



Cowlitz County Local Forum Summary

November 3, 2015

The Cowlitz County Health and Human Service Department is restructuring the current advisory councils within the Office of Health Communities. Michael O'Neill provided the Steering Committee with an overview of the evolution of the Cowlitz Health Department finishing with the development of the Office of Healthy Communities to house and aid in the facilitation of these advisory councils. As the office expands, hiring new positions focused on community mobilization and communications is a key priority of the department. The Steering Committee spent the remainder of the meeting reviewing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and project deliverables to date. The committee discussed each work plan strategy and the result of the actions completed throughout the course of the year to achieve these deliverables. Below is a description of the deliverables outline in the CHIP work plan and the assessment the Steering Committee discussed.

Mentorship and Opportunity

Peach Health presented information about the St. John Mentorship program at two or more community meetings/events to generate interest. The Steering Committee concluded that for this strategy to remain as part of the CHIP, a more defined message must be crafted following these presentations. Examples include, defining responsibility for identifying stakeholders following presentations, and determining interest and readiness for this program to be implemented within the community following presentations.

School Based Health Center

Amber Rosewood with the Cowlitz Family Health Center has met all deliverables of the School Based Health Center Grant (SBHC) that was awarded earlier in the year. The Steering Committee discussed that Amber and the Family Health Center have met all of the set deliverables to date including multiple community engagement events and population survey and assessments, and will continue to determine community interest through the end of the year.

Shared Measurement

The Steering Committee agreed that developing a shared measurement set to determine progress throughout the CHIP process was necessary. To date, the Steering Committee has discussed many examples of shared measurement sets to consider. Designing an initial shared measurement system based on committee agreement will be discussed further during the December meeting.

Communications

The Steering Committee agreed that developing a communications plan was necessary. To date, there is no formal plan in place. Each affiliate of the Steering Committee does disseminate relevant information through their organization's channels and within the community currently. However, developing a structure that would be housed within the Cowlitz Health Department was suggested to build effective communication pathways.