

## Health Visioning Meeting

September 14, 2011

**Attendees:** Bob Weisdack, Dan Mix, Kimm Leininger, Joann Randall, Duane Siracki, Catherine Whitright, Michelle Doehring, Nick Sherman, Chris Stigerwald, Gina Symsek.

**Bob Weisdack:** Thank you for being here. This initiative will take a community effort to accomplish. We are doing a Community Health Assessment to fully understand the needs of the community and to satisfy the requirements of the CDC and ODH.

The first step is to assist in the development of goals and objectives. A 5 – 10 year plan is what we're looking at. We need to know what public health services are offered, and what needs to be offered. We must have a vision to provide a format to chart progress and to know if we have met the objectives and goals that are set forth by you.

**Kimm Leininger:** We are asking you to create a vision. A vision contains broad ideas and concepts, not necessarily answering how.

In an effort to introduce one another to the group, everyone was asked to create a newspaper headline: If you were going to see a headline in the newspaper about what Geauga County looks like in 20 years, and you were part of making that happen, what would the headline be?

Headlines are as follows:

- Amish Residents in Geauga County have Improved Oral Health
- Geauga County has Most Effective Mental Health System in US
- All People are Healthy and they Don't need Help or Services
- Geauga County has Great Response to Water Tests
  - Geauga's Water Best of 88 Counties
- Geauga County Accomplishes Goal – Food Pantries Not Needed
- Geauga County Holds Job Fairs and Teaches Healthy Cooking Using Inexpensive Food

Attendees divided into three groups and provided the following responses to these questions:

### 1. What does a healthy Geauga County mean to you?

- Health Care
  - Everyone has health coverage
  - Medical needs are met by doctors
  - Mental Health Services are accessible to everyone
  - Health Services are accessible to everyone
- Youth
  - Teens have a safe positive place to congregate

- Miscellaneous Health
  - Clean drinking water is available to all
  - Septic systems are affordable
  - Air is clean
  - Good reasonable grocery stores
- Miscellaneous Other
  - Employment is available for all individuals
  - Better quality of life
  - Housing is available for all levels of income
  - Public transportation
  - Recycling awareness
  - Community provided garbage disposal
  - Parks and green space maintained
  - Good public schools
  - Good relationships among service providers and consumers
  - Everyone feels welcome here
  - Healthy business community

**2. What are important characteristics that make a healthy community for all who live, work and play here?**

- Families/Youth/Seniors
  - More ADA approved housing
  - Home ownership (more involved)
  - Housing available at all income levels
  - Community centers that are cradle to grave to provide education support, etc.
  - Good schools
  - Good grocery stores with fresh food
  - Independent and transitional living arrangements for 17-22 year olds youth who lack parental support
  - Good accessible medical facilities
- Mental Health
  - Good mental health services available
- Exercise
  - Recreational facilities available for young and old
- Volunteerism
  - More mentors for youth and young adults
- Miscellaneous
  - People communicate with each other without fear
  - Social safe gatherings occur frequently
  - ADA approved public buildings
  - Arts and culture
  - Libraries
  - Parks
  - Green space
  - Enough employment for all

- Small businesses thrive
- Good transit system, self supporting if possible
- Public transportation is affordable and available
- Clean air
- Positive attitude

**3. How do you envision the local public health system changing in the next five or ten years?**

- Collaborations
  - Funding from within the community
  - Drug and mental health courts
  - Community Centers
  - Public Health system advocates for needs, even if needs are outside the traditional public health domain
  - Take over some of what the insurance companies do now
  - More collaborations between schools and community
- Community Awareness and Involvement
  - Advertise more of their services
  - Offer “community nights” on monthly basis to educate public (services, issues, general information)
  - More of the services already provided, like immunization
  - Conduct seminars about mental health
  - Provide services to all who seem them
  - Drug awareness helping to educate youth and adults
  - More community education about healthy nutrition
  - Educate public about good health practices
  - Conduct more seminars for services
- Miscellaneous
  - Increased use of nurse practitioners due to doctors retiring
  - More city sewers

All of the items were reviewed with the group to ensure accuracy.

Next attendees were divided into two groups and provided responses to the following questions:

**1. What key behaviors will be required to achieve the items discussed above, for:**

**a. Public Health System**

- Take lead in creating collaborations in community
- Take the lead in education role (perhaps delegating to appropriate agencies)
- Provide more education to community about what PHS does
- Become facilitator for a community strategic plan

- **WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT TO MAKING THE ABOVE HAPPEN?**
  - Participate enthusiastically in any community improving activities or tasks that the PHS requests
  - Participate in committees (strategic planning, informing others of resources)
  - Provide a service or services needed in the community (ex. Education)
  
- b. Community and Community Partners**
  - Business and public officials working together
  - Meetings
  - Understanding each other
  - Humility
  - Coordination
  - Communication
  - Engagement and commitment to process
  - Share resources, knowledge and finances
  - Commitment to volunteer
  - Timing is important
  
- **WHAT TYPE OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE?**
  - Employee/Employer cooperation
  - Access to child care
  - Leadership
  - Open minded and flexible
  - Available locations for meetings
  - Compatible computers between organizations
  - Reasonable work loads to allow time for planning and meetings
  - Clean and well organized

In an effort to gather additional input, a brief survey will be developed to collect additional thoughts and ideas as a part of this visioning process.

We will be sure to get the notes from the meeting, and we will send the other group's notes, as well. Bob, Dan, Kimm and Joann will work to create a vision statement with all of the information gathered from both sessions. Once a draft is ready, it will be circulated to all visioning session attendees for their comments and feedback. Thank you for your participation!