



HIP Happenings

May 2009

By prioritizing partnerships, data, and strategies, the Health Improvement Plan of Washtenaw County works to improve the health of the community!

HIP Workplan – HIP’s three-year workplan (2009-2011) includes priorities and ‘action items’ for all three HIP work groups (Internal, Implementation, Coordinating). The plan also includes action items for participants of the Community Health Committee (CHC), which is HIP’s community coalition. The plan communicates the important role that coalition members play in moving the plan forward. Contact us for a copy!

How Do We Do It? HIP places a priority on encouraging organizations and individuals to advocate for policies that promote health. Last year, Washtenaw County Public Health (WCPH) received a “continuous quality improvement” grant and used the funding to identify a set of “policy selection criteria”. The criteria increases the likelihood that policies brought to CHC for advocacy meet standards that CHC members identify as important to them. The criteria continue to be tested. Let us know if you would like to see the policy selection criteria.

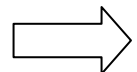
CHC endorses “Tobacco-free Michigan: A 5-year Strategic Plan for Tobacco Use and Prevention” - In April, HIP’s Coordinating Team moved to join other coalitions and organizations around the state to endorse this plan, which was developed by the Michigan Department of Community Health and other partners. Contact us for a copy or an endorsement form for your own organization!

Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan (HKHM) - In 2008, CHC members voted to have CHC sign, as a coalition, a Resolution of Support for “Year One Action Items” of the HKHM 5-year State Policy Plan to Reduce Childhood Obesity. CHC members then elected focus support on three of seven Year One action items: 1) Complete Streets/Safe Routes to School, 2) Access to Fresh Healthy Food in Underserved Areas, and 3) Physical and Health Education in the Schools (K-8). As HKHM crafts policies to support these action items, CHC will support them by conducting advocacy activities. http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_2959_51482---,00.html

What’s Your Story? One recommendation stemming from the 2008 CHC leadership retreat was to develop brief ‘success stories’ showcasing local health improvement programs and interventions. HIP staff recently developed a “success story data collection tool” which was piloted by Susan Aaronson of Project Healthy Schools (she highlighted an all-school volleyball event). Since then, some HIP partners have volunteered to submit a success story. By the end of the summer a series of HIP success stories will be released. Want your organization showcased? Let us know!

Focus on Depression - In late 2007, CHC members selected Depression as a fourth ‘HIP Focus Area’ (others are Physical Activity, Healthy Eating, and Tobacco Reduction). The focus areas help to drive policy, environmental, behavioral, and clinical intervention resulting from collaboration and leadership among HIP partners. Criteria used to select focus areas include the extent that: 1) the issue affects multiple populations, 2) the issue, if changed, can reduce health disparities, 3) the issue, if changed, can impact multiple health issues, 4) effective strategies to address the issue exist, 5) public and political levels of readiness, acceptability, and support exist, and 6) resources and commitment to use them (human, financial, institutional) exist.

In May 2008 an ad hoc workgroup of HIP partners voluntarily formed to identify priorities within depression to guide HIP and CHC activities such as CHC meeting topics, data reports, data collection and surveillance system development,



To learn more about these activities or request information contact Keven Mosley-Koehler, HIP Coordinator, at Washtenaw County Public Health, at koehlerk@ewashtenaw.org

advocacy activities, presentations, grant application selection, and partnerships. Depression prevention priorities that the group identified include:

- Stigma
- Access and barriers to services
- Surveillance system development
- Risk factors
- Protective factors

The group also developed a “Depression Management Resource List” for both providers and community members. It contains contact information and descriptions of non-profit providers and services available in Washtenaw County for those with little or no insurance. Two HIP partners, United Way 211 of Monroe and Washtenaw Counties (<http://washtenaw211.org/>) and the Women’s Center for Southeastern Michigan (<http://www.womenscentersemi.org/>) have offered to update and host the information. Contact us for your own copy!

The workgroup recently wrapped up its work since its original mission was accomplished. Thank you to the following workgroup members for collaborating with Washtenaw County Public Health:

- Marnie Leavitt - The Women’s Center of Southeastern Michigan
- Sally Amos O’Neill - Washtenaw Community Health Organization
- Elizabeth Spring and Brandie Hagaman - Washtenaw County Community Support and Treatment Services
- Phil Barr, Thomson-Reuters

Join Us, Won’t You? Uniting organizations and individuals, forming partnerships, and building collaborations is key to improving community health. By attending CHC meetings or serving on a workgroup you get connected to other county organizations with similar goals and challenges. It’s that easy to become a HIP partner! If you would like your organization to be displayed on the HIP website as a HIP partner and also have a link to your organization’s website posted there, go to http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/public_health/hip/hip_partnership_form

Get Plugged In – Want to keep informed about local community health events, grant opportunities, current policies, relevant research, and best practices that align with HIP objectives? **Join the CHC listserv!**

Let the Data do the Driving! Data-driven grants are powerful. Further, local data for local projects lends even more credibility to your proposals. Local data are at the crux of HIP. Through our ongoing health behavior and risk factor surveillance system, monitoring of public health indicators, establishment of long-term health objectives, and detailed analysis of critical health issues in our county, HIP offers you the edge when applying for funding. Find out more at <http://hip.ewashtenaw.org>

HIP funding partners include St. Joseph Mercy Health System, Chelsea Community Hospital, University of Michigan Health System, United Way of Washtenaw County, Pfizer, Inc., Thomson Reuters, and Washtenaw County Public Health

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