

January 2008

VISION STATEMENT:

Healthy Adams County seeks to create a higher quality of life throughout our community by improving physical, mental, and social well-being.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Healthy Adams County is a collaborative partnership of community members dedicated to continuing assessment, development and promotion of efforts toward improving physical, mental and social well-being.

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Goal of Community Health Center becoming reality

As many of you remember, an assessment by Drexel University was completed in the summer of 2006 on the uninsured-underinsured and special populations in our county. Their findings outlined the need for solutions to meet Adams County's medical and dental care access needs. Past issues of this newsletter have outlined the progress made since that study was completed.

During 2007:

Healthy Adams County's Access Committee formed a health center sub-committee to develop a plan to address Drexel's recommendations.

The sub-committee chose to partner with Family First Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center based in York County. (Through

research done through the Drexel Study we realized that becoming a stand alone Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) would be impossible for several reasons. Our option was to partner with an existing center that would be in a position to apply to open up a satellite center in our county.)

Members of the sub-committee began to educate groups and interview individuals in the community about the opening of a community health center and asked for feedback on what the community would like to see offered if such a center existed.

Letters of support were obtained to assist Family First Health in their application to the Pennsylvania Department of Health for an

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Wellspan's Community Health Improvement initiates new strategies for reaching Latino community

Wellspan Health is continuing its efforts to improve the quality of life for Adams County residents by initiating a new culturally-competent health promotion strategy for the Latino community.

In December, Yeimi Gagliardi, a native of Colombia, South America, joined WellSpan's Community Health Improvement department as its newest health educator. Gagliardi recently worked at the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C., and has experience working on outreach campaigns within the metropolitan Washington-Latino community.



Yeimi Gagliardi

In her role as health educator, Gagliardi will serve as a liaison with community leaders, local groups, and members of the Latino community to identify their health care interests and needs, and develop culturally-competent initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes; promoting healthy behaviors, and; increasing the early detection, treatment and care of chronic diseases affecting the Latino community.

Wellspan Health recognizes that educating the Spanish-speaking community in Adams County about health and safety promotion is a primary need. In collabo-

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Director's Report January 2008

First, a big thank you to Jen Gastley for handling everything while I was on maternity leave this past fall! The time off was wonderful! Life was back to being busy at Healthy Adams County starting with our leadership training for task force leaders on Halloween. Gretchen Carlson-Natter from the Center for Public Service, Gettysburg College and Judy Chambers from Penn State Extension led an exciting training on meeting planning. We received a lot of great feedback from the leaders that attended on how Healthy Adams County can better serve the task forces with resources and further trainings. Future task force leaders meetings will feature those suggestions made.

The community health center for Adams County continues to be a top priority for us and there have been some exciting new developments with that project. (Please see my article addressing those in this newsletter).

The Affordable Housing Study has been studied by the Housing Task Force and they are gearing up to address the recommendations made by the South Central Assembly for Effective Governance. (Please see Ed Jenkin's article for further information).

This year promises to be an exciting time for Healthy Adams County and its affiliate organizations. In addition to task forces continuing to educate the community on various health issues we will be gearing up for our second annual health summit in June held at the Gettysburg College Union Building. The focus of this year's summit will be mental health and workshops will reflect suggestions made by last year's summit participants. More information will follow about date and workshops offered.

Healthy Adams County will also be working with the Healthy York County Coalition to initiate a county wide community health assessment in Adams and York counties. Plans are to have the assessment completed by June. Results from the assessment will be reviewed by community members participating in Healthy Adams County's task forces and the results will be used to build the organizations strategic plan for the next few years.

I will keep you updated on all of our projects this year and will be looking forward to working with the community as these projects move forward.

Kathy Gaskin
Executive Director

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access grant to provide start up money for a satellite FQHC in Adams County. Similar letters were obtained for a grant written to the federal government for funds to open a community health center in Adams County.

Family First Health was awarded the PA Department of Health Grant for start up costs of a satellite center in Adams County. The center is slated to open in January 2009 and will be set up as a primary care site with two or three providers with the possibility of a pharmacy being attached. The location of the center is still being finalized and that information will be released shortly.

The opening of a community health center in Adams County will be an amazing occurrence and will help to alleviate the access issues for the 15 percent of our county's population that are uninsured, underinsured and medical assistance patients and who to date may not have been able to find a permanent medical home.

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ration with Healthy Adams County and its Latino Task Force, Wellspan Health plans to develop and implement health education programs that are linguistically accessible for the community. Existing initiatives, such as the diabetes self-management program, immunization clinic, and community multiphasic blood screening program, may be expanded and promoted among the Latino community.

Promoting and ensuring the health of individuals, families, and the community-at-large is integral to developing healthier communities and ensuring local and national prosperity. Wellspan Health and Healthy Adams County are committed to achieving this goal and believe that, by facilitating health promotion opportunities for the Latino Community, the physical, mental and social well-being of our community will be strengthened.

Child Abuse Prevention Task Force returns

The Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, formerly Families First has begun anew and hosted the first return meeting on November 26, 2007. A call to the community was sounded, requesting that all interested members come and re-join. Through my work in with the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), it became clear to me that it was time to resurrect this task force. National statistics report that one-in-four girls and one-in-six boys will be sexually assaulted by their 18th birthday. To date, we have seen 142 children walk through the doors of the Adams County CAC. In

witnessing the number of child victims and by listening to various adult survivors and interested agency staff, I knew it was time to coordinate a meeting in an effort to aid people in their shared desire to end violence towards children.

At the re-convening in November, there were many of the original agencies, as well as, new agencies and faces. That initial meeting focused on identifying who was present and discussing our personal level of commitment to the issue. We have an open call for participants-agencies or community members

who would like to join this group. Over the next few meetings we will begin to look at our current services, gaps in service and assess our county's needs in effort to eliminate child abuse. It was clear from that first meeting that the individuals behind the goal are a force to be reckoned with. I guess that's why we're a Task Force!

For more information, please contact: Joddie Walker, Executive Director for the Adams County Children's Advocacy Center, (717) 337-9888.

Where will the work force in Adams County live in the near future?

Housing Study makes recommendations

For nearly seven years the market prices for housing in Adams County as well as across the country continued to climb. Then suddenly in 2007 the market started to take a spin in the other direction. But how much of a decrease in the market can one expect? We know that the higher priced homes or "larger homes" have taken the biggest adjustment in the market, prices declining as much as 30 percent with only more adjustments predicted over the next two years. Although the more expensive homes have taken the largest adjustment we have seen some modest adjustment in the home prices below \$220,000. Is this what we define as work force housing or affordable housing? With the real estate market slowing down and prices of homes dropping will this make a real difference or just a modest change?

In 1997, I purchased my 1,044 square foot rancher with three bedrooms, one bath, without a garage for

\$89,900. My mortgage payment with taxes and insurance came to less than \$800 per month. What has changed? This same home even with the adjustment in the market would sell for \$179,900, a 200 percent increase! In today's market instead of \$800 per month I'd be paying to a whopping \$1,600 monthly. My household income would have needed to go from \$34,250 annually to \$68,500 annually, a 200 percent increase in income to keep pace with the housing market. What can we do about this?

Last year Healthy Adams County requested that a housing study be done on the housing situation in Adams County. From this study strategies were identified to address issues of work-force/affordable housing in the county. These strategies included starting a private employer housing subsidy/home ownership or "live near your work" program; marketing and publicizing first time homeownership programs to the general public; smart growth education, which should be a priority for the coun-

ty as well as the Healthy Adams County Task Force; creating a downtown revitalization program to encourage maintenance and upgrading of landmark structures while simultaneously recreating rental units in upper story commercial buildings; and creating of funding for urgent or emergency repairs and other exterior code violations, especially in older boroughs and villages. These are just a few examples of the housing strategies that have been identified.

The housing crisis is far from over. Families continue to struggle to make ends meet and foreclosures continue to rise. The Housing Taskforce is looking for persons interested in addressing the issue of bringing affordable housing options to the residents of Adams County. If you would like a copy of the Work Force/Affordable Housing Study or willing to get involved in addressing the housing needs in Adams County please email Ed Jenkins at ejenkins@adamscha.org.

Upcoming Events and Observances

January

Task Force Social

January 30, 5 – 7 p.m.

The Attic at Gettysburg College

Annual social for task force leaders and their members.

Call Jen at 717-337-4137.

February

“Understanding and Serving the Latino Community” workshop

February 29, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Adams County Ag Center

Latino Services Task Force

Call Lisette at 717-337-3855, ext. 3032.

March

13th Annual Women’s Health & Wellness Conference

March 8, All-Day Event

Gettysburg College

Call Laura at 717-339-2018

4th Annual Conference:

“Responding to AIDS”

March 13, Time: TBA

Gettysburg Hospital

AIDS Service Providers Network

Call Debbie at 717-845-9683, ext. 205.