2011
Local Public Health System Assessment
Scott County, Kentucky

Wedco District Health Department
Acknowledgements:

Participating Members:

Elizabeth Anderson-Hogland – Bluegrass Prevention Center, SCAD
Angela Burns – Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center
Claude Christensen – Sadieville Mayor
Ella Coleman – Community Member
Laura Eastes – Georgetown News Graphic Newspaper
Judy Feeback – Active Day of Georgetown
Jared Hollon – Scott County Government
John Jones – Georgetown Scott County EMS
David Klee - Scott County Board of Health

Wedco District Health Department Employees:

Crystal Caudill-Miller – Director of Public Health
Tony Hall – Health Education
Donna Long – Clinic Nurse Supervisor
Gene Thomas – Environmental Director
Laurie Tucker – HANDS Nurse
Introduction

In 1998, the Institute of Medicine defined public health as “what we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.” Improving health is a shared responsibility of health care providers and public health officials, as well as a variety of organizations and individuals who contribute to the well-being of our community. No single entity can make a community healthy. So much more can be accomplished by working together with a common vision to improve health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROM</th>
<th>TO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operational planning</td>
<td>Strategic planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus on the agency</td>
<td>Focus on community &amp; entire public health system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needs assessment</td>
<td>Emphasis on assets and resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medically oriented model</td>
<td>Broad definition of health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency knows all</td>
<td>Everyone knows something</td>
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The National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) provides a framework for bringing together the individuals, groups and organizations that make up our local public health system, and guides our community to identify and take action on priority health issues. The approach used by NPHPSP is a paradigm shift from operational to strategic thinking, from a needs-based to an asset-based emphasis, and from an agency focus to a broad community focus — a new way of doing business.

NPHPSP Local Assessment uses the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model for community health planning, developed through a cooperative agreement between the National Association of County & City Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

The Local Public Health System takes more than healthcare providers and public health agencies to address the social, economic, environmental and individual factors which influence health. The local public health system is comprised of agencies, organizations, individuals and businesses that must work together to create conditions for improved health in a community (below).
National Public Health Performance Standards Local Program

The Local Public Health System Assessment

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) is one of four MAPP assessments that inform the development of a strategic community health improvement plan. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the activities and capacities of our local public health system and identify areas for strengthening the system’s ability to respond to day-to-day public health issues and to public health emergencies. The LPHSA uses the National Public Health Performance Standards Program local instrument, developed collaboratively by seven national public health organizations. The assessment focuses on standards, designed around the Ten Essential Public Health Services, by which local public health system performance can be determined.

### The Ten Essential Public Health Services

1. **Monitor** health status to identify community health problems.
2. **Diagnose and investigate** health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. **Inform, educate** and empower people about health issues.
4. **Mobilize** community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. **Develop policies and plans** that support individual and community health efforts.
6. **Enforce** laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. **Link** people to needed personal health care services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. **Assure** a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. **Evaluate** the effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. **Research** for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

### Assessment Process

Fourteen partners from Scott County’s local public health system convened for a eight hour assessment meeting. With guidance from a trained facilitator, participants scored responses to assessment questions using individual electronic voting remotes (see below).

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
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<th>Moderate</th>
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<td>&gt;0-25%</td>
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After voting was complete for the assigned section, partners engaged in facilitated discussion about questions with the least consensus and voted on these questions again. Final scores were determined by consensus votes or by “can you live with the answer when you leave” determination. Data was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for analysis. The full report generated by the CDC may be found on the Wedco District Health Department website (http://www.wedcohealth.org). This summary report includes highlights from the full report along with relevant discussion comments from assessment participants.
Summary Findings

- A score of zero activity of performance within Scott County Local Public Health System (LPHS) was assigned to one assessment item. This was the LPHS review of Community Profile. With little knowledge of a Community Health Profile or a community health assessment of this type ever being conducted the participants ranked this service as no activity.

- The lowest rated essential service area of performance was Monitor Health Status.

- Some areas of relatively low performance may be enhanced through the Scott County Connection initiative. Including assessing the community partners and bringing in additional agencies to find out what is available and what the needs are to the community. With the additional information, groups can be formed to begin addressing the most pressing issues for the Scott County community.

- None of the Essential Services received an Optimal overall rating but the highest rated service was Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community. This service received and overall high Significant rating with 72%.

Executive Summary

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Monitor Health Status to identify Community Health Problems

Key Questions: Does our local public health system conduct community-wide health assessments to create a community health profile on a regular basis? Do we use technology to interpret and communicate the assessment data? Is there collaboration in our local public health system to use population health registries?

Findings

- This essential service was ranked as the lowest scoring section of the assessment.

- Population Based Community Health Profile is a common set of measures for the community to prioritize the health issues that will be addressed through strategic planning and action, to allocate and align resources, and to monitor population-based health status improvement over time. This was voted as Zero for Scott County.

- Current Technology to Manage and Communicate Population Health Data received a Minimal percentage. This is for using state of the art technology and geocoded data for analysis.

- Maintenance of Population Health Registries received a Significant vote from the LPS. Population Health registries track health-related events such as disease patterns and preventive health services delivery (i.e. cancer registries facilitate tracking of cancer incidence, cancer stage of diagnosis, treatment patterns, and survival probability: vaccine registries provide the real time status of vaccine coverage for specified age groups in the community). The LPHS creates and supports systems to assure accurate and timely reporting by providers. Data are collected for registries in accordance with standards that assure comparability of data from public, private, local, state, regional, and national sources. Collaborating among multiple partners facilitate the aggregation of individual data to compile a population health registry used to inform policy decisions, program implementation, and population research.
Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services

Key Questions: Have population-based health services been evaluated in our community? Have personal health services been evaluated in our community? Has the performance of the overall local public health system been evaluated?

Findings

- This essential service was ranked as the second lowest by the participants.

- Moderate overall activity was perceived regarding the evaluation of the local public health system. The local public health system assessment described in this report is the first of its kind in Scott County, and will need to be repeated every three to five years to improve performance in this area.

- Participants indicated that evaluation of the Population Based Health Services and Personal Health Services were at Moderate level for Scott County. It was discussed that through patient satisfaction surveys and other required reviews for licensure and professional standards these areas had been reviewed on a regular basis.

- Evaluation of the Local Public Health System was an area ranked as Minimal but also an area of many unknowns. With coordination and linkage among the system members this service should improve in ranking prior to the next assessment.

- There was a general uncertainty about the system’s performance related to evaluating the local public health system. Shared information and collaboration among agencies was needed to improve the communication in this service.
Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems

**Key Questions**: Is there a process in place to develop collaborative relationships between current and potential constituents in the local public health system? Is there a broad-based community partnership to assure a comprehensive approach to improving health?

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<tr>
<th>EPHS 4. Mobilize Partnerships</th>
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<th>40%</th>
<th>60%</th>
<th>80%</th>
<th>100%</th>
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<td>4.1 Constituency Dev.</td>
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<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2 Com. Partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
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**Findings**

- This essential service was ranked as one of the three lowest scoring sections in the assessment.

- Community Partnerships received a Moderate ranking by the participants. It was discussed that a Community Connections group meets monthly as an informational session which was very helpful. Many participants were unaware of the meetings and it was noted that although many agencies had been invited to join the group over the years, as personnel and job duties changed the information was not always passed on.

- Constituency Development was also given a Moderate ranking with the explanation that some groups do work throughout the year to put on events but many community agencies work with their own personnel at the events and do not include a partnership of other agencies.
Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

**Key Questions:** Do organizations within the local public health system foster innovation to strengthen public health practice? Are there linkages with institutions of higher learning and research within the public health system? Is there capacity in our community to initiate or participate in public health research?

**Findings**

- This essential service was scored by participants as having a Moderate level of activity and capacity. There was discussion of the lack of collaboration with the Georgetown College and the possible increase in activity for working with local agencies.

- Fostering Innovation by enabling staff to identify new solutions to health problems, propose public health issues to organizations that do research and monitor best practice information while encouraging community participation was perceived by the participants as Moderate.

- Participants ranked the Linkage with Institutions of High Learning or Research as Significant. This included developing relationships with institutions that range from formal and informal affiliations. Discussing included partnering with institutions of higher learning or research such as Georgetown College and the University of Kentucky to encouraging collaboration between the academic research and practice communities.

- Capacity to Initiate or Participate in Research was scored at the Moderate level for disseminating research findings to colleagues and evaluating the development, implementation and impact of LPHS research efforts on public health practice. Many participates had not considered approaching an institution with an idea for research and instead seem to wait to be asked to participate.
**Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable**

**Key Questions:** Does the local public health system identify personal health service needs of at-risk populations? Do we assure the linkage of people to personal health services?

**Findings**

- The overall scoring for Essential Service Number Seven was Moderate.

- Participants indicated a Moderate level of activity around the assessment of Assuring the Linkage of People to Personal Health Services.

- The LPHS supports and coordinates partnership and referral mechanisms among the community’s public health, primary care, oral health, social service, and mental health systems to optimize access to needed personal health services. The LPHS seeks to create innovative partnerships with organizations such as libraries, parenting centers, and service organizations that will help to enhance the effectiveness of LPHS personal health services.

- Participants did indicate that Identification of Personal Health Service Needs of Populations, which includes identifying populations in the community who may experience barriers to the receipt of personal health services activities, met the criteria for a Moderate percentage. One area of discussion was the issue of transportation within the county.

- All members of the Public Health System should be a resource for members of the community with barriers to link them to the needed services that are available in the community.
Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

Key Questions: Is there a local governmental public health presence in our community? Does the local public health system review and develop policies to protect and promote health? Does the local public health system have a strategic planning process for community health improvement? Is there community-level planning for responding to public health emergencies?

Findings

- Participants perceived a Moderate level of performance in this essential service but at a very high percentage for the Moderate level.

- There was a level of uncertainty by participants outside of the health department as to the functions of the local board of health, legal responsibilities and legal resources of the health department. The Health Department management explained it was in the process of developing a strategic plan to enhance the development of the information learned through the assessment process.

- Plan for Public Health Emergencies was discussed and with the shared information it was assessed that the community did have an Optimal ranking for this service.

- Community Health Improvement Process was an area to be monitored for improvement with the upcoming Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan. This service received a Minimal activity score.
Key Questions: Is an assessment of workers within the local public health system conducted, are gaps addressed, and are assessment results distributed? Does the local public health system develop and maintain standards for its workforce? Do life-long continuing education opportunities exist for the public health workforce? Are there leadership development opportunities in the local public health system?

Findings

- One area within this section of the assessment received a Minimal score for activity. Participants indicated that an assessment of the local public health system workforce, if completed was unknown, and therefore the results of a workforce assessment have not been disseminated.

- Participants noted in discussion that a public health workforce assessment and plan may be useful, but each agency seemed to keep the information only within their own area and not shared. Doubt was expressed that agencies within the local public health system would feel comfortable sharing information about their workforce if it presented any negative information.

- Leadership Development and Continuing Education sections of the service both received Moderate ranking by participants. It was indicated that in-house and online education and training continued to be an option that was used increasingly as an effort to cut cost. Incentives for personal improvement were not necessarily available due to budget concerns, but were a requirement for many positions along with individual personal growth desires.

- Public Health Workforce Standards received a Optimal rating with the assumption of requirements necessary for compliance for licensure/certification and accreditation for many agencies.
Inform, Educate, and Empower Individuals and Communities about Health Issues

**Key Questions** Does the local public health system collaborate to create and deliver health education and promotion activities? Do we use health communication plans to inform and influence individual and community decisions about health? Are there risk communications processes in our local public health system to inform and mobilize the community in times of crisis?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Health Ed./Promotion</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Health Communication</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Risk Communication</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>57</td>
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**Findings**

- Inform, Educate and Empower a Significant overall score for Scott County Local Public Health System Assessment.

- Health Communication which develops plans addressing media and public relations as well as guidelines for sharing information and utilizes relationships with media to target audiences by a trained spokesperson on public health issues received the lowest score but received a Moderate performance rating.

- Risk Communications were discussed with emergency communication plans and 24 hours per day, 7 days per week contact information receiving very positive endorsement by the participants. The Significant level was perceived around the development of emergency communications plans for use during times of crisis.

- Health Education and Promotion received a Significant score with participant’s discussion to support that they worked with other entities within the system on health education and health promotion activities that facilitate healthy living in healthy communities. Also that the activities were evaluated by participants at the conclusion of the activities.
**Key Questions:** Are health and safety laws, regulations and ordinances reviewed, and are they revised or improved to align with best practices? Are there appropriate enforcement activities in our local public health system to assure compliance with health and safety laws and regulations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EPHS 6. Enforce Laws</th>
<th>6.1 Review Laws</th>
<th>6.2 Improve Laws</th>
<th>6.3 Enforce Laws</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>61</td>
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**Findings**

- Participants indicated an overall Significant ranking for this service but gave the Enforcement of Laws, Regulations and Ordinances an Optimal ranking. The County Attorney was available for legal matters that might arise.

- The task of Review and Evaluation of laws, Regulations, and Ordinances was determined to be at a Moderate level for Scott County. The review of public health laws, regulations, and ordinances at least once every five years and identifying public health issues that can only be addressed through laws, regulations, or ordinances was perceived by participants as being completed by Health Department personnel but those outside of the health department had little knowledge of the information.

- Involvement in the Improvement of Laws, Regulations, and Ordinances was used to identify local public health issues that are not adequately addressed through existing laws, regulations, and ordinances. And the ability to provide technical assistance for drafting proposed legislation, regulations, and ordinances. This service received a Significant score.
Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards in the Community

Key Questions: Does our local public health system conduct surveillance to identify health threats? How well do we investigate and respond to public health threats and emergencies? Is there access to laboratory support for investigation of health threats?

Findings

- Participants ranked this service overall as the highest of the 10 Essential Public Health Services in the Significant Activity range.

- Identification and Surveillance of Health Threats received the lowest percentage in this service area with the health department personnel being one of the few agencies that are required to participate in integrated state, local and national surveillance systems to identify and analyze health problems and threats.

- Investigation and Response to Public Health Threats and Emergencies received a Significant rating by participants. It was discussed that most agencies had protocols for emergency response as well as the community designated Emergency Response Coordinator for Scott County. After any incident, plans were evaluated for effectiveness and changes made for improvement.

- Laboratory Support for Investigation of Health Threats was ranked as Significant for readily access 24 hours a day/7 days per week with the close facilities at Frankfort State Labs. Any group who would be using a laboratory was familiar with the guidelines or protocols to address the handling of laboratory samples.
2011
Local Public Health System Assessment

Scott County, Kentucky

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