

Health Visioning Meeting

September 8, 2011

Attendees: Bob Weisdack, Dan Mix, Kimm Leininger, Joann Randall, Beth Matthews, Jim Adams, Denise Kaminski, Kelly Donahue, Lynn Kempf, Linda Miller, Julie Weese, John Barnes, Jim Clements, Mary Wynne-Peaspanen, David Snively, Chris Pintchuk.

Bob Weisdack: Thank you for being here. This initiative will take a community effort to accomplish. We are doing a Community Health Assessment to fully understand the needs of the community and to satisfy the requirements of the CDC and ODH.

The first step is to assist in the development of goals and objectives. A 5 – 10 year plan is what we're looking at. We need to know what public health services are offered, and what needs to be offered. We must have a vision to provide a format to chart progress and to know if we have met the objectives and goals that are set forth by you.

Kimm Leininger: We are asking you to create a vision. A vision contains broad ideas and concepts, not necessarily answering how.

In an effort to introduce one another to the group, everyone was asked to create a newspaper headline: If you were going to see a headline in the newspaper about what Geauga County looks like in 20 years, and you were part of making that happen, what would the headline be?

Headlines are as follows:

- Geauga County is the Healthiest and Safest Community in Northeast Ohio
- Geauga County Tackles Childhood Obesity
- Geauga County Opens Chronic Illness Health Center
- Geauga County Reports Double Digit Increase in Number of Residents in Local Exercise Programs
- Geauga County Residents are the Healthiest in the Nation
- Survey Finds: Health and Human Services are Affordable and Available to ALL in Geauga County
- Geauga County, Ohio Rated #1 Place in Country to Live in
- Geauga County Healthiest County in America
- Geauga County leads Ohio in Number of High School Graduates Going Further in Education
- Geauga County a Safe, Healthy Place to Live
- No Unintended Pregnancies in Geauga County
- Interstate 44 Opens: Bringing Jobs and New Neighborhoods to Geauga County
- Geauga County: 97% of all 3 and 4 Year Olds Receiving Evidenced Based Early Education Services

- Geauga County is the Healthiest County in the Country: Lowest Obesity Rate; Highest Vaccination Rate; Lowest Tobacco Use; Lowest Alcohol Abuse; and Lowest Poverty Rates
- Geauga County Offers Services to Residents and Employees for Volunteer Hours
- Geauga County: Highest Public Health Ranking in the State – Exceeds all measures in health and exercise

Attendees divided into three groups and provided the following responses to these questions:

1. What does a healthy Geauga County mean to you?

- Health Care
 - Lower/affordable medical costs
 - Increased number of Medicaid family care providers
 - Accessible and available health care
 - Affordable/accessible health care
- Addiction Services
 - Decreased tobacco use
 - Underage children are drug free
 - Lower alcohol use – no use among underage population
 - Dollars are available for substance abuse prevention
 - Focused on substance abuse and wellness
- Physical Activity
 - Kids have access to sports – no more pay to play
 - Organized recreational activities (free)
 - Physically fit
 - Places to engage in physical activity
 - Less obesity – commitment to exercising
 - Focus on exercise
- Youth
 - Safe place for kids to hang out
 - Mobile immunization van to reach all areas of the county
 - Full immunizations to prevent disease
- Miscellaneous Health
 - Good drinking water
 - Healthier seniors
 - More community gardens
 - More family gardens/fresh produce stands
 - People helping people – high rates of volunteerism
 - Volunteerism encouraged
- Miscellaneous Other
 - Prepared for any disaster that may occur
 - Jobs are available
 - Higher property values
 - Sense of PRIDE
 - Transportation to services

- Low domestic violence

2. What are important characteristics that make a healthy community for all who live, work and play here?

- Healthy is Cool!
 - Low obesity rates in children
 - Not obese
 - Low tobacco use
 - Low alcohol use
 - Low drug rate – reduction in alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
 - Healthy BMI rates
 - Good oral health
- Families/Youth/Seniors
 - More physical education in schools
 - Low teen pregnancy rates – low rates of unintended pregnancies and STDs
 - Range of prevention and education resources
 - Fully immunized
 - Elderly needs are being met
 - Access to healthy foods that are affordable/ increased community gardening
 - Sense of connection for every kid and adult
- Mental Health
 - Good mental health education and prevention
 - Acceptance of mental health treatment
- Exercise
 - Fitness – mental and physical health receive equal treatment
 - Access to exercise opportunities (company incentives)
 - Bike paths
- Volunteerism
 - Helping others
 - Sense of giving back and taking care of others
 - Neighbors helping neighbors
- Miscellaneous
 - Public transportation
 - Diversity in cluster and economic status
 - LOW unemployment
 - Well funded schools
 - Safety
 - Strong tax base to support community services
 - Affordable rent
 - Variety of housing opportunities

3. How do you envision the local public health system changing in the next five or ten years?

- Collaborations
 - Increased collaboration and partnerships

- Collaborative Public Health System – public agencies will work together and there will be more public/private partnerships
- Engage parents and families in healthy lifestyles
- Larger role in the schools
- More of a presence in schools
- Community Awareness and Involvement
 - More visible in the county
 - Strong presence in the community
 - Availability to everyone
 - Workplace Health and Education programs
 - Focused on young families with prevention programs
 - More focus on helping families as a unit; addressing all issues
 - Emphasis on chronic disease prevention
 - Responsive to community needs
 - Openly deals with “tough” issues – sex/addiction/behavioral health
 - One stop shop – provide complete healthcare integrated physical, mental health, dental, optical, wellness
 - Central source of information for all residents
 - Lost of educational opportunities for healthy living
 - Education to prevent diseases, abuse, injuries
 - Septic systems are up to code
 - Acceptance of family planning in Geauga County
 - Combine services that duplicative
 - Current – overburdened – needs exceed available funding
 - Greater undertaking of public health and services of the public health system
 - The “umbrella” for a healthy community is a healthy economy with available jobs

All of the items were reviewed with the group to ensure accuracy.

Next attendees were divided into two groups and provided responses to the following questions:

- 1. What key behaviors will be required to achieve the items discussed above, for:**
 - a. Public Health System**
 - Advocacy and Prioritization
 - Stronger relationship with schools
 - Identifying Needs
 - Find creative funding
 - Align with profitable private sector
 - Visible and Transparent
 - Educate the public on key health issues
 - Volunteerism Encouragement
 - Good communication and engagement with community

- Social media
- Work with hospitals and insurance companies and local physicians
- WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT TO MAKING THE ABOVE HAPPEN?
 - Gain knowledge and understanding
 - Continue to volunteer with decreasing drug and alcohol issues through community coalition
 - Be open to change
 - Participate in the process
 - Meeting people on their turf
 - Social Media
 - Volunteer

b. Community and Community Partners

- Collaboration that is valued
- Listening
- Partners that are open minded
- Open to change and new ideas
- Awareness and promotion of 211
- Proactive information sharing from providers to 211
- Develop a “WE” identity vs. “ME” identity – Team Approach
- No service is unimportant (or less important) – ie. a cab ride to an appt. can avoid an ER visit
- WHAT TYPE OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE?
 - Inclusive of all providers within the community and at all levels
 - Look at yourself – honesty and be open to change
 - Examine problems at all levels – from the need to the system solution
 - Include directly affected individuals and staff in decision making

The next session of the visioning committee will be held on Wednesday, September 14 from 3:00 – 5:00. Please feel free to invite others you think should be at the table. Please call Dan Mix at 279-1940 to have them RSVP. We will be sure to get the notes from the meeting, and we will send the other group’s notes, as well. Bob, Dan, Kimm and Joann will work to create a vision statement with all of the information gathered from both sessions. Once a draft is ready, it will be circulated to all visioning session attendees for their comments and feedback. Thank you for your participation!