



Compass Points

Fall 2008

October 2008

Welcome to Compass Points, the Florida Department of Health (DOH)'s forum for news and discussion on community health assessment and health improvement planning. We strongly encourage you to submit questions, anecdotes, lessons learned and success stories to be shared with others across the state. These quarterly e-news bulletins include information on activities, resources, and tips for conducting community health assessments in your county. Links below will open in a new window while links "In This Issue" are shortcuts to sections of this newsletter. Please share this e-news with community partners, colleagues and anyone interested in impacting your community's health.

In this issue

- [News from the Field](#)
- [Next Meet Me Call: Oct. 20](#)
- [COMPASS Web Site and Tool Kit](#)
- [What's New on CHARTS](#)
- [Events, Trainings, Resources & Opportunities](#)
- [About COMPASS](#)

Best regards,

Chris Abarca and the COMPASS (Comprehensive Assessment, Strategic Success) Team

News From the Field

In August, [Bay CHD](#)'s Julia Ruschmann, community projects director, and Connie Kelly, chronic disease prevention coordinator, were presenters at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Assessment Initiative](#) Conference. The concurrent session entitled, Using the Ten Essential Public Health Services to Understand Health Status, was organized by representatives from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and recognized Bay CHD's work in community health assessment and health improvement planning as a model practice for the nation. As a result, the National Network of Public Health Institutes invited Julia and Connie to be guest speakers on their September conference call, part of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program ([NPHPSP](#)) [user call series](#). Julia and Connie did an outstanding job representing Bay CHD and their partners as well as Florida DOH at these two national forums.

Terry Feroldi, senior health planner, [Health Council of East Central Florida](#), was a panelist at the [CDC Assessment Initiative Conference](#) on the topic of Connecting the Dots: From Community Health Assessment to Outcomes. Terry

presented the outcomes of work towards improving access to care in Seminole County. She shared the podium with representatives from upstate New York, the State University of New York, and Forsyth County, North Carolina.

Impending Tropical Storm Fay, thwarted travel of two additional Florida presenters at the [CDC Annual Assessment Initiative Conference](#). Erin Hess, health education supervisor at Hardee CHD, and Teresa Kelly, special projects coordinator at the [Suncoast Health Council/Health Council of West Central Florida](#), were scheduled presenters. We have invited Erin and Teresa to share their presentations on partnership building and priority-setting methodology, respectively, via web conference. Watch your e-mail for details on the web conference!

The Levy County Wellness Coalition continues its monthly meetings. Building a strong, sustainable organization to foster improved health for Levy County residents is becoming a reality. At the September meeting, members will vote on by-laws and a business plan as well as elect an executive committee. Subcommittees are also at work on securing grant funds and program planning. With the leadership of Levy CHD administrator, Barbara Locke, and Slade Celeste, health education and promotion manager, and support from the [WellFlorida Health Council](#), progress has been made towards addressing issues such as access to health care services and promoting healthier behaviors.

[Seminole CHD](#) administrator, Mike Napier, and [Health Council of East Central Florida](#) executive director, Karen van Caulil, presented "Access to Care-Defining a Healthy Seminole County" at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials ([ASTHO](#))-[NACCHO Conference](#) in September. Selected from among hundreds of session proposals, their presentation detailed Seminole's MAPP process and the resulting strategic plan that led to sustainable financial support for a volunteer-driven, acute primary care clinic and development of a secondary care referral system that includes pharmacy, dental and mental health services.

Congratulations to Bradford, Hardee, Glades, Jefferson and Union CHDs on being awarded Community Development Grants for Rural Counties for use in their efforts to promote local awareness and involvement in identifying and addressing priority health issues using MAPP. These awards are made possible through the DOH [Office of Rural Health](#)'s Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program. Over the past four years, 21 of Florida's 33 rural counties have received funding under this program. Special thanks to Bob Pannell, of that office, for his continuing support and advocacy of community health assessment and health improvement planning in rural counties.

Next Statewide Meet-Me Call, October 20

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues from around the state for a conversation on community health assessment, health improvement planning, and MAPP on Monday, October 20 from 3-4 pm ET. This is an opportunity to express your opinions, ask questions, raise concerns, and share your achievements. The toll-free call-in number is 888-808-6959, conference code 2691017. The agenda will be e-mailed to members of the COMPASS distribution list. Propose agenda items or get added to the distribution list by contacting Christine Abarca at 850 245-4009.

COMPASS Web Site and Web-Based Tool Kit

The [COMPASS website](#) and some of the Florida MAPP tools are being updated! The information and resource warehouse for community health assessment and health improvement planning can be accessed at www.doh.state.fl.us/COMPASS/.

What's New on CHARTS

New reports and enhanced features are added regularly to the public health statistics website Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (CHARTS; www.floridacharts.com). Data from the [2007 County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#) have been added to [CHARTS](#) reports. The CDC established the BRFSS in the mid-1980's to collect information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices and health care access. The BRFSS telephone survey is the largest health survey in the world. The data can be used to monitor health and behavior trends, respond to emerging issues, and inform health-related policy and intervention decisions. The 2007 survey contacted more than 39,000 people from Florida's 67 counties.

The 2007 Vital Statistics data are now available on CHARTS. These new data include births, deaths, fetal and infant deaths. Other data sets that have been updated to include these new data include population estimates, cancer incidence, and communicable disease morbidity. Visit www.floridacharts.com to access the updated reports.

Events, Training, Resources and Opportunities

The Florida DOH's [Office of Performance Improvement](#) is in search of the department's Best Practices. This year, your best practice would pay! Up to five \$1,000 scholarships

will be awarded to best practice submissions judged as the "best of the best" by a panel of DOH representatives and subject matter experts. To qualify for consideration, complete an application and submit it by October 31, 2008. Scholarship awards may be used to offset travel costs for DOH staff to attend conferences, to support performance improvement projects, strategic planning or community health assessment activities. DOH employees can download the application online or call 850-245-4007 for more information.

The [Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center \(AHEC\)](#) and the South Florida Chapter of the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) presents the 2008 Annual Conference "[Leading the Way: Current Multicultural Trends](#)" on Oct. 24 from 8:30 am - 5 pm in Hollywood, Florida. Registration fee is \$85 for non-EAPA members and continuing education credits are available. The full conference brochure is available at www.mdahec.org/eblast2.html.

The [Southeast Evaluation Association](#) announces its upcoming "[Essential Skills Training](#)" to be held October 27-29, 2008 in Tallahassee. This three-day workshop is designed for new evaluation/program professionals or experienced evaluators who want a refresher course. Topics to be covered include an overview of program evaluation; monitoring, process and outcome evaluation; data collection techniques and using evaluation results. Registration fees are \$125 for one day; \$250 for two days or \$300 for all three days. For more information or to register visit: www.southeastevaluation.com/program.php

[New Urban Research](#) is offering a one-day workshop on "[Mapping Florida Communities: An Introduction to GIS and Community Analysis](#)" at four Florida venues. Workshops will be held in Miami on October 16 and 17, Tallahassee on October 23 and 24, Orlando on November 5 and Jacksonville on November 7. The \$495 fee includes instruction, all materials and a 60-day trial of ArcGIS software. More information is available at www.urban-research.info/home.

[Penn State University's Better Kid Care program](#) hosts free satellite workshops with online viewing capability as well as archived broadcasts for on-demand use. On October 16 from 7 - 9 pm ET tune in to "[What Does 'Time' Mean to Children?](#)" and learn how to build children's understanding of the concept of time. On December 4, the featured broadcast will be "[I want! I want! I want!: Building Good Consumers](#)" with a focus on the effects of marketing on children. For more information about the workshops or to view archived broadcasts, visit <http://betterkidcare.psu.edu/>

The [US Soccer Foundation](#) awards cash, equipment and services for soccer programs across the US in economically disadvantaged urban areas with populations of 50,000 or more. Individuals or organizations are invited to submit applications to meet the October 15, 2008 deadline. Visit the foundation's website for more information at <http://ussoccerfoundation.org>

The [Health Resources and Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#) will accept Rural Health Outreach Services grant applications through October 16, 2008. Awards of up to \$375,000 over three years will be made. Complete information is available at <http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/outreach.htm>.

Apply by October 17, 2008 for the [Mary Byron Foundation's](#) Celebrating Solutions Awards for Innovative Domestic Violence Prevention Programs. Cash awards of \$10,000 will be given to model programs. The nominated program must have been in operation for at least three years and should be replicable. Program guidelines and application forms are available at <http://marybyronfoundation.org/>

The [Boat US Foundation](#) is dedicated to promoting safe and environmentally sensitive boating. Through its boating safety grants program, local organizations can be awarded up to \$4,000 for promoting boating safety education. The deadline to apply is November 1, 2008. Visit www.boatus.com/foundation for more details.

The [National AIDS Fund](#) with support from the [Ford Foundation](#) and the [Elton John AIDS Foundation](#) announce the Southern REACH (Regional Expansion of Access and Capacity to Address HIV/AIDS) Initiative. Twenty to 30 grants, ranging from \$20,000 to \$75,000 each, to community-based organizations in the south including northern Florida (north of and including Marion county) will be awarded. Three categories of grants will be awarded: organizational capacity building, programmatic capacity building and policy advocacy. Complete details are available at the National AIDS Fund website at www.aidsfund.org/naf/. The deadline to apply is November 10, 2008.

Earn the [Preserve America](#) community designation. Preserve America is a White House initiative conducted in cooperation with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The designation recognizes a community's efforts to care for and share its cultural and natural heritage. Preserve America communities are eligible for grants that range from \$20,000 to \$150,000. Information on qualifications and the application process is available at www.preserveamerica.gov/. Applications are accepted quarterly; the next deadline is December 1, 2008.

The [NFL Youth Football Fund Grassroots Program](#) is a partnership of the National Football League Youth Football Fund and offers grants of up to \$200,000 for capital improvement projects to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields. More information is available at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation website at www.lisc.org/. The deadline to apply is December 15, 2008.

The [TD Charitable Foundation](#) announced it has increased the funding available for its Non-Profit Training Resource Fund, a program that supports job training, education and growth opportunities for employees of nonprofit organizations. The fund provides donations of up to \$1,000 to cover tuition expenses for courses that will strengthen employees' job performances. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Access the application and

instructions at www.commerceonline.com/communityrelations.

The [Bikes Belong Grants](http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants) program strives to put more people on bicycles more often by funding important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities. These projects include bike paths, lanes, routes as well as bike parks, mountain bike trails, and BMX facilities. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available. The application deadline is November 24; access the application and instructions at www.bikesbelong.org/grants.

[NACCHO](http://www.naccho.org) recently launched a new look for their website at www.naccho.org. Users can access the MAPP website either by navigating from the NACCHO homepage or using the address: www.naccho.org/mapp

www.KaiserEDU.org has added and updated many resources to give those interested in learning about health policy easy access to the latest data, research, and analysis. Their reference library on the [uninsured](http://www.kaiseredu.org/uninsured) contains resources with current data on health insurance coverage in the US and links to explanations of health reform proposals under consideration at the national and state levels. Visit www.kaiseredu.org.

About COMPASS

Please share this e-news with community partners, colleagues, and anyone interested in impacting your community's health.

Community health assessment practice is the process of systematically collecting, analyzing and using information to educate and mobilize communities, develop priorities, gather resources, and plan actions to impact the public's health. Assessment is a core function of public health practice. Assessment is the foundation for the other two core functions of public health; Policy Development and Assurance. The information, tools and resources of COMPASS are designed to improve the capacities of Florida's public health workforce to develop strategies and interventions which lead to improved population health through community partnership building, collaboration and resource sharing. <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/compass/>

To submit suggestions for publication, contact Chris Abarca at 850 245-4009, ext 2071
[Subscribe to receive this quarterly newsletter.](#)

This message is a service of the Florida Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics and Assessment