

Cordova Community Collaborative REACH Initiative Methodology of the Cordova Community Collaborative's Facilitated Discussions/Surveys

As examples of this, fifth grade students at Mather Elementary School met with groups of students during lunch time to review the topics. As items were discussed, the participants filled out their survey forms. As four to five students led the discussions, one student wrote down the themes of discussion while another student copied down quotes from the discussion. These are two specific strategies that the students learned in training workshops through Sierra Health Foundation.

At the Middle School level, students approached teachers regarding the Facilitated Discussions, and scheduled dates and times to walk fellow students through these surveys. One middle school student spent twenty minutes with each participating Advisory Group asking and answering questions of their peers. This was a very direct approach, and again, was another strategy learned through training.

At the High School level, the students decided to have announcements over the intercom stating that their peers could fill out the Facilitated Discussion survey by picking one up at the Cordova Student Union. If students chose to fill out the form in the Student Union, young adult staff and peers were available to discuss the topics, answer questions and lead students through the survey instrument. As another option, teens were able to pick up the facilitated discussion survey and drop it off when it was completed.

Students at Kinney High School also walked through the Facilitated Discussions.

Several faith-based groups in Rancho Cordova (and Sacramento) sat down with students to work through the survey. They discussed the topics, made appropriate comments and made suggestions for how they could partner with future Youth Development projects in Rancho Cordova.

Through these various Facilitated Discussion collection methods, approximately three hundred surveys were filled out.

Knowing that we wanted a larger sample of information from our community, we partnered with Family Support Services from the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. A one-page survey was developed, with very similar questions to the Facilitated Discussion survey instrument, and was handed out on the Mitchell Middle School campus and at Cordova High School. With the support of the principals and staff, teachers handed out the survey to students during Advisory Period. Through this process, we were able to collect information from approximately 1500 students.