

Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA)

Executive Summary

On June 11, 2014, approximately 100 community members (including facilitators and staff assistants) with a demonstrated area of expertise and an interest or stake in improving the local public health system met to help answer question such as “what are the activities and capacities of our public health system?” and “what are the gaps?” Invitees included over 200 representatives of all cities and school districts within Riley County, as well as many segments of the community, including hospitals, clinics, physicians, schools, child care providers, public safety and response agencies, faith-based organizations, employers, Kansas State University, Fort Riley, elected officials, and others.

To complete the Local Public Health Systems Assessment (LPHSA), a national, standardized tool was used to score activity level related to the 10 essential public health services:

1. Monitor Community Health Status
2. Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Hazards
3. Inform and Educate about Health Issues
4. Mobilize Community Partners to Solve Health Problems
5. Develop Policies and Plans that Support Health Efforts
6. Enforce Laws that Protect Health and Safety
7. Link People to Services, Assure Provision of Healthcare
8. Assure Competent Public Health and Healthcare Workforce
9. Evaluate Personnel and Population-Based Health Services
10. Research Innovative Solutions to Health Problems

For each essential services, “model standards” were scored based on the level of activity of each standard in our community. Following the process outlined by the instrument, there was a facilitated discussion and consensus scoring of the model standards based on the expertise and perceptions of those stakeholders present.



Looking at composite scoring by essential service, Riley County's local public health system scored very favorably:

- No essential services scored in the “No Activity” or “Minimal Activity” level range.
- Six services scored in the “Moderate Activity” range.
- Three services (4 – Mobilize Partnerships, 6 – Enforce Laws, and 7 – Link to Health Services) scored in “Significant Activity” range
- One (2, Diagnose and Investigate) scored highest, in the “Optimal Activity” range.

Perhaps even more valuable than the numerical scores themselves were the discussions generated among participants; identification of strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for our public health system; and connections made among organizations represented.

As a follow-up activity crucial to upcoming planning processes, members of the Riley County Health Department leadership team completed the optional agency contribution questionnaire on October 16th. Both these results and those from the broad community process are detailed in standardized report generated from the assessment tool, which is included with the full report.

Going forward, the LPHSA will provide a baseline for future assessments and a foundation for public health system improvement. It will be used in conjunction with the community needs assessment data and other information to help set priorities, address gaps, formulate health improvement strategies, and develop a local health department strategic plan.