

LAKE HEALTH LEADERSHIP NETWORK
HEALTH POLICY CABINET MEETING NOTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2009
KELSEYVILLE

In attendance: April Cunningham, Head Start Food and Nutrition Program Coordinator; Stan Janiak, Head Start Health Specialist; Jim Brown, Lake County Public Health Department Director; Lori Sweeney, Lake and Mendocino Counties Area Agency on Aging; Nice Alterman, Facilitator; Susan Jen and Jackie Armstrong, Lake Health Leadership Network.

Susan reviewed an Economic Cost Fact Sheet associated with overweight, obesity, and physical inactivity in CA counties provided by the CA Center for Public Health Advocacy. The summary of economic costs for obesity, overweight and physical inactivity estimated the county spends over \$78 million for these conditions as they relate to health care and lost productivity. The overall cost to the state is \$41.2 billion in health care and lost productivity. The fact sheet also demonstrated weight increases of Lake County residents from preschool to adulthood.

Susan led the group in a review of the ENACT tool used by HLN members to identify priorities for achieving organizational changes to improve population health. Each member indicated the original status and identified key activities to raise that status in each of the eleven areas. Observations and comments made during the ENACT review included:

- CATCH is being used to help schools implement school wellness policies.
- NCO has a paid gardener (Miles Gordon) to start school gardens and train teachers and parents.
- April offered to share lessons learned at the four Mendocino preschools gardens to help establish gardens at Lake County preschools (there are not any currently).
- The Safe Routes to Schools ENACT element needs to be updated by Terri Persons.
- Sutter-Lakeside appears to be unique in offering stipends for wellness activities but other employers are moving toward prevention and wellness.
- Body Mass Index (BMI) training needs sustainability in order to track obesity prevention progress.
- There is an enormous need for an epidemiologist to collect and evaluate well-child findings and other data.
- Breastfeeding is a critical component of obesity prevention.

Nice reiterated the proposed responsibilities of the Health Policy Cabinet (HPC) to monitor ENACT progress, collect and evaluate local data, and formulate policies that will generate organizational changes. A discussion regarding specific tasks for the Health Policy Cabinet included the following suggestions:

1. Develop/strengthen policies related to delivery of local produce to more institutions, such as hospitals, schools, the courthouse and other large employers.
2. Address policies related to school food service participation in a co-op arrangement.

3. Develop policy that supports public educational strategies about nutritional benefits of various food choices, such as why “apples are better than corndogs.”
4. Establish nutrition standards for public events.
5. Gather and broadcast organizational accomplishments (e.g. jail buying from local growers, CATCH implementation, workplace walkers, etc.)
6. Work on a data base that can function as a repository for population health information.
7. Work on a structure that links the Health Policy Cabinet to existing committees as a means to coordinate goals and better utilize information and resources.

Regarding the next meeting, Jim suggested that the Agricultural Commissioner’s participation would be very helpful and Nice recommended an asset mapping exercise. Jackie will email all participants to ascertain their availability for the following dates and times: Thursday, December 10 (am or pm), Friday, December 11 (am or pm), and Monday December 14 (pm only).

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.