

Executive Summary

Together! Healthy Knox (T!HK) is a partnership that aims to engage the community in improving health using solid local data and a strong planning and action process. T!HK uses the MAPP model, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships, developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

The Knox County Health Department began data collection for this initiative in 2009, completing two assessments, one focused on causes of illness and death in Knox County, and the other on county residents' attitudes about their health and quality of life. All assessment reports can be found on the website: www.healthyknox.org. These data were presented at a community meeting in May 2010. Following the meeting, nineteen public and private sector leaders volunteered to form the T!HK Leadership Team. Team members represent diverse organizations including the Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership, Knox County Schools, the Knoxville Track Club, HoLa Hora Latina, Pellissippi State Community College, UT's Center for Public Health, Summit Medical Group, City and County Community Development Departments, the YMCA, Compassion Coalition, and Interfaith Health Clinic. A complete list of Leadership Team members may be found on the reverse of this page.

During the summer of 2010, the Leadership Team defined its vision: "building a diverse, vibrant community that nurtures good health and quality of life." The initiative's mission is "a community approach to better health."

The Leadership Team spent fall and winter 2010 completing two additional assessments: one to evaluate the performance of our local public health system, including all public and private organizations with a stake in health, from hospitals and healthcare providers to churches and schools. The final assessment identified and prioritized the trends, events and factors that will influence Knox County's health in the next three to five years. These assessment reports can be found on the website: www.healthyknox.org.

During spring of 2011, the Leadership Team reviewed the data from all four assessments for significant or telling information. Each significant piece of information was categorized through a team process. A group exploration of the connections between data categories led to the identification of three overarching strategic issues for health improvement. These issues are designed to be cross-cutting, so that actions to address one issue will address multiple health concerns in our community:

- 1. How can we create a sustainable network of partnerships that effectively contributes to improved community health?**
- 2. How can we achieve equitable health outcomes for all community members?**
- 3. How can we position health as a consideration in community policy and planning decisions?**

On May 19, 2011, over 450 community leaders were invited to learn about the strategic issues and were asked to consider joining one of three strategic issue action teams. Action teams will begin meeting in summer 2011, with action plans projected to be underway by winter 2012.

Contact: Erin Read, (865) 215-5549, erin.read@knoxcounty.org

Leadership Team

Marie Alcorn – United Way of Greater Knoxville
Kristy Altman – Knoxville Track Club
David Brace – City of Knoxville Public Services
Martha Buchanan* -- Knox County Health Department
Jim Decker – Medic Regional Blood Center
Jim Dickson* -- YMCA of East Tennessee
Paul Erwin* – UT Center for Public Health
Mark Field (vice-chair)* -- Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership
Coral Getino – HoLa Hora Latina
Carolyn Hansen – Compassion Coalition
Ben Harrington – Mental Health Association of East Tennessee
Melissa Knight – Interfaith Health Clinic
Jack Lacey – University of Tennessee Medical Center
Aneisa McDonald – Knox County Schools
Karen Pershing – Metropolitan Drug Commission
Madeline Rogero – City Mayoral Candidate
Grant Rosenberg* -- Knox County Community Development
Warren Sayre (chair)* -- Summit Medical Group
Rosalyn Tillman – Pellissippi State Community College

*Executive Team member