Sustainable Community Engagement

Understanding Asset Based Community Development

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Asset Based Community Development

John McKnight & John Kretzmann

ABCD Building Blocks

- The skills of local residents
- The power of local social networks
- The resources of public, private and non-profit institutions
- The physical and economic resources of local places
- The stories of shared lives

ABCD Building Blocks

Individuals

Associations

Institutions

Physical Assets

Connections

Culture/Stories/History

Citizen
Power
Progression



How do you begin to unlock the assets in a community?

Asset Mapping

Key Questions

- 1. As neighbors, what can we achieve by using our own assets?
- 2. What can we achieve with our own assets if we get some outside help?
- 3. What can't we do with our assets that must be done by outsiders?

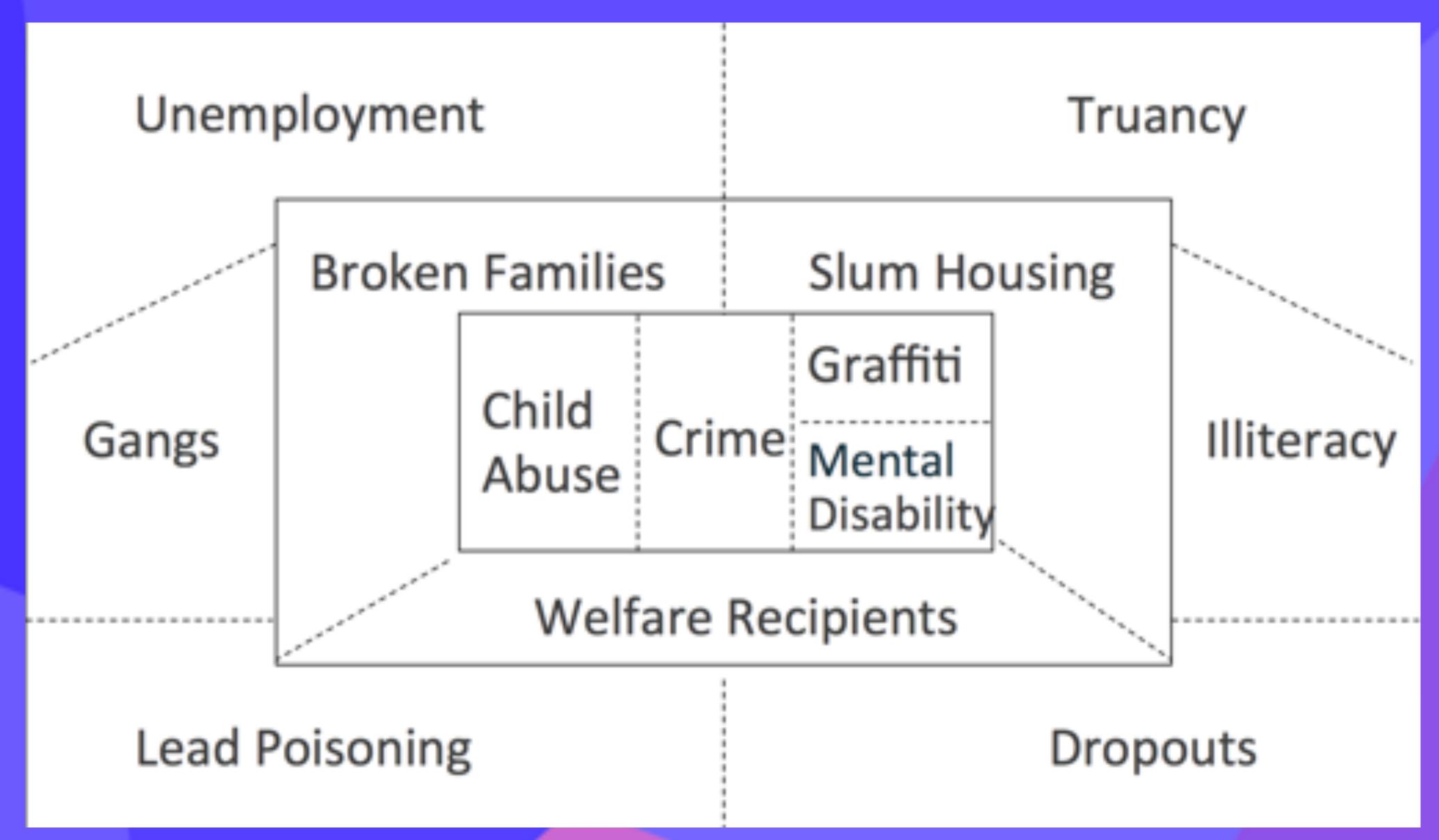
Capacity Inventory

https://resources.depaul.edu/abcdinstitute/resources/Pages/toolkit.aspx

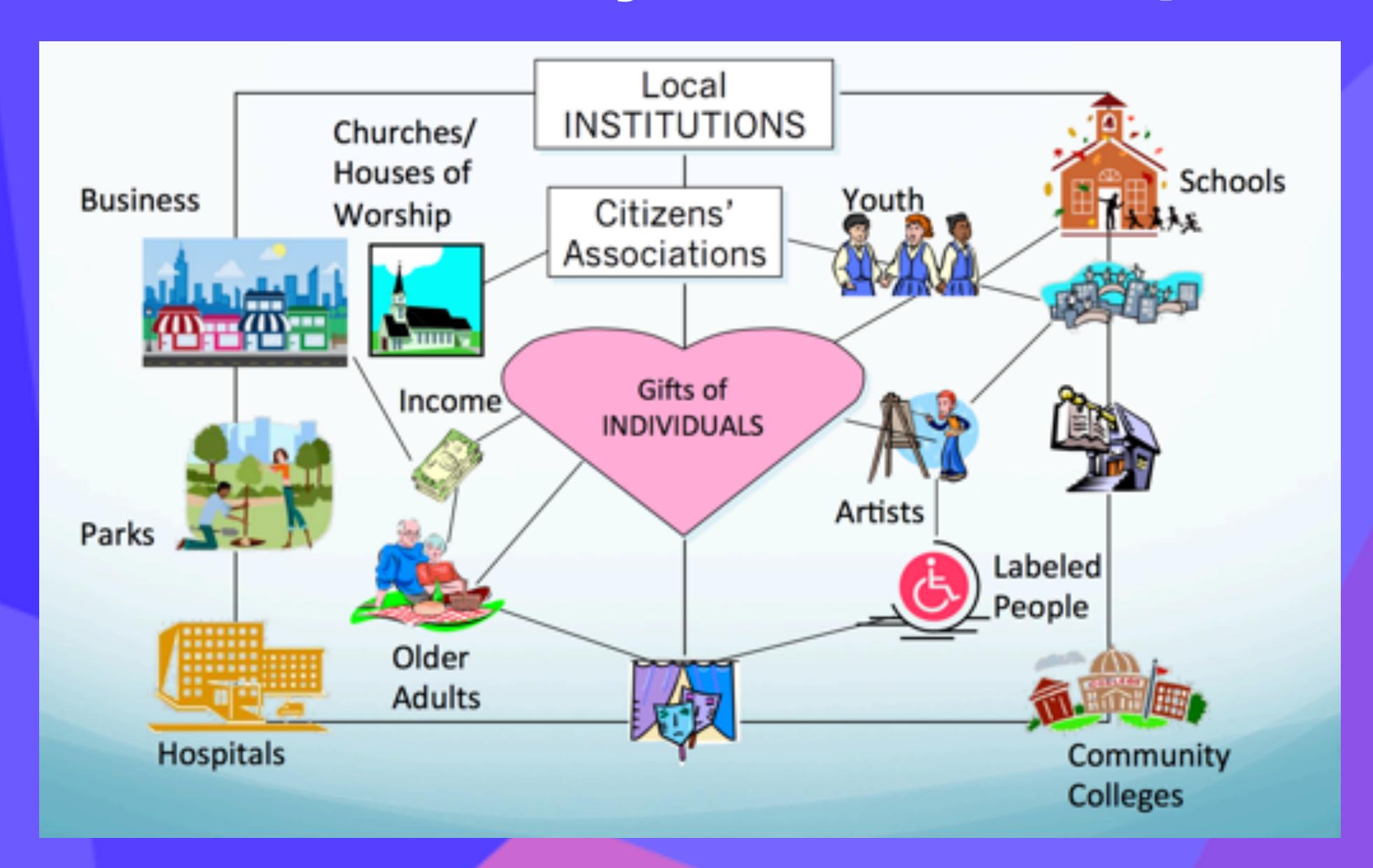
Results of Asset Mapping

- 1. Relationships
- 2. Empowerment
- 3. Action

Neighborhood Needs Map



Community Assets Map



Basic Findings

- 1. In every community, neighbors know about the local assets.
- 2. Successful neighborhood action is the result of assets that were not connected, being connected.
- 3. To connect assets there must be a *connector*, i.e. individuals, associations, or local institutions

Be a connector

