

PASSAIC COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

“All Passaic County Health Departments Working for You”



Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

February 2008

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www.pcdh.org**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Passaic County Governmental Public Health Partnership (GPHP)
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Steering Committee
February 2007**

The Passaic County GPHP would like to thank the following individuals for their extra effort in helping contribute to the Mobilizing for Action through Partnerships and Planning Process (MAPP) that made the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) possible:

- Chairperson, Carlos Perez, Health Officer – City of Passaic
- Former Chairperson, Albert Greco, Former Health Officer/Current City Manager– City of Clifton
- Steven Peters, Former Assistant Director – Passaic County Department of Health
- Donna Barry, Montclair State University
- Phillip Berlier, Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- John Biegel, Health Officer – City of Clifton
- Barbara Hohf, Infection Control Practitioner – Saint Mary's Hospital
- Maryanne Orapello, Health Officer – Township of Wayne
- Margaret Perry-Bach – Saint Joseph's Medical Center
- Maureen Promin – Passaic County Division of Senior Services
- Deborah Rucki-Drake, Former Health Officer – County of Passaic
- Father Allen Savatt, Passaic County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Joseph Surowiec, Health Officer – City of Paterson
- Maria Young, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County
- Christopher Chapman, Health Officer – Borough of Ringwood and Wanaque
- Kenneth Hawkswell, Former Health Officer – Township of West Milford and Pompton Lakes
- Robert Schermer, Consultant

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MESSAGE FROM PASSAIC COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

Dear Public Health Partner:

I have reviewed the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the County of Passaic. I wholeheartedly support this plan and the collaboration between Passaic County Health Departments, working together to improve the well-being of all Passaic County communities.

The five Issues that have been identified as health priorities are issues that the communities wanted to be included within the CHIP document. Our plan is to develop a new public health agenda for the County and begin to address these important issues. This document will afford communities better choices for improving their quality of life.

We are organized and working hard toward implementing this exciting initiative called CHIP. Since health needs are constantly changing, and this document affords us the opportunity to identify health needs that are neglected, I endorse this new initiative.

Sincerely,
Irene Jessie-Hunte, MHA, HO, REHS,CSW
Health Officer/Director
Passaic County Department of Health

MESSAGE FROM PASSAIC COUNTY GPHP CHAIRPERSON

Dear Public Health Partner:

As the chairman of the Passaic County Governmental Public Health Partnership (PCGPHP), I am pleased to support the distribution of the Passaic County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Plan is a result of a requirement of the Practice Standards for Public Health Departments that states that a community health assessment be performed every four years on a regional or county level. This assessment has led the PCGPHP to develop a plan to address identified public health issues that may impact quality of life in Passaic County. This Plan is the result of hard work and dedication of health professionals both from the private sector and many governmental agencies.

The CHIP addresses five health issues that have been determined to be of the highest importance in Passaic County. These health issues are: Access to Health Care, Cancer, Drug Abuse, Health Education, and Heart Disease and Stroke. An Action Plan has been created that documents the goals and strategies aimed at remediation of these issues and creating a positive future impact for the residents of Passaic County.

The PCGPHP will continue to meet on a regular basis to address these five health issues and others that are of concern to our residents. We will work to ensure that all Passaic County residents receive the best care and education possible so that they may take an active role in disease prevention and be well prepared for any health emergency.

Sincerely,
John E. Biegel III, MA, HO
Health Officer, Clifton
Passaic County GPHP Chairman

DESCRIPTION OF THE PASSAIC COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Governmental Public Health Partnerships (GPHP) were established throughout New Jersey in 2003 to ensure the integration, coordination, planning of practice, and delivery of governmental public health activities for a county wide or multi-county wide area. A GPHP supports the idea of a local governmental public health partnership supporting system development built on the coordination of existing local health agency capacity and activities. All GPHPs within New Jersey are supported by supplemental specialized capacity and expertise built throughout the state.

The goal of the Passaic County GPHP is to develop and sustain an integrated and comprehensive governmental public health system for the county. Instead of independently functioning entities, local health agencies will work in an integrated system to assure that the ten Essential Public Health Services are provided county-wide. Programs will be community needs driven, policies will be evaluated continuously to ensure that programs and activities are improving the public health status of Passaic County residents.

The Passaic County GPHP is comprised of the Health Officer of the Passaic County Department of Health and Health Officers from the local health departments. GPHP members include public health representatives from the following municipalities:

- **Bloomingtondale**
- **Clifton**
- **Haledon**
- **Hawthorne**
- **Little Falls**
- **North Haledon**
- **Passaic**
- **Paterson**
- **Pompton Lakes**
- **Prospect Park**
- **Ringwood**
- **Totowa**
- **Wanaque**
- **Wayne**
- **West Milford**
- **West Paterson**



PASSAIC COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP VISION STATEMENT

The Passaic County Governmental Public Health Partnership (PCGPHP) believes that all residents should have access to quality health care. Through our cooperative efforts we intend to implement this Community Health Improvement Plan for the communities of Passaic County. We will strengthen our health promotion/prevention initiatives, and address public health challenges, augment access to comprehensive health services in order to improve the well being of Passaic County Residents.

Towards this purpose, the PCGPHP envisions:

- A Passaic County where individuals are educated about health issues and are provided with case management services to ensure access to treatment.
- A Passaic County where healthy attitudes about nutrition are fostered.
- A Passaic County where health policies are formulated with the goals of preventing premature mortality and reducing years of potential life lost.
- A Passaic County where needs expressed by the community are addressed through an organized structure.
- A Passaic County where the health needs of the working poor and senior citizens are addressed.
- A Passaic County where grants and revenue resources are pursued to support initiation of programs to address identified issues.
- A Passaic County where the Governmental Public Health Partnership initiates programs to address issues identified through periodic assessments of public health needs.

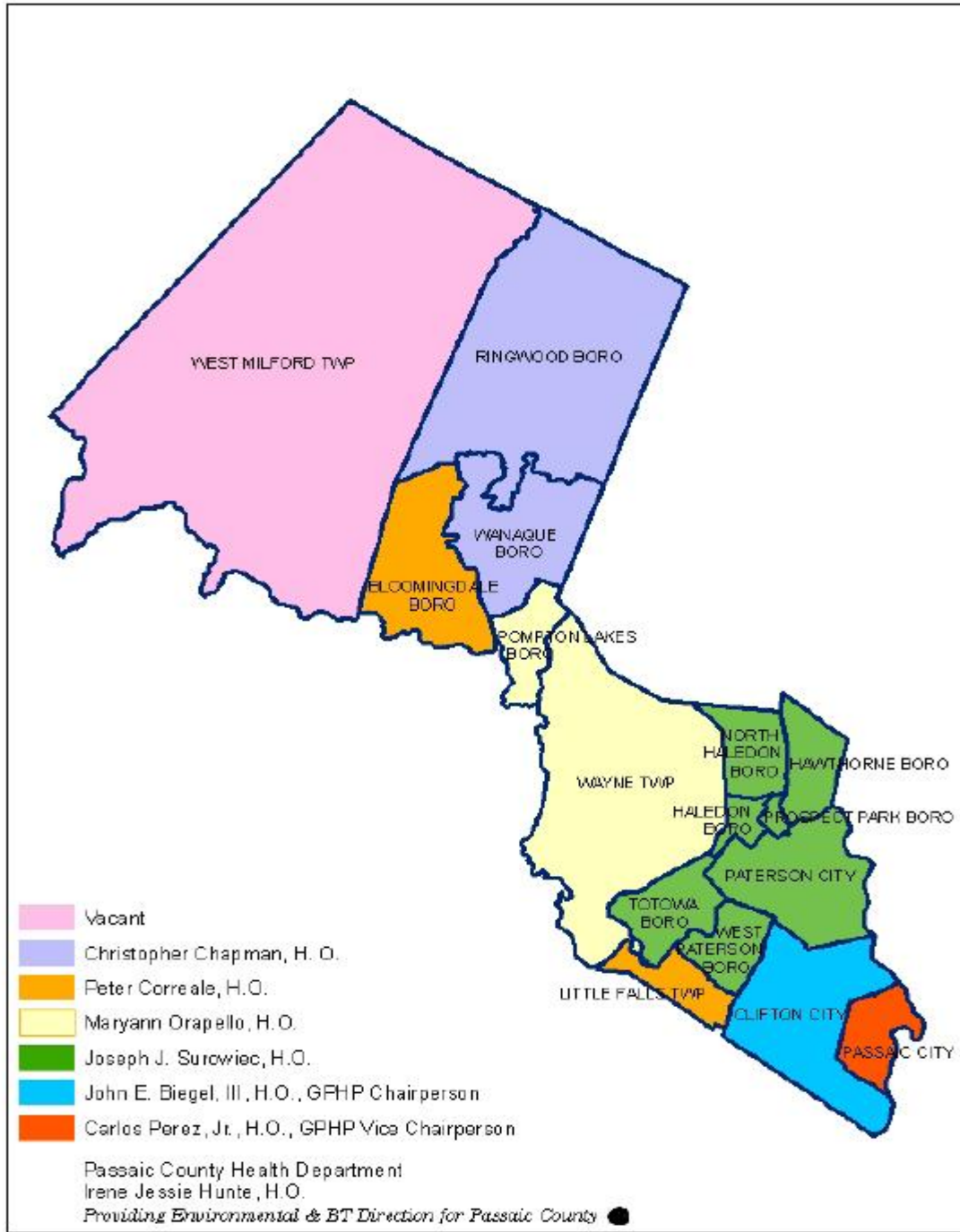
TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve 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 and action 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 services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.



COUNTY OF PASSAIC COUNTY AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

*Health Officers
Providing Public Health Direction
for the Municipal Health Departments in Passaic County*





PASSAIC COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (GPHP)

LISTING OF CURRENT HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Municipality	Health Officer	Phone/Fax/Email/Web Site/ Municipality Served
City of Clifton Health Department 900 Clifton Avenue Clifton, NJ 07013	John E. Biegel, III Health Officer (GPHP Chairperson)	<u>Phone:</u> (973) 470-5758 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 470-5768 <u>Email:</u> jbiegel@cliftonnj.org <u>Web Site:</u> www.cliftonnj.org <u>Serving:</u> City of Clifton
City of Passaic Division of Health 330 Passaic Street Passaic, NJ 07055	Carlos Perez, Jr. Health Officer (GPHP Co-Chairperson)	<u>Phone:</u> (973) 365-5603 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 365-2242 <u>Email:</u> cperez@cityofpassaicnj.gov <u>Web Site:</u> www.cityofpassaic.com <u>Serving:</u> City of Passaic
County of Passaic Department of Health 317 Pennsylvania Avenue– Room 201 Paterson, NJ 07503	Irene Jesse-Hunte County Health Officer	<u>Phone:</u> (973) 881-4396 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 225-0222 <u>Email:</u> ireneh@passaiccountynj.org <u>Web Site:</u> www.pcdh.org <u>Serving:</u> County of Passaic
City of Paterson Division of Health 176 Broadway Paterson, NJ 07505	Joseph J. Surowiec Health Officer	<u>Phone:</u> (973) 321-1277 ext. 2773 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 321-1246 <u>Email:</u> patersonjoe@yahoo.com <u>Web Site:</u> www.patersonnj.gov <u>Serving:</u> Borough of Haledon, Borough of Hawthorne, Borough of North Haledon, City of Paterson, Borough of Prospect Park, Borough of Totowa, & Borough of West Paterson
Borough of Ringwood Health Department 60 Margaret King Avenue Ringwood, NJ 07456	Christopher Chapman Health Officer	<u>Phone:</u> (973) 962-7079 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 962-7823 <u>Web Site:</u> www.ringwoodnj.net <u>Serving:</u> Borough of Ringwood Borough of Wanaque
Township of Wayne Health Department 475 Valley Road Wayne, NJ 07470	Maryann Orapello Health Officer	<u>Phone:</u> (973) 694-1800 Ext. 3243 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 696-8186 <u>Email:</u> orapellom@waynetownship.com <u>Web Site:</u> www.waynetownship.com <u>Serving:</u> Township of Wayne & Borough of Pompton Lakes

Municipality	Health Officer	Phone/Fax/Email/Web Site/ Municipality Served
<p>West Milford Township Health Department 1480 Union Valley Road West Milford, NJ 07480</p>	<p>Vacant</p>	<p><u>Phone:</u> (973) 728-2720 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 728-2847 <u>Web Site:</u> www.westmilford.org <u>Serving:</u> Township of West Milford</p>
<p>Township of Little Falls Health Department 49 Stevens Avenue Little Falls, NJ 07424</p>	<p>Peter Correale Health Officer</p>	<p><u>Phone:</u> (973) 256-0170 <u>Fax:</u> (973) 890-4501 <u>Email:</u> Correale@njlincs.net <u>Web Site:</u> www.lfnj.com <u>Serving:</u> Township of Little Falls & Borough of Bloomingdale</p>



ANALYSIS AND PRIORITIZATION OF CURRENT AND POTENTIAL HEALTH ISSUES

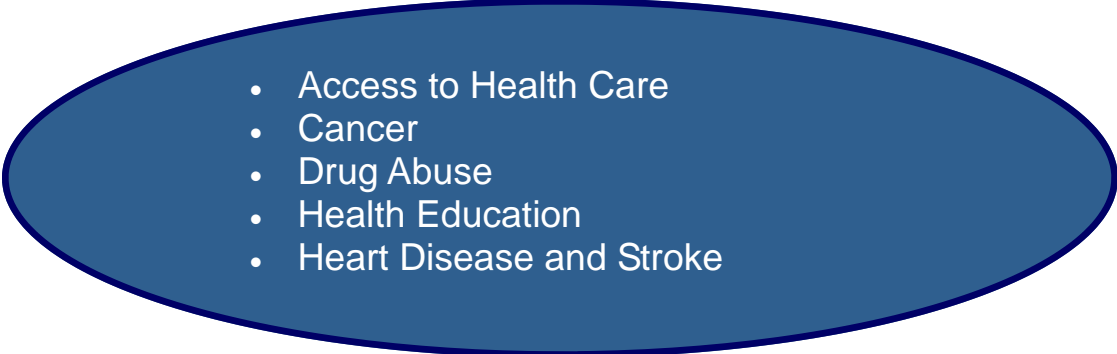
Through use of the Mobilizing for Action through Partnerships and Planning (MAPP) model, Passaic County performed a county wide health assessment beginning in 2004. Through the course of the MAPP process, numerous issues were identified that have or could have an impact in the near future on those that live and work within Passaic County. For further information on the MAPP process and the identification of issues through the components of the MAPP system, please see the appendices on Methodology (I) and County Health Assessment (IV).

A list of the issues identified through the entire MAPP process was compiled. These were set up into a modified nominal group process to perform prioritization. In October of 2006, a form was emailed to all members of the Governmental and Community Public Health Partnerships for Passaic County. This form included the list of all issues identified through the MAPP process and requested that the respondent pick three issues as the most important with these issues enumerated in order of importance with number one being the most important and number three being the least important. All responses were collated in one of two categories.

“Category One” consisted of responses from each health department in Passaic County. Only one response from each health department was counted. If multiple responses were received, the response from the highest ranking individual from that health department was counted. Ranked responses were given inverse weighted values with a response of one having a value of three, a response of two having a value of two and a response of three having a value of one. All issues that had responses were listed with each corresponding value. The values were then added for an aggregate weighted value.

“Category Two” consisted of responses from Community Public Health Partners in Passaic County. A method mirroring the one described above for the health departments was performed for these responses.

Only one vote was allowed per organization to prevent larger organizations from eclipsing the input of smaller organizations. The results of “Category One” and “Category Two” were compared and found to mirror each other. The following issues received the highest aggregate weighted value rankings from this prioritization procedure.

- 
- Access to Health Care
 - Cancer
 - Drug Abuse
 - Health Education
 - Heart Disease and Stroke

A session of the Passaic County Governmental and Community Public Health Partnership Steering Committee was convened in December of 2006 for the purpose of identifying strategies for addressing these issues. The results of that meeting – the strategies for action – will be outlined in the next section.

ACTION PLAN

The following section will identify proposed ideas for improvement in the status of the issues identified through the strategizing meeting of December 2006. Some of the strategies identified were highly obtainable and will have responsible organizations and outcomes identified. Some strategies are proposed as potential ideas and may not be obtainable, but provide an ideal to strive for.

- Access to Health Care
- Cancer
- Drug Abuse
- Health Education
- Heart Disease and Stroke

ISSUE I: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

DESCRIPTION

Reaching uninsured/under-insured individuals and overcoming geographical obstacles between those needing health care and those providing health care.

GOAL

Helping uninsured and underinsured individuals identify possibilities for healthcare in the form of screening and treatment. Helping all individuals identify either a healthcare provider they can reach that will provide service or identify either a healthcare provider they can reach that will provide service or identify a method of transportation for the individual to reach a healthcare provider that will provide the service.

STRATEGY I:

Identify where target communities meet and conduct health fairs in those locations.

Many health fairs are held by health departments in Passaic County. These health fairs are often held at locations convenient for the health departments and attendees are enticed to come to that location. Identifying where target communities meet on their own and scheduling health fairs in those locations could help increase the number of individuals the health fairs service.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments and other organizations convening health fairs in Passaic County.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Try to organize health fairs at locations where target populations will be meeting to provide easier access to the health fairs.

STRATEGY II:

Connect individuals with low cost transportation to the two Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in Passaic County in Passaic City and Paterson City.

There are two FQHCs in Passaic County that could provide screenings and some medical care to individuals that need their services. However, many of the individuals that need these services lack the transportation to reach the facilities. This is exacerbated by the fact that both FQHCs are in the far southern portion of Passaic County. Residents of the northern portion of Passaic County may have extreme difficulty in reaching these locations. There is a potential transportation provider in the form of Passaic County Paratransit.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Passaic County Department of Health will research the possibilities of using Passaic County Paratransit resources.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Passaic County Department of Health will discuss this issue with Passaic County Paratransit to identify if any resources could be expended to help in transporting individuals to the FQHCs. Passaic County Department of Health will make initial inquiries on this issue by April 2007.



STRATEGY III:

Identify the possible organizations that can provide health care for individuals when a health problem is identified through a database.

There is currently a disconnect when screening is performed and a health problem is found. The individual may be informed he/she has a health problem with no information available as to where to seek treatment if they are uninsured or underinsured.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Passaic County Department of Health will attempt to spearhead an initiative to develop a database.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: A database that will identify organizations with contact information that could provide potential low cost or pro bono health care services to individuals will be created. The database will be based on the given health care problem and will provide a list of organizations that could provide healthcare assistance for that problem. This will be an ongoing project, but initial structuring of the database infrastructure will begin by December 2008.

STRATEGY IV:

Identify Brown fields properties where a FQHC could be established at low cost.

There is currently only two FQHCs located in Passaic County. Having more FQHCs could provide a more expansive infrastructure for health care of uninsured or under insured individuals. Passaic County has multiple Brownfield sites and former industrial sites with chemical contamination. Brownfields renovation funding could provide low-cost property at a low level contaminated site where a FQHC could be established.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Paterson Division of Health representatives championed this strategy and will be responsible for researching its feasibility.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Research into the feasibility of a Brownfield site suitable for a FQHC and finding an organization willing to establish a FQHC at this site.

ISSUE II: CANCER

DESCRIPTION

Reducing cancer rates among county residents.

GOAL

To reduce the cancer rates and increase the amount of successful interventions that lead to successful treatment of cancer thus prolonging life of individuals in Passaic County. In particular, to address those types of cancer that Passaic County population have been identified as above the New Jersey State average – Lung and Skin – as well as the New Jersey priority cancers of Colorectal, Breast, Cervical, Lung, Skin and Prostate.

STRATEGY I:

Continue support for the Passaic County Cancer Coalition to assist in augmenting improvements being pursued through this organization that is dedicated to this issue.

A Cancer Coalition will soon exist for Passaic County that will be funded through the State of New Jersey and will be dedicated to dealing with cancer issues. Initiatives focusing on skin cancer have already begun and another initiative focusing on oral cancer is launching.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Passaic County Cancer Coalition as the leader and each organization in Passaic County that is involved in the Cancer Coalition – particularly health departments and hospitals.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Continued efforts to pursue initiatives through the Passaic County Cancer Coalition.

STRATEGY II:

Increase efforts to provide cancer screenings of various types at health fairs.

There are many types of cancer screenings. Each screening is specific to the type of cancer. Efforts to include a wide variety of cancer screenings for a variety of types of cancer would aid in early detection. This is particularly important for priority cancers for Passaic County and the State of New Jersey.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments and other organizations convening health fairs in Passaic County.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Efforts to include a variety of cancer screening services at health fairs.



STRATEGY III:

Work with popular activity organizations to gain their aid in marketing of cancer screenings and health fairs with cancer screenings.

Many organizations exist that have popular participation for the community (e.g. Freemasons, Rotary, Church groups, Youth Groups, etc.) These organizations may have insight on how to recruit participants for screenings.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments and other organizations convening health fairs in Passaic County

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Partner with popular activity organizations to increase participation for screenings at health fairs.

STRATEGY IV:

Improve health education infrastructure and increase the number of health educators available to educate the community about prevention and identification of cancer.

Further health education for both the youth and adult population could aid in individuals taking a more advanced stake in their health status with more individuals seeking cancer screenings as recommended and performing proper and consistent self examinations. Further health education for both the youth and adult population could aid in individuals pursuing healthier lifestyle paradigms such as improved nutrition, weight control and abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments, hospitals, and other organizations involved in health education.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: See section on the issue of health education that will follow.

ISSUE III: DRUG ABUSE

DESCRIPTION

Preventing drug abuse among county residents.

GOAL

To reduce the use of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD). To promote responsible use of legal substances, such as alcohol and prescription medications. To encourage individuals to abstain from use of tobacco and illicit substances. To develop infrastructure for individuals to utilize to escape from addiction to ATOD.

STRATEGY I:

Advocate for further funding for addiction assistance programs.

Infrastructure exists in Passaic County that aids individuals in obtaining treatment for addiction. Further development of the infrastructure through increased funding would help provide aid to more individuals that need treatment for addiction. Currently, the providers in the County provide services based on resources not need.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Passaic County Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services and Division of Mental Health.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Advocate for and seek further funding for addiction services.

STRATEGY II:

Search for grants to support more long term care centers.

There are few centers for long term care of individuals with addictions. In particular, there is a lack of facilities that can provide long term care for women, adolescents, and children.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Passaic County Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Seek grants to develop long-term care addiction treatment centers.



STRATEGY III:

Needle exchange programs can reduce the spread of communicable diseases among intravenous drug users.

Passaic County has the third highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS among counties in New Jersey. The spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as many other diseases including hepatitis can be reduced through needle exchange programs that help prevent the re-use of hypodermic needles among IV drug users.

Locally based pharmaceutical companies may provide donation of needles to support this program.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Paterson Division of Health has a pilot program addressing this issue.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Research the feasibility of developing a needle exchange program.

STRATEGY IV:

Provide more personnel and more expansive drug education to target specific groups, particularly elementary school children and older adults.

A shortage in personnel who provide drug education has been noted among agencies in Passaic County. Children should be provided with appropriate drug education to help prevent drug use and experimentation. Older adults can be educated on the importance of proper use of prescription medications.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments, hospitals, and other organizations involved in health education.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Please see section that addresses health education.

ISSUE IV: HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION

DESCRIPTION

Providing health education and promotion services to Passaic County residents.

GOAL

To improve and augment the current health education and promotion infrastructure serving Passaic County.

STRATEGY I:

Establish a joint health education council for Passaic County.

Establishing a joint council on health education in Passaic County wherein all involved in health education in Passaic County can meet. This will allow all health educators to coordinate and work more efficiently. This will also allow sharing of presentations between health educators, identification of key projects and allocation of work between health educators to prevent duplication of efforts.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments, hospitals and other organizations involved in health education, including public health nurses and private companies.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Passaic County Health Educators will initiate meetings to begin the cycle of health educator meetings.





STRATEGY II:

Establish a Passaic County Health Education Consortium.

The joint council on health education could be developed further into a Passaic County Health Education Consortium which could obtain funding to support health education initiatives.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments, hospitals and other organizations involved in health education, including public health nurses and private companies.

STRATEGY III:

Hire a full-time grant writer to aid in acquiring funding for entire local public health system.

The joint council on health education could be developed further into an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) which could obtain funding to support health education initiatives.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Passaic County Department of Health & Paterson Division of Health

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Both LINCS agencies in Passaic County will explore the possibilities of hiring a grant writer to assist with program development.

ISSUE V: HEART DISEASE & STROKE

DESCRIPTION

Preventing morbidity and mortality associated with cardiovascular diseases.



GOAL

To reduce the number of individuals that suffer from heart disease and stroke. To increase the lifespan and number of years individuals experience free of the symptoms of heart disease and stroke.



STRATEGY I:

Provide health education to target populations of children to help with influencing development of healthy lifestyle choices and older adult populations to encourage lifestyle changes that could prolong life.

Health education can help encourage individuals to pursue lifestyle changes that will result in reduced risk of heart disease and stroke. Childhood obesity is an emerging issue that contributes to heart disease for a population that will face a lifetime of lifestyle choices that could be influenced by health education interventions. Older adult populations are those most impacted by the effects of and mortality from heart disease and stroke. Health education could help to provide older adults with options to help prolong their life and reduce the impacts of heart disease and stroke.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments, hospitals, and other organizations involved in health education.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: See previous section on the issue of health education.

STRATEGY II:

Banning use of trans fat at restaurants in Passaic County.

New York City successfully implemented a ban on trans-fat use in restaurants. Trans-fats are a cause of heart disease. Banning use of trans-fat in restaurants would reduce the consumption by the public.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: Paterson Division of Health voiced interest in this issue.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Research the feasibility of banning trans fat use in restaurants.

STRATEGY III:

Increase the frequency of health fairs with screenings for blood pressure to help individuals identify if they are at risk for heart disease and stroke.

Increased screenings may help individuals to identify heart disease so that they can seek treatment before cardiac arrest or stroke.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments, hospitals and other organizations.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Perform health fairs and screening events on a more frequent basis.

STRATEGY IV:

Develop a database of those who have been screened to allow follow up on whether individuals obtain treatment and possibly to monitor progression of the condition through screening findings.

A database identifying the individual screened and their results could assist with performing follow up to ascertain if any treatment has been sought and also to monitor progress for individuals that seek subsequent screening. However, tracking of individuals in this manner borders on private treatment. Issues with rules would emerge. Also, if their information is being tracked, many individuals may decide not to participate in screenings.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All health departments and hospitals.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Research the feasibility of developing databases to follow up on individuals who are screened. The issues involved in tracking and whether to track individuals should be resolved by each health department or hospital.

STRATEGY V:

Develop infrastructure to support physical activity.

Infrastructure may include internal measures to encourage physical activity for personnel, such as reimbursement for gym memberships, lunch hour activity programs, etc. External infrastructure to promote physical activity would encourage the public to pursue physical activity.

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS: All county and municipal governments, health departments, hospitals, parks and recreation departments.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Research any programs that could be developed by each agency to support physical activity.



EVALUATION

The Practice Standards for Public Health Departments located in New Jersey Administrative Code 8:52 et seq. identify that community health assessments must be performed every four years on a regional/county level. The Passaic County Local Information Network Communications System (LINCS) health departments have been designated by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) as the lead agencies for performing the regional/county community health assessments. The NJDHSS has endorsed the Mobilizing for Partnerships and Planning (MAPP) system as the suggested system for performing the community health assessment. The MAPP system involves four assessments that evaluate many aspects of public health and is a lengthy involved system that requires three to four years to perform. This establishes a perpetual assessment/evaluation system where a new MAPP process will evaluate the results of the MAPP process immediately preceding through its assessments.

Programs developed due to findings in the CHIP will continually be evaluated under their own merits and through the perpetual community health assessment system. If they have value and meet a need they will be perpetuated by the organizations operating them, if not they will be eliminated and resources allotted to those that do.



APPENDICES



APPENDIX I: METHODOLOGY

The issues discussed in this County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) were identified through a County Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA was performed utilizing the Mobilizing for Partnerships and Planning (MAPP) system, which was developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

The MAPP system functions by convening partnerships of stakeholders in addressing public health. Passaic County began convening meetings to establish a Governmental Public Health Partnership (GPHP), composed of the Health Officers of all seven (7) health departments serving Passaic County, and a Community Public Health Partnership (CPHP) composed of stakeholders in public health issues including other non-public health governmental agencies (i.e. Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Passaic County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), municipal police departments and OEMS), private companies, hospitals and not-for-profit organizations in 2003. A Vision Statement for the MAPP process was developed in July 2004.

The MAPP system requires performing four (4) separate health assessments: Local Public Health System Assessment, Community Strengths and Themes Assessment, Community Health Status Assessment and Forces of Change Assessment. The Local Public Health System Assessment is an examination of the governmental and public health organizations that address public health issues and is performed using a tool developed by NACCHO. The Community Strengths and Themes Assessment is an examination of the public's opinions on the status of public health and where action should be taken, this was performed through a survey sent to 9,000 county residents. The Community Health Status Assessment is an examination of health statistics and was performed utilizing statistics from various sources. The Forces of Change Assessment is an examination of the emerging public health issues that may impact the county within five to ten years and was performed utilizing input from Health Officers and the GPHP/CPHP Steering Committee.

All of the issues identified through all of the assessments were compiled into a list. The list was sent to all members of the GPHP and CPHP requesting their votes to prioritize the issues on the list using a modified nominative group process. One vote was accepted representing each organization in the GPHP and CPHP. If multiple votes were sent, the vote from the highest ranking official from that organization was accepted. The votes were considered in two different pools, the Health Officers and the CPHP. The results of the two pools were then compared to each other. The result was the five priority issues discussed in this CHIP. Strategies for addressing the priority issues were identified through a brainstorming session of the GPHP/CPHP Steering Committee.

Results of the visioning, individual assessments and prioritization sheet are available in Appendix 3 of the hard copy of this report.

APPENDIX II: COMMUNICATIONS

Former President Eisenhower once said, "...plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." One reason this statement is valid is that unless a plan is communicated to those involved, it is just a useless collection of words on paper that will eventually be recycled. Communication of the issues in this plan is important.

Information in this CHIP will be communicated to both the GPHP/CPHP and the community in general in the following ways. All members of the GPHP/CPHP will be sent a copy of this CHIP via Email. The electronic copy of this CHIP will not include all attached appendices, which will include the reports on the individual assessments from the MAPP process, because it would be too large a file to send. Firm file copies with all attached appendices will be available upon request. The reports that will be the attached appendices have already been sent out to all GPHP/CPHP members.

In addition, the CHIP and all attached reports from the appendices will be posted on the Passaic County Department of Health website at www.pcdh.org and available for download and viewing by the public. The Risk Communicator for the Passaic County Department of Health will draft a press release addressing the CHIP and provide the press release to all local newspapers.



APPENDIX III: ALL HAZARDS EMERGENCY PLANNING

Current All Hazards Planning was found to be adequate through the MAPP process. The only All Hazards Planning related issue that was raised during the MAPP process was that of planning for Pandemic Influenza. This issue was not placed as a priority issue and is being addressed through planning efforts by the Passaic County Department of Health and Paterson Division of Health LINC programs and by each local health department.



APPENDIX IV: COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Reports generated through the MAPP process that contributed to this CHIP:

- MAPP Vision Statement
- Passaic County Health Status Indicators Report
- Community Strengths and Themes Assessment Results Report
- Local Public Health System Assessment Results Report
- Forces of Change Assessment Results Report
- Prioritization of Issues from MAPP

