

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Wendy Potratz, Torry Swedberg, Linda Yourczek, Lindsay Linde, Ruth Sherman, Barry Yocom, Kjell Thompson, Robin Wold, Jim Thompson, Ashli Bowen (Planning Grant Project Facilitator), Mary Fairbanks, Diane Engel, Warren Larson, Colleen Falk

Community Health Needs Assessment Coordinator: Wendy Thompson

- **The meeting opened with introductions and an update.**

Wendy T. noted that she is gathering quantitative data as required in the planning grant and based on the advice of Team members from our last meeting. Wendy will share some of this data at the next meeting.
- **Review Team Makeup: Who is missing at our table?**

The Assessment Team reviewed a document based on our last meeting that listed people and organizations that should be a part of the assessment process (“Key Contacts to Make and Involve in Our Process”). Team members had contacted several of the people listed. While some of the contacts listed cannot commit to our Assessment Team meetings, they were very open to sharing data and expertise. A full update of those contacts and the next steps in our communication with them was sent to Assessment Team members as an **attached email document** along with these meeting notes.
- **Team Discussion: Data on the Uninsured in Beltrami County**
 - Wendy distributed data breaking down the uninsured by age group and income level. Noted: This data only includes people under age 65 because this is the dataset HRSA requests for the Needs Assessment. (Senior citizens are eligible for Medicare.) Senior citizen health care barriers will be explored.
 - Mary noted that a breakdown by race would be useful. Wendy will look into the availability of that data.
 - Group noted that about 22% of the uninsured in Beltrami County are children under age 19. Questioned why so many children are uninsured and noted this as a topic to explore in focus groups, interviews or surveys.
 - Nearly half of the uninsured in each age category are over 200% Federal Poverty Level. Wendy will send out the 2012 Federal Poverty Levels for varying family sizes.
 - Discussed the growing number of employed persons with high deductibles or no insurance who are working full time. In one business that was noted as an example, many employees have untreated mental health issues that likely affect work attendance.
 - Noted that some people will refuse to apply for Medicare, MN Care or MA for various reasons (mistrust of systems and government, pride in self-sufficiency, etc). Group noted that the process for applying for assistance is complex and long—even challenging for the professionals who assist clients.

- **Team Discussion: Data Gathering through Interviews, Surveys, Focus Groups**
 - Wendy shared that the next month or two will involve stakeholder interviews, focus groups and surveying. She will keep the Team apprised of when some of those are happening so that Team members can choose to attend with her. In some cases, Team members will contact a stakeholder and then report information to Wendy for assessment.
 - Team brainstormed individuals and groups for stakeholder interviews, focus groups and surveys. **A list of these ideas was included in the email attachment sent to the Assessment Team with these meeting notes (“Key Contacts to Make”).**
 - Colleen affirmed that Northern Dental Access Center is open to having the Assessment Team survey NDAC patients.
 - Discussed issues and questions that should be addressed with different audiences.
 - Key information to glean ---what are the barriers to care?
 - A **subcommittee was formed** to develop a survey or surveys for potential community health center patients. Members are: Ruth Sherman, Torry Swedberg, Wendy Potratz, Lindsay Linde and Wendy Thompson. Wendy T. will contact them to set up a meeting time.

Other topics addressed during this discussion:

- Pregnancy prevention needs to be addressed
- Team interested in why so many children are uninsured
- Team interested in Sanford policies on serving uninsured and underinsured (Sliding fee info, co-pay info, data on uncompensated care, availability of appointments to uninsured and MA patients, etc.) Wonder whether public is aware of these policies. (Policies are on the Sanford Bemidji website.)
- Discussed underfunding of IHS
- Concern about suicide rate. Mentioned youth and elderly men.
- Discussed the survival mentality that becomes the framework for life for those in poverty and how that affects their health/health care access.

- **Wiki Document Sharing**

Group decided to share documents through a Wiki space online created by Ashli for our Team. All Team members will need to sign up to get on the site. Wendy T. will send out instructions on how to do that. Ashli is going to teach the Planning Team how to post documents on the Wiki space and is willing to show us at our next meeting.

- **Future Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday, February 14

Tuesday, March 13

Tuesday, March 27

Location: Prime West Building, Bemidji

All meeting times: 1-3 p.m.