



Compass Points

fall 2007

October 2007

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.

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Best regards,

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

News From the Field

Partners of the [Polk Health Care Alliance](#) met on August 9 to continue work towards formulating their Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Informed by results from the four MAPP assessments completed earlier this year, the group selected strategic priorities. Work groups will tackle the formulation of goals, strategies and objectives for the priority areas. Polk CHD leaders involved in the process including Dr. Daniel Haight, director; Dr. Lynne Saddler, assistant director, Sheryl Cooper, health promotion and preparedness director, and Sharlene Edwards, MAPP coordinator. In further demonstration of the importance of partnerships, on September 27 the 3rd Annual Health Summit, entitled "Partnerships for a Healthier Polk" was held. The day-long event featured remarks from Florida's State Surgeon General Ana Viamonte Ros and a panel discussion on health disparities.

On August 16, the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners hosted a community meeting to share the release of [their 2007 Comprehensive Assessment for Tracking Community Health](#) (CATCH) report. The CATCH report provides a profile of the health status of the residents of Hardee County and will be used for health planning in the county. Partners in this

effort include the Hardee County Board of County Commissioners, Hardee County Health Care Task Force and the Hardee CHD. Erin Hess, healthy lifestyles coordinator at the Hardee CHD, organized the event.

Volusia CHD is establishing an Office of Community Health Assessment to better understand and address the health needs of Volusia County residents. Volusia CHD director, Dr. Tom Coleman, and Andr? Ourso, epidemiologist, lead Volusia's considerable efforts towards comprehensive assessment and health improvement planning. Florida's original pioneers in MAPP, [Healthy Volusia](#) continues to lead the way.

Leaders and decision makers in Charlotte County met in July to explore ways to extend Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) Sarasota into Charlotte County. As a direct result of that meeting, CHIP Charlotte Leadership Council was formed with 18 members representing key organizations in the public health system, including Charlotte CHD's administrator, Steven Mitnick. On September 19, the first CHIP Charlotte Leadership Council meeting took place. The council voted to move forward with a community health assessment survey to take place in February 2008. Eric Stockley, Charlotte CHD's assessment coordinator, reports that CHIP Charlotte already has eight agency information sites up and running. These sites provide service information on more than 20 local health agencies.

Next Statewide Meet-Me Call, October 15

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 15 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. .

COMPASS News

Welcome Heidi Keating to the COMPASS team Heidi will be sharing her skills and knowledge of planning, evidence-based decision making and systems improvement. Heidi also brings technical expertise in web site design and management. Many of you will know Heidi from her work in the Department of Health's Office of Performance Improvement where she served as a performance consultant to several north Florida CHDs.

COMPASS Web Site and Web-Based Tool Kit

The [COMPASS website](#) is under renovation! The updated site will feature easier navigation options and new resources that complement the many tools already there. 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.

What's New on CHARTS?

Have you visited CHARTS lately? New reports and enhanced features are added regularly to the public health statistics website Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (CHARTS).

Watch for 2006 data update! FloridaCHARTS reports will soon feature 2006 birth, death and fetal death data. The [Florida Vital Statistics Annual Report](#) will also be updated and available on CHARTS.

Events, Training, Resources and Opportunities

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service](#) invites participants to an informational conference call on "Parenting Education: Resources for Partnership and Practice." The call will be held on Thursday, October 25 from 2-4 pm ET. Additional information on the series is available at www.csrees.usda.gov/familyscience.html

The [Grant Institute's Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop](#) will be held at the University of Central Florida on December 5-7. The intensive three-day course features instruction on the fundamentals of program planning, professional grant writing and grant research. The \$597 registration fee includes tuition and all materials. To register call 888-824-4424 or visit their website at <http://www.thegrantinstitute.com>

[CVS Caremark solicits proposals for community grants to support children with disabilities and health care for the uninsured.](#) The 2007 Community Grants Program focuses on promoting independence among children with disabilities and providing health care services for uninsured people. Visit the for program information and online eligibility quiz. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2007.

The [Norman Foundation](#) seeks to support "efforts that strengthen the ability of communities to determine their own economic, environmental, and social well-being, and that help people control those forces that affect their lives." Through November 1, 2007 the foundation is accepting letters of inquiry for their environmental justice program. Full proposals will be solicited from among the letters of inquiry. Visit the foundation's website for full details (www.normanfdn.org).

Do you live in one of the [100 Best Communities for Young People?](#) America's

Promise Alliance and Capital One have launched the "100 best" competition and are calling for entries. Winning communities will be eligible to apply for up to \$300,000 in grants and will be prominently featured on the alliance's website and media materials. The deadline for application is November 2. Application information is available at www.americaspromise.org

November 15 is the deadline to respond to the Lalor Foundation's call for proposals to support human reproduction education projects. Grant awards range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and support ongoing and new projects that educate young women about human reproduction in order to broaden their options in life. Information on the proposal process is available at <http://lalorfound.org/>

The NFL Youth Football Fund Grassroots Program and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation provide non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial support and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields. Visit the Local Initiatives website for complete program information (www.lisc.org). Applications must be received by November 30, 2007.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has updated their MAPP website. Key changes include improved navigation, additional *Stories from the Field*, and enhanced Q&A pages. Bookmark the website today: www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/MAPP.cfm

What languages are spoken in your county? Developed as part of the Strategic National Stockpile Model Public Information Plan, the Modern Language Association makes available a free language map tool. The interactive tool allows users to select their county to display the languages spoken and numbers of people who speak them. The information is also available by city or zipcode. View the tool at www.mla.org/census_data

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality makes available "State Snapshots" that provide state-specific health care quality information including strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement. This information can be used to better understand health care quality and disparities. To view the these reports, visit <http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov/statesnapshots/index.jsp>

[Special Olympics Florida](#) is looking for volunteer clinical directors for health promotion. Volunteer clinical directors will assist with screenings prior to state and area competitions and provide evaluation and education in nutrition, hydration, sun safety, tobacco avoidance and bone health. Training to become a volunteer will be offered on November 2 and 3. Contact Ms. Eunice Garbutt at 352-243-9536 ext. 513 for more information or to volunteer.

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/>