



## Compass Points

Spring 2008

April 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.

Best regards,

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

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### News From the Field

On January 28, the [Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade](#) convened about 50 partners for their MAPP orientation meeting. The day-long meeting included an overview of the MAPP process, discussion of anticipated benefits, readiness assessment including review of existing data resources and other assets, and visioning. The Consortium is an initiative of the [Miami-Dade CHD](#) under the leadership of Lillian Rivera, CHD administrator and Ann-Karen Weller, Consortium chair. The [Health Council of South Florida](#) is managing the MAPP process in Miami-Dade with Marisel Losa, executive director and CEO, and Marsha Jenakovich, health analyst, taking lead roles.

On February 27, Winnie Holland, administrator, Bradford and Union CHDs, convened stakeholders for a community health forum in Bradford County. Lindsey Michaels, associate health planner, [WellFlorida Health Council](#), presented data from the recent health status assessment. Through discussion and consensus, partners identified health priority issues. Union County partners gathered on February 28 to do the same, selecting three strategic health priorities.

Martin CHD welcomes Leah Bowzer, RD, LD, nutrition services director, as their MAPP coordinator. Leah has made a strong start into MAPP by involving key partners such as the Healthy Start Coalition and Lawton Chiles Foundation at the University of South Florida .

Levy CHD administrator, Barbara Locke, and Slande Celeste, health education and promotion manager, led the kick-off of Levy County's community health improvement planning process with a community forum on January 31. Using data from the health status assessment prepared by the [WellFlorida Health Council](#), the 48 partners in attendance discussed health issues and resources. On March 27, partners will select health priorities and begin to formulate an action plan.

Sarasota County government was recently notified by the National Civic League that Sarasota is among the 17 finalists for the [All-America City Award](#). Sarasota's strong application featured stories of the [Grassroots Leadership Initiative](#), Coalition of Inclusion and Diversity, and the [Community Health Improvement Program \(CHIP\)](#). CHIP leaders include Sarasota CHD director, Bill Little; health education and promotion manager, Liz Bumpus, and Kari Ellingstad, research coordinator. On April 16, CHIP's Health System Collaboration Committee will host 2008 Community Health Interactive, a half-day event to encourage creative collaborations around three key priority issues: access to healthcare, encouraging healthy lifestyles, and improving chronic disease management. Read more about the event and CHIP's activities at their website at [www.chip4health.org](http://www.chip4health.org).

The MedNet Program was created in 2000 by the [Suncoast Health Council](#) to expand access to prescription drug services for low-income uninsured residents in Pinellas County. MedNet navigators assisted more than 1,600 individuals apply for prescription assistance in 2007 and secured over 4,400 free prescriptions for program clients, 72% of whom were uninsured. In sum, MedNet secured more than \$1.6 million in free prescription medications for clients, returning an average of \$7 in free medications for every \$1 spent to provide program services. Three new MedNet sites were opened in Pinellas County during 2007 along with Polk County's first site. In 2008 the Suncoast Health Council will partner with the Pinellas CHD to provide MedNet services to clients accessing the new adult preventive care pilot projects at two CHD clinic sites. Elizabeth Rugg is the executive director of the Suncoast Health Council and Health Council of West Central Florida.

Your CHD's and/or community's news belongs here! Share your news with colleagues.

## *Next Statewide Meet-Me Call, April 21*

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, April 21 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 us.

## *COMPASS Web Site and Web-Based Tool Kit*

The [COMPASS website](#) and some of the Florida MAPP tools are being updated! Look for expanded guidance on the action cycle and information on evidence-based programs to impact identified health priorities. The information and resource warehouse for community health assessment and health improvement planning can be accessed at [www.doh.state.fl.us/COMPASS/](http://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.

## *CHARTS Update*

New reports and enhanced features are added regularly to the public health statistics website Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set (CHARTS; [www.floridacharts.com](http://www.floridacharts.com)). The newest feature is the [Florida population query](#) system that produces county level estimates and projections of populations by race, age, gender and ethnicity from 1970 through 2013. Custom queries can be created to display data for multiple counties and years. As with many CHARTS features, data can be exported to Microsoft Excel for further analysis. Check it out at [www.floridacharts.com](http://www.floridacharts.com)

## *Events, Training, Resources and Opportunities*

Recent issues of the online journal, [Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice and Policy](#), contain many articles of interest. These include [From Program to Policy: Expanding the Role of Community Coalitions](#) (Vol. 4, No. 4, Oct. 2007), [A Methodology for Evaluating Organizational Change in Community-Based Chronic Disease Interventions](#) (Vol. 4, No. 4, Oct. 2007), [Community Health: A Critical Approach to Addressing Chronic Diseases](#) (Vol. 4, No. 4, Oct. 2007), and [Engaging Partners to Initiate Evaluation Efforts: Tactics Used and Lessons Learned from the Prevention Research Centers Program](#) (Vol. 5, No. 1, Jan. 2008). All articles are downloadable in pdf format. Visit their website at [www.cdc.gov/pcd](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd) to access the current and archived issues of the journal.

Three modules remain in the six-part series! DOH's COMPASS initiative has been hosting a series of six, one-hour Live Meeting web conferences on "Improving Community Health through Planning and Partnerships: Using Florida's MAPP Tools". All that is needed to participate is a computer with internet access and a telephone. Remaining modules will cover the following topics: March 31 - community health status assessment and using data effectively; April 14 - identifying strategic issues and formulating goals and strategies; and April 28 - success in action and evaluation. All the web conferences take place from 3-4 pm ET. In advance of each module, connection information will be provided; however, "seating" for each session is limited to 25 participants. Preview the modules at the [COMPASS website](#). For more information on the web conferences, contact Christine Abarca.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is collaborating with the California Newsreel on its four-hour documentary series for PBS titled, ["Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?"](#) exploring the root causes of health inequity. The four-hour documentary will air on PBS over four weeks beginning March 27, 2008. This documentary is a great resource for communities at any phase in the MAPP process and can serve as an excellent starting point for generating conversation around the community's vision, inviting non-traditional partners to the process, collecting data on underserved populations and developing goals and strategies that address the root causes of health inequity. Learn more about NACCHO's Health Equity Campaign at [www.naccho.org/topics/justice/HealthEquityCampaign.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/justice/HealthEquityCampaign.cfm). Check local listings for broadcast dates and times in your area or visit [www.unnaturalcauses.org](http://www.unnaturalcauses.org)

The [University of South Florida \(USF\) Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida \(PHLIF\)](#) is accepting applications for its 13th class of scholars. The PHLIF, headquartered at USF's College of Public Health, provides a year-long study of leadership and public health concepts and issues. The program's focus is to provide public health professionals in various functions the opportunity to develop their leadership skills across roles, levels, and areas of specialization. Applications must be postmarked by April 11, 2008. The application form and more information on the PHLIF are available at [www.hsc.usf.edu/phlif/](http://www.hsc.usf.edu/phlif/).

The [Grant Institute's Grants 101: Professional Grant Proposal Writing Workshop](#) will be

held in Orlando on June 4-6, 2008. Grants 101 is an intensive, detailed introduction to the process, structure, and skill of grant writing. The three-day workshop covers fundamentals of program planning, grant writing, and grant research. Advance registration is required and tuition is \$597. On-line registration and more information is available at [www.thegrantinstitute.com](http://www.thegrantinstitute.com)

The 2008 Swimming Pool and Water Safety Conference will be held on April 10- 11 in Orlando. The conference is co-sponsored by the [DOH Office of Injury Prevention](#). Registration information is available from the [Florida Swimming Pool Association](#) at 800-548-6774 or DOH's Office of Injury Prevention at [DHAT\\_InjuryPrevention@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:DHAT_InjuryPrevention@doh.state.fl.us) or by phone at 850-245-4440.

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Safe Schools announces the [3rd Annual Bullying Prevention Conference](#) to be held on April 24-25 in Orlando. The conference will offer presentations and information on topics such as effective prevention programs, cyberbullying and internet safety, and bullying hotspots. More information on the conference and on-line registration is accessible at [www.fldoe.org/safeschools/bullying-conference.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/bullying-conference.asp)

On May 5, The [Institute for Child Health Policy at Nova Southeastern University](#) in Fort Lauderdale will host the 2008 International Child Health Forum "Global Problems Require Global Solutions." The forum will feature speakers from the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations and World Health Organization. Continuing education credits will be available. For more information and to register visit [www.nova.edu/ichf](http://www.nova.edu/ichf).

The [Governor's Conference for Women's Health](#) will be held on May 27-28 in Orlando. This year's theme is "Focus on the Big Picture: Planning Women's Health Over a Lifespan." On-line registration will soon be available along with complete conference information at [www.doh.state.fl.us/family/wh/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/wh/index.html). Questions may be addressed to [WomensHealth@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:WomensHealth@doh.state.fl.us)

The USF College of Public Health will offer its [18th Social Marketing in Public Health Conference](#) in Clearwater from June 18-21. The conference combines the two-day Social Marketing Academy and two-day meeting featuring plenary and concurrent sessions. Additional information is available at [www.cme.hsc.usf.edu/smph](http://www.cme.hsc.usf.edu/smph)

Mark your calendar for the [2008 Minority Health Disparities Summit](#) to be held on August 13-15 in Tampa. DOH's Office of Minority Health will be accepting session proposals through April 28 that address the summit's theme of "Bridging the Gap: Embracing Solutions to Eliminate Health Barriers." Complete information and session proposal forms are available on-line at [www.doh.state.fl.us/minority](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/minority).

The [Coca-Cola and National Recycling Coalition Recycling Bin Grant Program](#) supports local recycling programs by providing grant recipients with containers for collection of beverage container recyclables in public settings. Bin grants are awarded twice annually; the application deadline is April 4. Forms are available at the program's website at [www.nrc-recycle.org](http://www.nrc-recycle.org)

[Share Our Strength](#) is seeking grant proposals for the [Great American Bake Sale 2008](#). The Great American Bake Sale grant program supports efforts to increase participation among low-income children in summer and after school meal programs. Two kinds of grants are offered: grants for program sponsors that directly sponsor USDA-reimbursed meal programs for children and grants for advocacy to organizations that work to increase participation in meal programs for children. Grant awards range from

\$1,000 to \$10,000. Proposals are due May 30. Forms and complete program information are available at [www.strength.org/grants](http://www.strength.org/grants)

[Saucony Run for Good Foundation](http://www.sauconyrunforgood.com) is accepting applications for its Children's Running Program. Grants are open to nonprofit organizations that initiate and support running and fitness programs for kids. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$10,000. The deadline to apply is June 13 and application forms are available at [www.sauconyrunforgood.com](http://www.sauconyrunforgood.com)

The [Kodak American Greenways Awards Program](http://www.conservationfund.org), a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, the [Conservation Fund](http://www.conservationfund.org), and the National Geographic Society provides small grants to stimulate planning and design of greenways in communities throughout the U.S. Grants may be used for activities such as mapping, ecological assessments, building infrastructure (e.g., foot bridge, bike path) or other creative projects. The maximum grant award amount is \$2,500. June 15 is the deadline to apply. Forms and complete information is available through the Conservation Fund at [www.conservationfund.org](http://www.conservationfund.org)

The [Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida](http://www.bcbsfl.com/DocumentLibrary/AboutOurCompany/BlueFoundationRFPForm.pdf) works to enhance access to quality health-related services for Floridians. Blue Foundation funding is used to identify, nurture and sustain activities to benefit uninsured and underserved populations. Two million dollars in grants will be awarded; requests for funding from \$10,000 to \$100,000 are considered and multi-year proposals may be made. The next deadline will be September 12. Complete grant application guidelines are available at <http://www.bcbsfl.com/DocumentLibrary/AboutOurCompany/BlueFoundationRFPForm.pdf>

**Child Trends newsletter** focuses on community-level child indicators. New resources on community-level indicators of child and youth well-being are featured in a recent issue of [The Child Indicator](http://www.childtrends.org), a newsletter published by the national nonprofit research center, Child Trends. The newsletter includes articles on the value of local data for determining program and service needs, GIS mapping of reproductive health indicators, and other resources on key indicators of health, education, income, poverty and child and youth development. Download the newsletter at [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org)

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/effects_of_childhood_stress.htm) announces the availability of [The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health Across the Lifespan](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/effects_of_childhood_stress.htm). This document summarizes the available research on childhood stress and its long-term consequences. Research has shown that intensive and prolonged stress can have a variety of negative health outcomes. Childhood stress can disrupt early brain development, compromise functioning of the nervous and immune systems and lead to chronic diseases. The publication is available on-line at [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/effects\\_of\\_childhood\\_stress.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/effects_of_childhood_stress.htm)

[Improving Health Requires Partners](http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/MAPP/mappclearinghouse.cfm) is now available from the NACCHO MAPP clearinghouse. This fact sheet describes the basics of the MAPP framework to partners who may not yet consider themselves part of the local public health system. Access the document through NACCHO's clearinghouse at [www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/MAPP/mappclearinghouse.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/MAPP/mappclearinghouse.cfm)

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, email: [Christine\\_Abarca@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Christine_Abarca@doh.state.fl.us)  
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