **Advocacy efforts increase representation** from elder communities, disabled communities, GLBT communities and communities of color **on boards and as elected officials**. Access to human services is supported by: immigration reform, universal health services

Needs & Capacities

- Barriers to participation
- Transportation, childcare, interpretation
 - Time of meetings - either conflict with employment or family responsibilities
 - Lack of time to participate!
 - Cultural barriers
 - Too much talk – not enough action
 - People are not educated on/aware of the issues
 - “Same faces” are currently at all meetings – need to identify new people
 - Difficulty engaging Latinos and communities of color
 - Difficulty getting anyone to serve on boards not just these communities
 - Boards may not be the best way to get input from these communities
 - Limitations to using technology and websites to garner input from these communities – need human connections
 - People may not be open about their status – GLBT, disability

Strategies

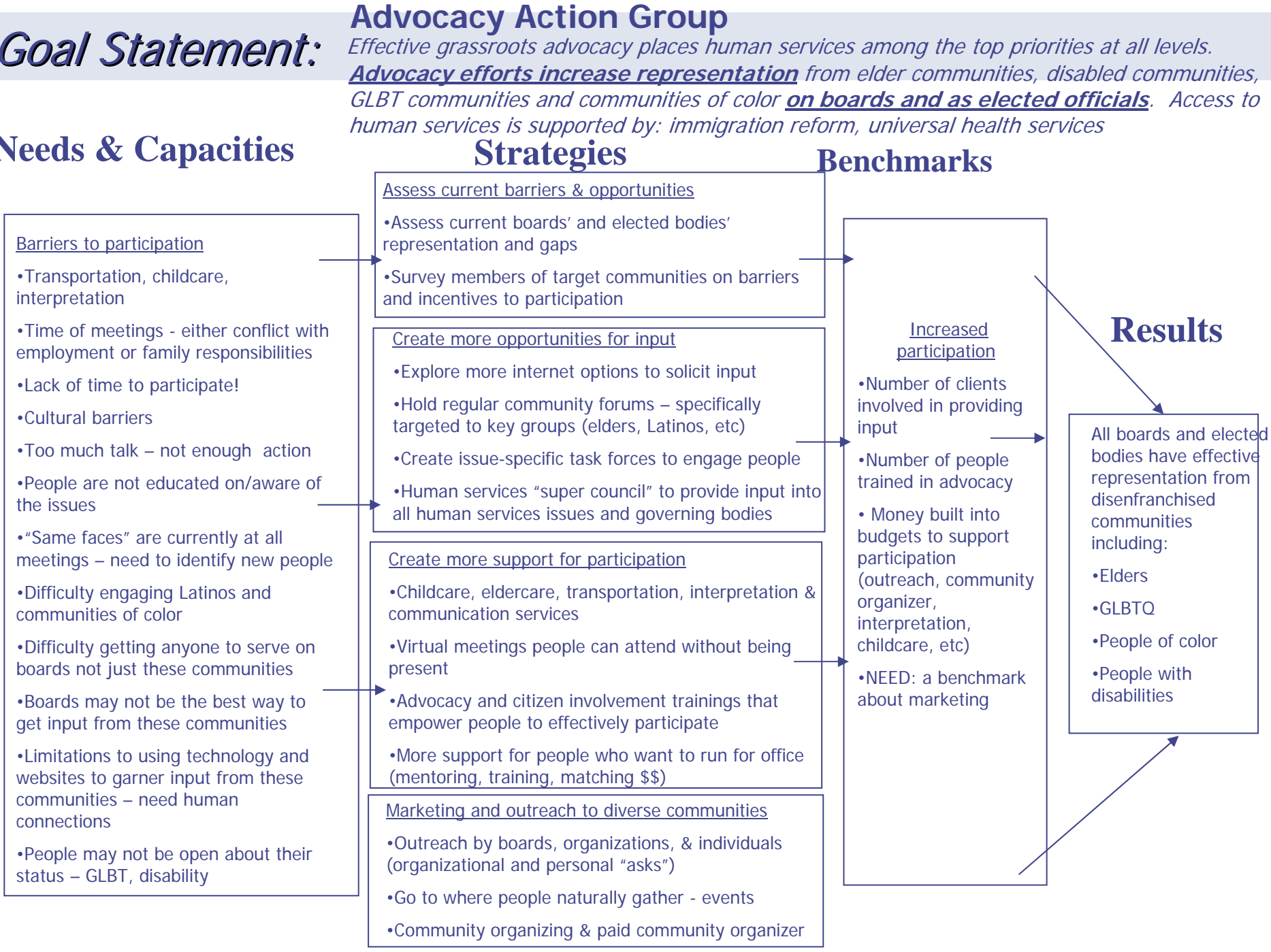
- Assess current barriers & opportunities
- Assess current boards' and elected bodies' representation and gaps
 - Survey members of target communities on barriers and incentives to participation
- Create more opportunities for input
- Explore more internet options to solicit input
 - Hold regular community forums – specifically targeted to key groups (elders, Latinos, etc)
 - Create issue-specific task forces to engage people
 - Human services “super council” to provide input into all human services issues and governing bodies
- Create more support for participation
- Childcare, eldercare, transportation, interpretation & communication services
 - Virtual meetings people can attend without being present
 - Advocacy and citizen involvement trainings that empower people to effectively participate
 - More support for people who want to run for office (mentoring, training, matching \$\$)
- Marketing and outreach to diverse communities
- Outreach by boards, organizations, & individuals (organizational and personal “asks”)
 - Go to where people naturally gather - events
 - Community organizing & paid community organizer

Benchmarks

- Increased participation
- Number of clients involved in providing input
 - Number of people trained in advocacy
 - Money built into budgets to support participation (outreach, community organizer, interpretation, childcare, etc)
 - NEED: a benchmark about marketing

Results

- All boards and elected bodies have effective representation from disenfranchised communities including:
- Elders
 - GLBTQ
 - People of color
 - People with disabilities



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Effective grassroots advocacy places human services among the top priorities at all levels. Advocacy efforts increase representation from elder communities, disabled communities, GLBT communities and communities of color on boards and as elected officials. Access to human services is supported by: **immigration reform**, universal health services (i.e. physical, mental, substance)

Needs & Capacities

Current and pending legislation

- Federal immigration reform bill
- HB 1023
- HB 1017
- HB 37

Existing groups working on this issue

- Amistad and El Comite doing local and state advocacy
- Strategies to end oppression – Year without Racism
- Colorado Human Rights Coalition

Studies/data/stories on immigration

- Bell Policy Institute report
- CIRC – rural areas (cost/benefit)
- Amistad and Y both collecting stories on impact on services families

H.S.A. and St Vrain Community Council drafting a letter to the editor

Lafayette's inclusiveness proclamation

Strategies

Develop common interpretation of laws for Boulder County and all municipalities

- Convene meeting with attorneys from each entity
- Present U.S. Attorney General's opinion on 1023 and non-profits

Educate non-profits on how to continue to provide services within the law

Develop broader coalition with levels of involvement – cultivate champions

Educate broader community on immigration

- Develop 'key message' or 'sound bytes'
- Collect stories of how recent laws have impacted services and families
- Collect data on immigrants impact (number of immigrants, cost, contribution to economy)
- Engage/educate the media
- Letters to the editor
- Engage/educate police department

Work with municipalities to pass inclusiveness proclamations

Benchmarks

County and municipalities all have common interpretation of and application of state laws regarding immigration (e.g. 1023)

More citizen participation in public forums

More people of color and immigrants represented on local boards and as elected officials

All municipalities and county issue proclamations of inclusiveness (e.g. Lafayette's proclamation)

Results

Human service agencies can serve anyone in need regardless of their immigration status

Positive public opinion of immigrants

