

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings to all of our task force and committee volunteers (now about 300), and to all other readers who share the commitment of this Community Health Partnership to improve health across the Adams County community. Due to accelerated activity, this will be a combined fall and winter version of newsletter announcements.

First, we wish to give special recognition and thanks to Beth Smith, who served as summer intern for the Partnership. Beth produced the Community Health Profile Summary, a vital component to the assessment update. The full report will be published shortly, and will be vital to refocusing our resources on local health status and quality of life issues. In addition, we are planning to undertake our first effort to produce a formalized strategic plan, and all of the needs assessment and health status data will be integral to this process.

The Latino Services Task Force recently elected Co-Chairs: Kathy Hernandez and Jesus Gomez. Also, the **Aging Services Task Force** has elected Steve Niebler as their new Chairman. Newly forming work groups include the **Public Relations Committee**, to be chaired by Judy Alder, and the **Membership Committee**, which will be chaired by Vickie Corbett.

The Partnership was recently represented by our chairman, Steve Niebler, at the **Pennsylvania Governor's School for Health Care in Pittsburgh**. Steve presented a formal address to 115 participants. We were also well represented at the **Gettysburg-Adams County Chamber of Commerce's Future Search Conference**. Active participation from several task force leaders was reflected in the summary identification of six areas of needs and issues that will be key to continued favorable growth within Adams County.

Special thanks, as we enter this holiday season, goes to the **Homelessness Task Force**, chaired by Helena Racioppa. Their **Homelessness Awareness Week Committee**, led by Cheryl Boyd, developed a schedule of community activities and programs in recognition of this week (November 11-17). Examples: Several area display exhibits, radio interviews on WGET and WHVR, special prayer and Candlelight Vigils in Gettysburg and Hanover, and a Community Forum at Gettysburg Hospital. In addition, Proclamations were signed by the Adams County Commissioners and the Mayor of Hanover Borough. **A very special citation recognizing the Adams County Partnership and affiliated agencies was also approved by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sponsored by the Honorable Stephen R. Maitland.**

A presentation about the Partnership, its current activity, development, and plans, and an example of a very active and productive task force was recently given to the **Board of Directors of the Wellspan Health System** by Steve Niebler (Partnership Chairman), Kathy Ketterman (Domestic Violence Task Force), and William Taft.

The **Aging Services Task Force** sponsored a workshop entitled “**When You or Someone You Love Needs Long Term Care**”, featuring Robert Bornstein, Ph.D. and Mary A. Languirand, Ph.D. They have co-authored a new book entitled **When Someone Your Love Needs Nursing Home Care**. Dr. Bornstein is a Professor of Psychology at Gettysburg College, and has acted as advisor to our local needs assessment survey. Dr. Languirand is currently practicing full time in Gettysburg. Participating vendors included HCR Manor Care, the Village of Laurel Run, Whispering Pines, Green Acres Nursing Home, Guardian In-Home Services, Home Sweet Home, Adams County Office for Aging, Adams County Assistance Office, and the A. C. P. C. H. This workshop brought critically needed information to attendees, and we are grateful to the speakers, who have stimulated interest for additional offerings on related issues facing our aging local population.

As of October, 2001, the Partnership had a total of **nineteen currently affiliated task forces with seven more planned for affiliation or establishment**. Hopefully, the additions will include: **Oral Health Task Force, Emergency Mental Health Task Force** (actually started in October), **Respecting Choices Task Force, Disabled Citizens Task Force, A. R. C. of Adams County, Physical Fitness Task Force, and Special Kids Coalition**. In addition, we now have four **Administrative Committees**, and three more in the process forming: **Membership, Public Relations**, and the **State Health Improvement Plan (S. H. I. P.) Partnership Committee**. These new work groups will total **thirty three**, and reflect a membership of well over 300 people.

In December, the **Communities That Care Project**, which was approved for funding in September, will feature a third in the series of Key Leader Training Workshops for five key leaders, at State College.

We are pleased to report that implementation of the **Diabetes Study Grant** and the **Adult Immunization Program Grant** (both awarded to the Partnership by the Pennsylvania Department of Health) has been successful to date. Both of these programs are being ably guided by Wes Frisbie.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend best holiday wishes to the Partnership’s growing family of volunteers. Your service toward building our community by improving quality of life and health status across Adams County is deeply appreciated, and a reminder that continuing our American tradition of civic involvement and community building is important to all of us.