



Compass Points

Winter 2009

January 2009

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 will 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.

Best regards,

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

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News From the Field

- The Partnership for a Healthier Duval held its inaugural meeting on November 13 in Jacksonville. More than 70 local public health system partners attended and participated in the MAPP orientation and visioning. At their January 2009 meeting, the partnership will craft a vision statement and begin work on their Community Themes and Strengths assessment. Karen Coleman, senior health planner, Duval CHD, serves as coordinator for the partnership and MAPP process.
- November and December have been busy months for the Levy County Wellness Coalition. Slande Celeste, health education and promotion manager, Levy CHD, has organized and led the coalition in grant writing efforts as well as program planning. In February the

coalition will kick-off their healthy lifestyle event, the "5000 lb Challenge."

- In November 2008 the [Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade](#) marked their fifth anniversary and celebrated five years of progress towards improving health practices and raising health standards. The consortium's membership of 150 partners from 50 organizations shares one vision: "Healthy Environment, Healthy Lifestyles, Healthy Community." The group's mission is "to be a major catalyst for a healthy Miami-Dade" and goals center on promoting well-being and preventing illness, disability, and premature death among all segments of the population. The consortium will hold their annual meeting on January 27, 2009 in Coral Gables. Ann-Karen Weller, director of the office of community health and planning, Miami-Dade CHD, serves as chair of the consortium's executive board.
- Your CHDs and/or community's news belongs here! Share your news with colleagues to Christine Abarca.at 850-245-4009

Next Statewide Meet-Me Call, January 26 from 3-4 PM

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, January 26 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. Send agenda items and/or additions to the distribution list to Christine Abarca.at 850-245-4009

Visit the 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/. Your comments and suggestions are welcome as well as any reports and/or products you would like to have posted. Send them to Christine Abarca.at 850-245-4009.

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). The interactive [Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report](#) for 2007 is now available on CHARTS. This report summarizes data compiled from the original records/reports that were filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics as required by law. These include records/reports of live births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, dissolutions of marriage, and induced terminations of pregnancy.

The CHARTS team has released two self-paced CHARTS training modules. The ["Introduction to](#)

[Florida CHARTS](#) module provides an overview of the website with descriptions of site organization, operation instructions, and available data sets. ["CHARTS Individual Indicator Reports"](#) focuses on the various health indicator reports and includes descriptions of the indicators along with the products available for export and display.

Visit www.floridacharts.com to access these new features.

Training, Events, Resources and Opportunities

- Mark your calendar for the [Southeast Evaluation Association](#) (SEA)'s [2009 Annual Conference](#) to be held February 23-24, 2009 in Tallahassee. The conference theme is "The Wolf is at the Door: Adding Value in Lean Times" with keynote speaker Jonathan Walters, a senior correspondent for *Governing* magazine. Registration fees are \$75 for SEA members and \$105 for nonmembers; save \$25 by registering early. For more information visit: www.southeastevaluation.com/conference.php
- ["Our World, Our Community: Building Bridges for Health Equality"](#) by Barbara C. Wallace, Ph.D., the keynote lecture at the 39th Annual Minority Health Conference will be available for live viewing via web cast on February 27, 2009 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm ET. Information about the web cast, satellite downlink and the entire conference is available at www.minority.unc.edu/sph/minconf/2009
- The [Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center \(AHEC\)](#) is offering a slate of continuing education programs in January and February. Among these are workshops on cultural sensitivity, stress management, mental health, and legal issues. View the full listing along with registration information at www.mdahec.org/Programs.asp
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) fellowship program is seeking PHPS applications from local health departments. Successful applicant organizations will receive a free PHPS fellow for two years. County health departments using or planning to conduct a MAPP-based community health improvement planning process should consider applying for a PHPS fellow to help with the logistics of the process. To learn more about the PHPS program, visit www.cdc.gov/epo/dapht/phps/index.html. Dates of note include: Jan. 16, deadline for letter of intent; March 11, notification of accepted letter of intent; April 6, deadline for full application; April 27, May 8, open enrollment; July 11, interview day in Atlanta; early October CDC PHPS fellowship 2-yr assignment begins.
- Be part of the [NACCHO Annual Conference](#) that will be held in Orlando from July 29-31, 2009. The NACCHO Annual Conference workgroup is seeking sharing session proposals for "The New Public Health, Working Across Sectors to Leverage Investment in Communities." NACCHO Annual 2009 will provide an interactive setting for local health officials and their public health partners to examine strategies, share ideas, and plan actions. Conference tracks will include: quality improvement/performance standards, successful multisector

investments in the community's health, value of public health interventions, and power of public health. Sharing session proposals must be submitted online on the NACCHO website by January 26. For detailed guidelines and instructions, please visit www.naccho.org/NA2009/proposals. For additional information or questions contact nacchospeakers@conferencemanagers.com or call 703-964-1240.

- [UnitedHealth Group](#) and [Youth Service America](#) announce a grants program to give children the opportunity to become "health care heroes" by learning about childhood obesity, designing programs to address it and implementing the programs in their communities. Schools and youth-focused community-centered programs are eligible to apply for grants of \$500 to \$1000. Application forms are available at www.ysa.org. Apply by January 15, 2009.
- The [General Mills Foundation](#) invites applications for Champions for Healthy Kids grant program. Champions for Healthy Kids was created by the foundation in partnership with the [American Dietetic Association Foundation](#) and the [President's Council on Physical Fitness](#) to encourage communities to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of young people between the ages of 2 and 18. Priority will be given to organizations working with communities that demonstrate the greatest need and likelihood of sustainable impact. Fifty grants of \$10,000 each will be awarded. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2009. Complete program guidelines and forms are available at <http://generalmills.com/corporate/commitment/foundation.aspx>
- The [Boat U.S. Foundation's](#) Clean Water Grants Program awards grants of up to \$4,000 to local nonprofit volunteer organizations for the promotion of clean boating education. The foundation is looking for creative and innovative projects that teach boaters to reduce their impact on the waters they use for boating. The deadline to apply is February 2, 2009. Application guidelines can be downloaded from www.boatus.com/foundation/cleanwater/grants/
- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) (RWJF) supports community action to prevent childhood obesity through the [Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities](#) program. RWJF seeks proposals to provide support for community initiatives that will increase opportunities for physical activity and improve access to affordable healthy foods for children and families. Special consideration will be given to communities in 15 states where the risk for childhood obesity is greatest (this includes Florida). Approximately 60 grants for Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities sites will be awarded, each receiving up to \$360,000 over four years. Brief proposals must be submitted online by February 3. Visit www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org/ for program details and application instructions.
- The [Big Read](#) is an initiative of the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) designed to restore reading as the center of American culture. Through February 3, the Big

Read will accept applications from organizations to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2009 and June 2010. Selected organizations will receive grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, financial support to attend an orientation meeting, educational and promotional materials, inclusion on the Big Read website, and the prestige of participating in a highly visible national initiative. Approximately 400 organizations will be selected. Complete program information is available at www.neabigread.org/guidelines.php.

- [Salud America!](http://www.salud-america.org/) is a national program of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](http://www.rwjf.org/) that supports research on environmental and policy solutions to the epidemic of obesity among Latino children. The foundation seeks proposals that will contribute to promising policy-relevant strategies to address the problem. Up to 20 grants of \$75,000 will be awarded. Applications must be submitted online by February 6. Visit www.salud-america.org/ for program details.
- Since 2003, [Fiskars Project Orange Thumb](http://projectorangethumb.com/pot/) has awarded grants totaling more than \$300,000 to over a hundred community groups for their garden programs. This year 20 grants will be awarded with each organization receiving up to \$1,500 in Fiskars garden tools and \$800 in gardening-related materials. Gardens and/or gardening projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, and/or horticultural education are eligible. Complete program and application information is available at <http://projectorangethumb.com/pot/>. This year's application deadline is February 17, 2009.
- Former talk show host and philanthropist, Jenny Jones, announced that she will donate an additional \$1 million to continue the [Jenny's Heroes](http://www.jennysheroes.com/) community grant program. Jenny's Heroes provides grants of up to \$25,000 each to fund projects that promise long-term community benefits. The program's focus is primarily on smaller communities where fundraising can be difficult. For more information on Jenny's Heroes and grant guidelines visit www.jennysheroes.com/. Applications are accepted year round.
- The [Aetna Foundation](http://www.aetna.com/foundation), through its [Healthy Communities Outreach](http://www.aetna.com/foundation) grants, supports programs designed to promote grassroots efforts that increase awareness of critical health initiatives including health walks, fairs, and education outreach. Grants of up to \$25,000 are awarded. Applications are accepted year round and funding decisions are made throughout the year. For more information visit www.aetna.com/foundation.
- The Community-Police Partnership Awards sponsored by [MetLife Foundation](http://www.metlife.com) and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), identify innovative partnerships between community groups and police that promote neighborhood safety and revitalization. Six Neighborhood Revitalization Awards, ranging from \$15,000 to \$25,000 will recognize exemplary collaborations that address crime reduction and economic development. Five Special Strategy Awards of \$15,000 each will recognize innovative collaborations that yield significant public safety outcomes. The preliminary application deadline is February 27, 2009. Instructions and forms are available on the LISC website at www.lisc.org/metlife.

- The [Open Meadows Foundation](http://www.openmeadows.org/) supports projects nationwide that are led by and benefit women and girls, particularly those from vulnerable communities. The foundation provides grants of up to \$2,000 to cover start-up expenses or to support ongoing projects. Projects must be designed and implemented by women and girls, reflect the diversity of the community served by the project, promote building community power and encourage racial, social, economic and environmental justice. Priority is given to organizations that have limited financial access or have encountered obstacles in their search for funding. The first application deadline for 2009 is February 15. Guidelines and application instructions are available at www.openmeadows.org/.
- Qualitative information-gathering tools have been added to NACCHO's MAPP Clearinghouse. The MAPP Clearinghouse includes new resources on photovoice and key informant interviews. **Photovoice** is a participatory data gathering process which combines photography with grassroots social action. The process can be used by researchers to gain insight into how community members conceptualize their circumstances. **Getting the Lay of the Land on Health: A Guide for Using Interviews to Gather Information** provides information on when and how to use key informant interviews as a means of gathering input. Review these tools at www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/mapp/clearinghouse/phase3CTSA.cfm.
- CDC in partnership with Transtria LLC and the Saint Louis University Prevention Research Center developed [Promoting Health Equity: A Resource to Help Communities Address Social Determinants of Health](http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dach/chaps), a workbook created to support new and existing partnerships in their efforts to address social determinants of health inequities. The workbook can be downloaded at www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dach/chaps.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched the [Community Health Status Indicators \(CHSI\)](http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/HomePage.aspx) website and report. The community health status indicators provide an overview of health for communities and encourage dialogue about actions that can be taken to improve the community's health. The CHSI report is a tool for community advocates to see, react and act upon creating a healthy community. The report contains more than 200 measures for each of the 3,141 U.S. counties. Visit the website at <http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/HomePage.aspx>.
- The e-journal "[Preventing Chronic Disease](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2009/jan/08_0029.htm)" has published the article, [Mapping Cancer for Community Engagement](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2009/jan/08_0029.htm), in its January 2009 edition. This article discusses two strategies that may reduce health disparities: community participation and geographic information systems. Access the article at http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2009/jan/08_0029.htm.

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, phone: Christine Abarca at 850 245-4009, ext 2071

This message is a service of the Florida Department of Health, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis