

SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Thursday, October 3, 2002

1. WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FORT WORTH?

Family oriented

Arts District

Reasonably well functioning

City government

School District

Public entities do reasonably good job in gathering public input

City very responsive to public input and doing what citizens want

Things get done without a fuss

Beginnings of regional public transportation system

Has a downtown with life

Entertainment

Residential housing

Excellent police force

Good local media; *Star-Telegram* one example

City has an identity/image

Stock yards and West

New convention center and hotel

Bass Hall

2. WHAT ARE THE AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN FORT WORTH?

Horrible regional (interlocal) transportation, especially for people

Who do not drive

Have disabilities

Roads in disrepair

No grocery store downtown

North 820 needs to be widened

Traffic congestion in southwest Fort Worth

Many vacant and abandoned houses

Rehabilitative resources for sex and/or violent offenders

More employment training programs, especially for

Elderly

Soft skills training

3. WHAT NEW OR EXPANDED SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

Transportation services for rural areas, such as Crowley, Burleson, and Mansfield.

Housing for low to moderate income residents

Free and low cost prescription programs

Independent living services for seniors

Employment training programs for people with disabilities and retraining needs

Respite services for families giving care

Transition services for persons with disabilities, especially those in transition

From school to work

From living with families to independent living

Assist families in futures planning for needs of persons with disabilities
Employment resource center in library
Focus on employment opportunities and educational resources

4. DO YOU USE THE LIBRARY; IF SO, HOW?

Four use library. Four do not.

Use

For kids homework

Find books for kids to read

Genealogy

5. WHAT DOES THE LIBRARY DO WELL NOW? WHAT ARE THE LIBRARY'S STRENGTHS?

Has done nice job spreading libraries around the city

Publicizing events at branches and downtown ("Library Fest")

Excellent pool of books at the Main Library

Gallery space and exhibits are accessible at the Main Library

Stocks a variety of formats, such as large print, braille, and books on tape.

Young persons' department in Main Library

Main Library is beautiful

Excellent customer service

6. WHAT ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH THE LIBRARY COULD IMPROVE?

Wedgewood – too crowded; makeover needed

Better City funding for system

Increased materials availability and formats

Facilities more disability-friendly – improvement areas

Crowded conditions

Signs

Lighting

Staff trained to identify and serve persons with disabilities

Increased awareness services, such as mailings to residents

Southside library crowded, aisle widths too narrow

Bus stops at all libraries, rather than some

Programs on different topics to build self-esteem and be more independent

7. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO TELL US?

Hold events to benefit the Library

More

Have on weekends

Book fairs with authors is one example