



“Partnering to Bridge the Gaps”

Centre County Partnership for Community Health Guidelines for Collaboration

The Pennsylvania Department of Health coordinates numerous disease prevention and service programs, and administers state and federally mandated activities through contracts with county and municipal health departments and other agencies and organizations. The Department develops and implements the statewide plans in concert with contractors, consumers and other community-based agencies and individuals to meet the DOH’s objectives at the local level. It is one of the SHIP’s implementation objectives to support, encourage, and strengthen collaborative relationships with community health improvement partnerships to better utilize the spectrum of health resources to address community needs and priorities in a coordinated manner. SHIP accomplishes this objective by emphasizing the importance of programs, grantees, and contractors to engage with and support the activities of community-based health improvement partnerships.

For that purpose, the Department of Health adopted the policy of requiring contractors and grantees to join and collaborate with community partnerships. The purpose of this policy is to provide opportunities to link health resources in the community, eliminate duplication of services, and promote efficiency in resource allocation.

The Centre County Partnership for Community Health, the designated SHIP organization for Centre County, is committed to the following:

That all people in Centre County will live, work and play in a healthy and safe community.

Support of an inclusive, caring community that promotes healthy people and enhances quality of life through collaborative relationships.

To assess the health needs of Centre County residents and to develop data-driven outreach and partnering efforts that will bridge gaps in service and eliminate barriers to holistic health.

The following are among the goals of the Partnership’s strategic direction and outcome planning:

- ◆ To build and enhance collaborative relationships among county organizations.
- ◆ Increase the quality and years of healthy life for all citizens.
 - Increase access to quality health care
 - Promote health education and healthy lifestyles
 - Eliminate health disparities

To accomplish these goals within the spirit of the SHIP guidelines, the Centre County Partnership for Community Health seeks to:

- Invite contractors, grantees and community stakeholders to partnership meetings.
- Discuss what the contractors, grantees and community groups can contribute to the partnership to improve community health.
- Discuss what the partnership can provide the contractors, grantees and community groups to enhance the efficiency of services available through these organizations.
- Collaborate with contractors, grantees and community groups in developing a coordinated work plan that would benefit the community.
- Discuss a possible collaborative relationship that would fit both the partnerships' and the contractors, grantees and community groups' goals.
- Facilitate efforts to develop collaborative relationships between community organizations.

If your group or organization is interested in collaborating with the Partnership, please contact us by mail at: P.O. Box 563, Lemont, PA 16851 or by e-mailing the members of the Partnership Board of Directors:

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