

From: Maria Hitt [mhitt@co.orange.nc.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2003 4:09 PM
Subject: Orange County Community Health Needs Assessment

Dear Mayor Foy:

I am writing to let you know that Healthy Carolinians of Orange County, the Orange County Health Department and many other community agencies are in the process of conducting a Health Needs Assessment in Orange County. As part of the process we are organizing numerous focus groups and key informant interviews to collect information for our final report. I and my assistant, Amy Sommer, have communicated with your office about this project but have not had a response. We would very much like to interview you, or if you are unavailable, a member of the Town Council. Please let me know if you might be able to meet with me for one hour so that we can add your opinions and views about the health needs of our community to the mix. I would also be happy to make a presentaion to the Town Council about the work we are doing to assure that you and they are informed of the process and have an opportunity to contribute thoughts and ideas to our efforts. Thank you for your help in this matter.

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Overview of Orange County Community Assessment Process

The Orange County Health Department in collaboration with Healthy Carolinians of Orange County is organizing a community effort to prepare a countywide community health assessment during 2003. The State Office of Health Education and Healthy Carolinians requires local health departments to conduct a community health assessment every 4 years.

The project is underway at this time and many organizations and groups in Orange County are already involved in the process. The goal this year is to involve a diverse group in order to gather useful and important information about the county that can assist many sectors of the community in program development, in collaboration and to help access funding. The additional goal is to share the process so that many will benefit and the effort will be spread across a broad base.

The assessment team is working to involve the community in the assessment through a series of focus groups and interviews that will be combined with secondary data from a variety of sources to create a big picture of the health needs in Orange County. To this end, an assessment team has been formed to work out a plan of action to achieve our goals. In a nutshell, we plan to:

- Conduct numerous focus groups and interviews from May through July
- Assemble and analyze the information collected along with secondary data over the summer
- Present the findings back to the community during the fall through a series of community forums where individuals will come together to prioritize the areas of focus for Healthy Carolinians and other groups over the next four years
- Present the findings to the community at large during the first half of 2004

We are still looking for additional partners in the process, if you are interested you can contact Maria Hitt at 968-2022 Ext 291 or e-mail her at mhitt@co.orange.nc.us. The next planning meeting will be held on June 20 at 9:00 AM at the Southern Human Services Center.

Groups who are already participating include:

The Orange-Chatham Justice Partnership

El Centro Latino

The Orange County Partnership for Young Children

Head Start and Early Head Start

Freedom House

Triangle United Way

UNC-CH

CHCCS

UNC Hospitals

Communities in Schools

The Community Backyard

OPC Mental Health

OC Department on Aging

OC EMS

INTRAH

OC Dept of Social Services



Healthy Carolinians of Orange County Fact Sheet 2003



What is Healthy Carolinians? Healthy Carolinians (HC) is a community-based partnership to improve the health of North Carolinians. Healthy Carolinians brings together community members, leaders and organizations to form a task force. Healthy Carolinians is based on the concept that community members are the most qualified to effectively prioritize the health and safety problems in their community and to plan and execute creative solutions to these problems. The overall goal of a Healthy Carolinians Task Force is to improve the health and well being of all community residents.

Who are Healthy Carolinians?

Healthy Carolinians of Orange County involves a diverse group of people from civic groups, schools, churches, health care organizations, UNC Hospitals, UNC Schools of Nursing, Public Health and Social Work, businesses, local government and health insurance companies as well as concerned citizens of all ages including youth and seniors.

Mission:

To provide a plan to guide and assist Orange County in planning and implementing health care strategies to promote healthy lifestyles, improve health status and prevent premature death and injury for all residents in the county regardless of age, race, income or education.

Task Force Structure:

Healthy Carolinians of Orange County is composed of a council and three committees. The Council is lead by an executive committee. The Council meets quarterly or more often if required. The executive and working committees meet monthly.

Membership: Open to all County residents

Healthy Carolinians Projects for 2003

- Coordination and implementation of a countywide community health assessment to determine current attitudes and beliefs of community members about health issues.
- Prioritization process in which community members will use information gathered in the assessment to determine the focus of work for Healthy Carolinians over the next four years.
- Development of a map and listing of all public recreation locations in Orange County including schools, parks, trails, lakes and recreation centers.
- Organization of a series of family health and fitness days to encourage physical activity.
- Development of a series of workshops on recognition and prevention of domestic violence and child abuse
- Second annual community awareness campaign for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.
- Continued partnership with numerous community agencies and organizations to improve access to health care and health information for Orange County residents

Committees and Areas of Focus:

Advocates for Children:

- Prevention of child abuse and neglect, preventable accidents and injuries involving children

Healthy Choices, Community Voices:

- Adult health promotion and disease prevention

Voices for Healthy Adolescent Choices:

- Adolescent pregnancy prevention, improving adolescent parenting skills, improving access to health care for adolescents.

Committee Goals

Advocates for Children:

- By 2003 identify gaps in service provision by service type and under-served population.
- By 2005, Improve child abuse and neglect services for at-risk children, parents and families by increasing public awareness of child abuse and neglect and identifying resources which help resolve family management /conflict issues
- By 2010, Increase utilization of family support programs by 5%

Healthy Choices, Community Voices:

- By 2003, to improve lifestyle behaviors by 5% in the areas of tobacco use, physical activity, nutrition/obesity and alcohol use.
- By 2010, to reduce behaviors that contribute to morbidity and mortality related to heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes by 10%.

Voices for Healthy Adolescent Choices:

- By 2003, to identify available adolescent pregnancy prevention and parenting programs and services and identify gaps in those programs and services.
- By 2010, to reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancy by 2% in Orange County.

For more information about how to get involved with Healthy Carolinians Contact:

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Or visit our web site at: www.co.orange.nc.us/health/ochc.htm

Or the State Office of Healthy Carolinians web site at: www.healthycarolinians.org

***Healthy Carolinians of Orange County
Working together with the community to improve the health
of all Orange County residents***

History of Healthy Carolinians of Orange County

1995 - County Commissioners charge UNC Hospital, UNC School of Public Health & OCHD to initiate Healthy Carolinians of OC

1996 - Comprehensive community assessment completed; priorities established:

- Availability and use of preventive health services
- Teen pregnancy
- Availability and use of prenatal care
- Illegal drug sales
- Child abuse and neglect
- Substance abuse
- Poor parenting skills
- Health insurance coverage
- Poverty rates among minorities
- Sexual assault
- AIDS awareness

1997 - Committees and objectives established, implementation begins

- Needs of Children (now Advocates for Children)
- Teen Pregnancy (now Voices for Healthy Adolescent Choices)
- Preventive Services (now Healthy Choices, Community Voices)

1998 - Governor Jim Hunt awarded certification to Healthy Carolinians of OC

1999 - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey completed, new partnerships established, assessment of data provided from BRFSS, priority areas revisited

2000 - Executive Committee acquires joint funding and approval for a full-time Healthy Carolinians Coordinator position with the OC Health Department.
Healthy Carolinians of OC awarded re-certification by the Governor through 2003

2002-2003 Summary of Accomplishments

- Participated in community events including:
 - ▶ La Fiesta Del Pueblo
 - ▶ Octoberfest
 - ▶ Apple Chill
 - ▶ Festifall
 - ▶ Great American Smoke Out
 - ▶ La Feria de Salud, St Thomas Moore
 - Applied for and received grants from the Office of Healthy Carolinians for staff support for \$10,000 in 2001-2002 and \$7,500 in 2002-2003
 - Applied for and received the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission grant for \$232,000 for youth tobacco prevention in both Orange County school systems.
 - Prepared and presented the Health of the County report at a community forum in fall 2002 to report on progress made in addressing the issues raised in the 2001 Adult and Youth Health Report Card.
 - Administered \$12,000 to six community-based organizations in Orange County to address goals of Healthy Carolinians of Orange County through the Healthy Carolinians Micro-Grant project. The six agencies and projects are:
 1. The Arc of Orange County increased emotional support for disabled adults
 2. El Centro Latino established a Spanish health lending library of books and videos
 3. The Horizons Program increased physical activity among women in substance abuse treatment
 4. Head Start reduced obesity in children by partnering with the WIC nutrition program
 5. Orange County Rape Crisis Services purchased new videos and educational materials to reduce sexual abuse and assault
 6. Teens Climb High increased physical activity of girls in their after school program.
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