



Ashland-Boyd County Health Department Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan Preliminary Findings Summary
Updated July 9, 2015

I. Community Health Assessment Process

Data was shared with the group from objective statistics, community forums (organizational perspective) and community surveys (individual perspective).

II. Community Health Improvement Process

A. Small workgroups were formed to synthesize information from the three community data perspectives (objective, organizational and individual). Workgroups were asked to evaluate the data by identifying common responses or health concerns across all three perspectives.

Common Responses across the Three Perspectives:

- Need for Jobs
- Substance Abuse concerns
- Tobacco concerns
- Concerns relating to access and affordability of care including insurance products

B. The workgroups were provided with the results of the Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) organized by the 10 Essential Public Health Services – see attached. Groups were asked to review the community assets listed in the LPHSA, discuss additional assets and report to the larger group on those assets that could be used to address community health needs.

Community Assets to Address Health Concerns:

- Lots of programs/resources available in the community
- Mental Health Expertise
- Good Schools
- Events/Festivals for bringing people together
- Strong HealthCare System
- Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities coalition who meets regularly and could participate more actively in the health improvement planning effort
- Availability of a Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities website and Facebook page.

The group discussed these assets specifically the concern that community members may not realize the program and resources or the mental health expertise that is available in Boyd County. Discussion was also held regarding the ability to increase collaboration with the schools for health programming.

- C. The workgroups were asked to review the data from the three perspectives document again and consider those health concerns that, if addressed, could have the greatest impact on the health of Boyd County citizens.

Impact Issues:

- Teen Birth Rate
- Tobacco/Substance Abuse
- Physical Activity/Nutrition
- Reaching people with healthcare needs
- Focus on Prevention

- D. The small workgroups were asked to regroup with participants of the forum that they had not had the opportunity to work with to discuss data or health concerns. The newly formed small workgroups discussed the common health concerns across perspectives, available community assets and health impact issues. Group discussions were reported to the larger group using a consensus activity which produced the following potential focus areas for the Ashland-Boyd County Community Health Improvement Plan:

- Access Issues
- Tobacco/Substance Abuse
- Teen Pregnancy

The larger group discussed the Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities focus on obesity and how that effort could be a part of this community health improvement planning effort. The group agreed that more Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities Coalition members should be encouraged to collaborate so that the community health improvement planning efforts would capture the overall intent of community partners to strive for a healthier Boyd County.

The Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities Coalition met on May 20, 2015. During this meeting the following was discussed:

- Summary of past Coalition member's health improvement efforts (Achieve grant etc)
- Hospital and Health Department incentives for health improvement planning (IRS – hospital; Accreditation – health department)
- Review of 2015 health improvement planning to date: data, three perspectives, consensus building activities
- Potential structure of a combined health improvement planning effort

The Healthy Choices, Healthy Communities Coalition agreed to collaborate in the community health improvement planning. The Ashland-Boyd County Health

Department will prepare a survey to be sent to coalition members. The survey will ask each member to prioritize the following potential focus areas:

1. Access and affordability of care including insurance products
2. Tobacco and substance abuse
3. Teen Pregnancy and Teen Birth Rate
4. Physical Activity/Nutrition

Ashland- Boyd County Health Department also agreed to provide community survey data results regarding prioritization of the same issues. The survey for both groups will also include an opportunity for feedback and/or comments.

