

**SHARING EXPERTISE  
BETWEEN  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT,  
ACADEMIA & COMMUNITY**

The University Northside Partnership

Hennepin County,  
the University of Minnesota and  
NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

# The University Northside Partnership

## Presentation Overview

- Genesis of the UNP
- Goals and Objectives
- County, University & Community Participation
- Current Efforts / Future Plans

# Presenter Introduction – Martin Adams

- Role and participation with NorthPoint
- Initial coordinator of the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative
- Experience in serving as a liaison between funders and large institutions and community organizations

# Presenter Introduction – Michael Bennett

- Associate Professor of Sociology, DePaul University
- Prior positions:
  - Executive Director, Egan Urban Center, DePaul University
  - Community Fellow, Great Cities Institute
  - Director of The Neighborhood Institute, South Shore Bank
  - Long time colleague and friend

# Genesis of the UNP

- Hennepin County Administration sought to involve the U of M in urban issues
- "...capture value for both organizations through a more strategic collaboration ...where mutual benefit can be found... (including) collaboration on community-based research, sharing of academic and practitioner expertise, and providing students with valuable real-world experience."

*\* from Report: Status of the Hennepin-University Partnership and Proposed Next Steps, October 2006; prepared by Kathie Doty, Hennepin County/University of Minnesota Liaison*

# Genesis of the UNP

## ■ Initial Connections

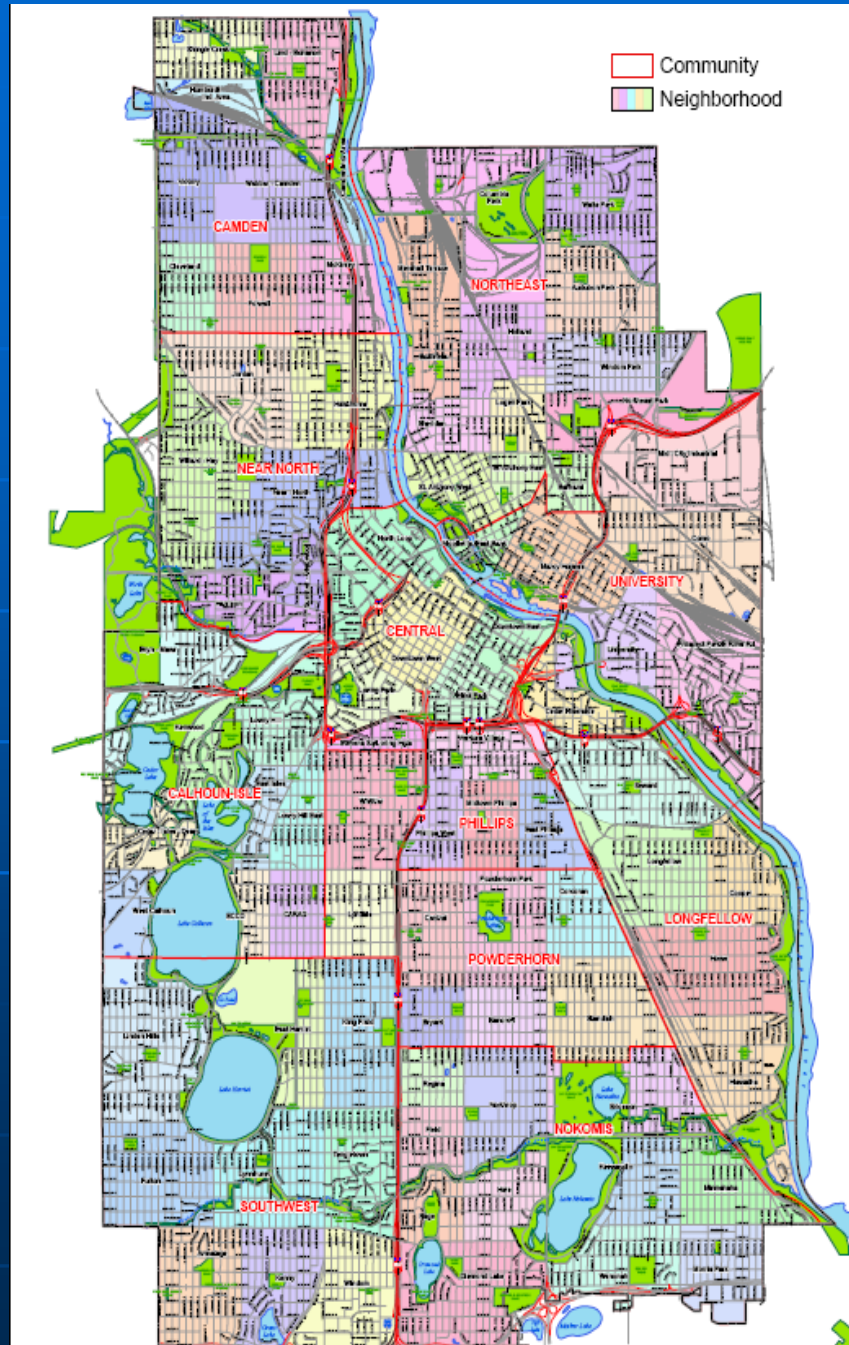
- University Northside Partnership (UNP)
- Transitway Impacts Research – measuring the impact of transitway development
- Public Health Research: SHAPE Survey - comprehensive survey of the health of county residents
- Sharing Expertise/People Connections
  - Commissioner Dorfman served on a 2006-07 Steering Committee for the University Center for Excellence in Children's Mental Health
  - HC Mgr Carol Miller served on a Advisory Board of University Center for Early Childhood Education and Development
  - HC officials and staff began participating in Center for Integrative Leadership seminars, collaboration between Carlson School of Management & Humphrey Institute

# North Minneapolis Overview

## ■ Demographics

- North Minneapolis is made up of two Community Areas, Camden and Near North
- Together, the total population of this area is nearly 67,000 and covers about 9 square miles.

# Map of the City of Minneapolis



# North Minneapolis Overview

## ■ Ethnicity of North Minneapolis Residents

• African American	41%
• White	34%
• Asian	14%
• Two or More Races	6%
• Hispanic/Latino	4%
• Native American	1%

From: 2000 Census

# North Minneapolis Overview

- The population of school aged children five years and under in North Minneapolis numbers was 6,386 in 2000, approximately 25% of children under five city wide.
- The number of kids aged 5 – 19 in some neighborhoods in North Minneapolis grew between 27 – 71%, outpacing the citywide school-age growth average by 13%.

From: 2000 Census

# North Minneapolis Overview

- Community profile data indicates a wage gap of about \$20,000 between the amounts earned by North Minneapolis residents and those in other parts of the city.
- A Brookings Institution Census Update report identified that there was a \$17,000 wage gap between White and African Americans throughout the Twin Cities
- In 2000, 70% of workers in North Minneapolis made \$50,000 or less per year, down from 88% as indicated in the 1990 census.
- In 2000, the mean income level of North Minneapolis workers was \$42,270, as compared with the median household income level of \$54,300 for Minneapolis

# North Minneapolis Overview

- Of nearly 18,000 households that reported income in 1999, about 17% (down from 25% in 1990) reported that public assistance made up a part of that household income,.
- The decrease is most likely due to welfare reform efforts that resulted in a reduction of caseloads.
- Between 1990 and 2000, poverty rates among families with children under 5 years more than doubled, from 707 families to 1,445 families.

# North Minneapolis Overview

## ■ Community Strengths

- Prior to the change in current indicators now showing the economy heading into recession, investment was beginning to show improvement in North Minneapolis; new housing and infrastructure improvements
- Community involvement through neighborhood organizations remains relatively strong
- Image building campaign underway for residents to shape more positive messages about North Minneapolis to counteract negative perceptions

# North Minneapolis Overview

- Community Strengths
  - Infrastructure improvements
  - Efforts to revitalize West Broadway Avenue, main commercial artery
  - University Northside Partnership

# The University Northside Partnership

## ■ Key Issues

- Dr. Dante Cicchetti, recruited to the U of M, Institute of Child Development and Dept. of Psychiatry
- Formerly at the University of Rochester, NY and Harvard University; focusing on research, treatment of children and families suffering from abuse, neglect & maltreatment
- Sought to establish a community-based research and treatment center in Minneapolis
- Previous efforts in Rochester and Boston stemmed from a community-based clinic

# The University Northside Partnership

- U of M officials sought assistance from Gary Cunningham, Director of NorthPoint, to assist in gaining a commitment from Dr. Cicchetti to come to Minneapolis
- Cunningham previously served as a liaison position @ U of M – Humphrey Institute
- Gaining a connection to establish his research and treatment center in North Minneapolis, coupled with having done his graduate work in Minneapolis, Cicchetti made the decision to return to the U of M and to join the faculty

# NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

- NorthPoint is a key community organization in North Minneapolis, affiliated with Hennepin County
- Established by the federal Neighborhood Services Program under the Johnson Administration's War of Poverty in 1967
  - Somewhat similar to Mile Square Health Center
- City/County/Community partnership
  - City owned building, county owned land, community oversight board
  - A recognized and well utilized service provider

# NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

- Cunningham previously director of HC Office of Planning and Development
- Moved over to NP in 2002, amid organizational management and budget problems
- Achieved administrative stability, profitability in 3-5 years

# NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

- NorthPoint Capital Needs
  - Original building an old synagogue approx 75 years old (now housing Human Services)
  - Clinic outgrew space in HS building, county built new facility in 1994, detached facility from HS building
  - Management restructuring created NorthPoint, Inc. as a nonprofit entity separate from, but affiliated with the county
  - HS building purchased from City of Mpls 2005, determined that fixing code violations thru renovations was cost prohibitive; determined that new building was needed

# NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

- Parking at NorthPoint deemed inadequate due to growth in services/needs
- NP administration determined that parking improvements were necessary even without addressing HS building needs
- Assistance from the county was sought to address parking and other capital needs

# NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center

- Capital development plan for new NP Human Services building was developed
- At present, plan is to raze current HS building and build a 160,000 sq ft building on site
- U of M Family Center will be included in NP building
- Other community partners: HSPHD, YMCA Fitness Center, PUC programs, existing programs with other NP human services partners

# University Northside Partnership

## Current Efforts

- U of M Family Center
  - Dr. Cicchetti's research and treatment center, working with abused and maltreated children and their families
  - Program plan based on work in previous cities
  - Over 95% of children and families in treatment that were referred for foster care were able to avoid this due to better parenting skills training, anger management and other therapeutic techniques

# University Northside Partnership

- Initial plan was to build a facility for Dr. Cicchetti in North Minneapolis
- Decision made to consolidate with NP Human Services building
- Linkage to NP's status as a Federally Qualified Healthcare Facility
- Linkage also with NP mental health program, Integrated Services Model

# UNP Current Efforts/Future Goals

- U of M UNP
  - FIPSE Grant and Working Groups
    - Education (Human Talent Development / Out of School Time)
    - Health (Urban Wellness)
    - Economic Development (Vital Communities)
  - Development of Additional Partnerships
    - Mpls Parks and Recreation Department
      - Active Living MN Planning Grant
      - Environmental and policy changes to promote best resource utilization for health & wellness
  - FIPSE Coordinator
    - Anticipated new hire for oversight and additional program/initiative planning

# UNP Current Efforts/Future Goals

## ■ UROC

- Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center
- Renovation of an underutilized strip mall shopping center to house/incubate University projects involving the north side
  - Family Center (until completion of NP HS building)
  - Center for Early Education and Development
  - Center for Innovation in Economic Development (U of M Office of Business & Community Economic Development)

# Additional Issues

- Comprehensive land use plan for this area has not been completed
  - Physical development planning is focused just on the NorthPoint campus and parking lot
  - Current land use plan leaves two corner parcels open at Plymouth-Penn intersection
  - Temporary location for NP Human Services likely to be in a vacant school building south of the intersection
  - Long term use of building as of yet undetermined

# Additional Issues

## ■ Mortgage Foreclosure

- Negatively impacting North Minneapolis more so than other Twin Cities neighborhoods
- Prior to the crisis, home prices were in the upswing, nearing \$180,000.
- Vacant and foreclosed are now being offered for \$60,000 or less.
- A recent Star and Tribune article stated that 1400 houses have been sold in foreclosure auctions since January 2006.
- Government and housing organizations developing options for refinancing and other assistance for low to moderate income families

# Additional Issues

- Education and skill levels of northside residents
  - Workforce readiness, entrepreneurship/business development strategies
- Public safety
  - Drug sales
  - Conflicts within and among gangs
  - Youth violence - periodic unintended victims of gang conflicts and shootings
- Re-entry from prison
  - Influx of young black males returning to the community from prison
  - Need to address employment, re-entry services
  - Public health issues
    - HIV/STD transmission