

Heath and Wellness Action Team Notes – May 5, 2010

Next Meetings:

Cross Team Meeting -Thursday, May 27th 4:30-7:30 (food at 4:00) at Runnell's Hall
Community Feedback Forum – Thursday, June 17th 6:00-8:00 pm (food at 5:30)

Homework:

1. Think about who to invite to the June 17th meeting
2. For meetings after June 17, think about if the team meeting time and date work for the group?? 1st or 2nd Wednesday of the month still good? 6:00 still good? too early, too late?

Actions Areas & Actions:

- The team had an in-depth conversation in agreement with the narrowing of the action areas as decided at the April meeting to initially focus on the primary drivers of Accessibility to Health Care and Community Awareness.
- Anecdotally, there is information that the 20% uninsured rate for Carroll County (12% state) is closer to 40% for the MWV area based on the job mix for the area.
 - The group recognizes that this issue will flux with the changes on the national health care scene and that they need more information about the impacts and timelines of the national health care bill and what it will specifically mean for Carroll County. Understanding more about the expected changes will help the team know more clearly what areas need short or long term solutions.
- Discussed the successful example of the suicide prevention coalition in Moultonborough formed following 5 suicides in their community in 6 months. That group figured out a way to bring in mental health services (found space for Northern Human Services practitioner in a local office) and undertook a massive and consistent suicide prevention education campaign. They have had only 1 suicide in the past 3 years and steady use of the mental health service (including visitors to the area).
 - Sometimes, people coming into the office for a mental health visit will end up getting a physical check-up, too.

Accessibility of Health Care/Community Awareness

90 days

- Clinical open house tour (bus tour of local medical, mental health providers for those who refer people to services)
- Providers promote bus when people make appointments

30 days ➤ bus route map with health care stops on cable access

Longer term

- Development of marketing materials
 - Contact area high schools, Granite State College, Plymouth State University for help with that marketing campaign

Accessibility of Health Care

60 days

- Find out if existing community health centers, veterans care can handle more patients if promoted more widely.
- What are local hospitals finding out through their needs assessments?
- What is offered for benefits by major employers?
- Look at costs (for hospitals and other providers) of what lack of access costs them (expenses they write down, etc.) (connection between preventable visits through ER to clinic visit?)
 - 90 days + ➤ If these costs are going to be incurred anyway, are there proactive things that could be invested in that would get better outcomes for people and produce less cost?

“Parking Lot” (long-term potential actions)

Create health care cooperatives particularly for part-time or seasonal workers so that employers could contribute to a pool on behalf of those workers.

Create health care cooperatives particularly for part-time workers who might work 40 hours at 2 different jobs - **steps for this?*	Post September
Support existing community health centers to expand services **Steps for this?*	
Develop marketing materials	Post September
Explore model of Minor ER in Concord. What are advantages, disadvantages?	
Find out if there is an increase in insurance rates when people go to the ER for non-ER needs.	
Determine what resources are available for Medicare a recipient (who accepts Medicare patients?)	
Determine amount Emergency Rooms are used at local hospitals and reason for visits	
Determine if there’s a relationship between amount of ER use and accessibility to providers (to ultimately say that if there was better/more access through walk-in clinics (?), the cost of running the ER would go down) (i.e. #ER visits decrease during the week when the WMCHC is open?)	
Increase the number of health insurance companies in the state	

Earlier team notes & documents as well as those of the other action teams available at www.carrollcountyunited.org.