

Montgomery County MAPP Project Report



Montgomery County Citizens for a Healthier Community

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Planning Report 2004

The Montgomery County Health Department serves 22,554 people (2000 Census) within the 198 square mile county that lies in the Gateway region between the Appalachian Mountains and the Bluegrass plains. Much of the county is farmland (86%) so the population is spread over the 130,560 acres. Twenty-six percent (5,876) of the people reside in Mt. Sterling, the major town, 923 reside in the smaller community's of Camargo and 1,804 reside in Jeffersonville. A 12 member Board of Health selects and provides overall supervision to the Public Health Director, sets policy, approves activities related to the health department's activities, and generally oversees the health department. The Public Health Director serves as chief executive officer for the local department.

During fall 2003, the Health Department initiated a community-driven strategic planning process for improving health. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed this process---MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships)---to help communities develop a local public health system improvement plan. The local public health system is defined as all organizations and entities within the community that contribute to the public's health so the plan is inclusive of the entire community.

The MAPP process has six distinct steps, visioning, community strengths and themes assessment, community health status assessment, forces of change assessment, identify strategic issues, formulate goals and strategies, and the action cycle.

A Core Committee was identified and the initial planning meeting was held on October 29, 2003. The Core Committee included Louise Summers, Director Community Education, Montgomery County Schools; Julie Allen, Director of Nursing, Mary Chiles Hospital; Ron Catchen, Farm Agent, Montgomery County Extension Office; Mendi Goble, Director, Mt. Sterling Chamber of Commerce; Jean Smith, Montgomery County Health Department and Jan Chamness, Public Health Director, Montgomery County Health Department. The group chose to officially name the committee **the Montgomery County Citizens for a Healthier Community** and developed the following why statement for implementing the MAPP process.

By utilizing the MAPP process, the citizens of Montgomery County will develop a comprehensive plan to achieve a healthier community by identifying current issues that affect health and safety, assessing community resources, prioritizing community health needs, establishing partnerships to assure maximum utilization of community resources, and working together to implement strategies as needed. Completing this process will broaden the knowledge of both consumers and health care providers in term of community needs and community services available.

In Montgomery County interagency collaboration is already a norm and agency staffs as well as government leaders are involved with a variety of community coalitions and joint planning efforts. A community Vision was already developed and multiple Coalitions and agencies had conducted or were in the process of conducting various community assessments. To avoid duplication of prior effort, the core-planning group decided to utilize the existing community vision and the existing data as appropriate within the four MAPP assessments. This information was gathered and compiled in a format outlining the data pertinent to each type of assessment (See Appendix 1).

On July 28 & 29, 2004 a committee was convened to complete the National Public Health Performance Standards, Local Public Health Performance Assessment tool for the Montgomery County Health Department. The committee consisted of Jan Chamness, Public Health Director, Montgomery County Health Department; Julie Allen, Nursing Director, Mary Chiles Hospital; Sharon Owen, Nurse Administrator, Montgomery County

Health Department; Sally Purvis, Environmentalist, Montgomery County Health Department; Jean Smith, Emergency Response Planner, Montgomery County Health Department and Ethel Day, Project Coordinator. Prior to the committee meeting each member was provided a copy of the Local Public Health Assessment Instrument and ask to answer each question. During the committee meetings, each question was reviewed and discussed as appropriate. A voting process with the majority rules was used to answer each question. The answers to the questionnaire were then entered on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) survey questionnaire Web page. The questionnaire results were tabulated and developed into a written report by the CDC (Appendix 2).

The following areas were identified as strengths and weaknesses within the local public health system.

<i>Functions:</i>	<i>Substantially Met</i>	<i>Partially Met</i>	<i>Not Met</i>
Monitor Health Status			25.86
Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems	70.55		
Inform, Educate and Empower People	70.65		
Mobilize Community Partnerships			33.85
Develop Policies and Plans		53.08	
Enforce Laws and Regulations		44.63	
Link People to Needed Personal Health Services		55.81	
Assure a Competent Workforce		52.74	
Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility and Quality		52.47	
Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions		41.59	

The Montgomery County Citizens for a Healthier Community committee was expanded to include broader community participation. Committee meetings as well as individual meetings with key community leaders resulted in identification of strategic issues. The issues were prioritized to develop a workable action plan to initiate during this fiscal year. An action plan to address each strategic issue is being drafted for committee review and approval; however, the initial emphasis will be the first three issues. *The following strategic issues were identified:*

- How can the community ensure access to quality population based and personal health care services?
- How do we reach and motivate people to lead healthier lifestyles?
- How do we gather, analyze, distribute and use data to monitor community health status and to assure joint agency community health planning and evaluation?
- How can the local public health system assure and better document assurance of a competent public health workforce?
- How can the community best establish Montgomery County as a regional economic center?
- How can Montgomery County manage change to maintain the quality of its environment both physically and aesthetically?
- How can Montgomery County best sustain its vibrant agricultural sector as a part of its economy?
- How can Montgomery County assure educational excellence and lifelong learning among all segments of the community?
- How can Montgomery County best position itself to respond to the diverse needs of the community youth, families, and seniors with opportunities for learning, employment, service and recreation for each sector?