

# OUR OPTIMAL HEALTH

*affordable and sustainable health care for all people in Franklin County*

**June 2007 Update**

The **Our Optimal Health** project (formerly known as the Affordable & Sustainable Health Care project) is addressing the need for new approaches to the provision of health care in Franklin County (Ohio). The project is fostering a community dialogue that will identify innovations to assure the delivery of affordable and sustainable health care to our community.

**Our Optimal Health** is a complex and multi-layered effort. It was established following a series of events that generated discussions among community leaders about the possibility of exploring whether the people of Franklin County might be able to create a new response to a potentially impending health care implosion. At this meeting the following calling question emerged:

**“How can we create Affordable and Sustainable Health Care for all in our community – in Franklin County?”**

A series of assemblies have been held in which the community has developed their purpose statement for our health care system:

## **Our Community’s Purpose Statement on Health Care (v 2.0)**

*The purpose of the health care system is to provide affordable & sustainable health care that supports optimal health & wellness for everyone in our community.*

From the community’s focus on optimal health, a refined question emerged:

## **Refined Calling Question**

*How will we, as a community, achieve optimal health for our community and for each of us?*

## Emerging Work from Assembly 9

Of the six groups that convened at the assembly, two projects are emerging, with invitations for interested individuals to join them.

### **How will a neighborhood or community organize itself to achieve optimal health for all its citizens?**

The group, hosted by Deb Crawford, explored two questions:

#### **If you were neighbors wanting to organize, what would you need to proceed?**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication system</li><li>• Meeting place</li><li>• Understand WIIFM (what’s in it for me) – to educate and convince</li><li>• Infrastructure issues – place to start such as safe sidewalks)</li><li>• Getting to know neighbors</li><li>• Start on my street (talk to neighbors)</li><li>• Community meetings</li><li>• Start small</li><li>• Current self-assessment of health</li><li>• Neighborhood progressive dinner</li><li>• Call government officials to the issue</li><li>• Talk to our healthcare providers in our neighborhood</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children might be an entry to get to parents Adults/parents should role model for kids</li><li>• Focus on healthy, affordable food outlets</li><li>• Conduct a neighborhood assessment</li><li>• Options assessment for me/individuals</li><li>• Promote sense of belonging</li><li>• Community garden</li><li>• Buddy system</li><li>• Funding</li><li>• Scalability</li></ul> |
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#### **How can Our Optimal Health help?**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help them identify interested people</li><li>• Help them identify their needs</li><li>• Help with asking permission</li><li>• Help them “host” the meeting, pay for meeting spaces if needed (could use homes)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offer learning opportunities</li><li>• Help address safety issues</li><li>• Develop a set of organizing principles for neighborhoods</li><li>• Provide information on local resources</li><li>• Offer funding mechanism</li></ul> |
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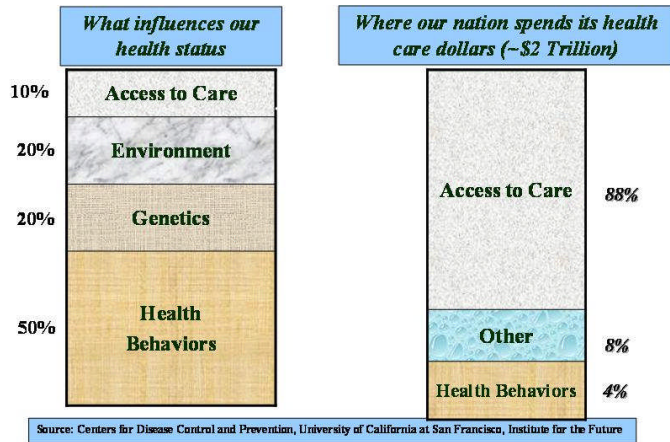
#### **Next Steps for this emerging project:**

A small planning group formed to work on next steps prior to the next Assembly meeting in July – the group included Deborah Crawford, Debera Diggs, Mike Smeltzer, Janice Wilcox, Ying Studebaker and Kevin Dixon, they will likely meet on June 14.

**Contact Deborah Crawford for more information about this project at [crawford@columbus.rr.com](mailto:crawford@columbus.rr.com)**

**How might we (individually and as a community) engage all of our government officials in safe and productive dialogue to allocate the public dollars (local, state, federal) currently being spent on health care to optimize the health of all people and maximize the value of this expenditure?**

The group, convened by Jeff Biehl, explored data to lay the groundwork for the discussion, such as the following:



Jeff offered four areas of work for the group to explore in preparation for development of any health policy:

- a) Do we collectively understand key terms needed to shape health policy? (ex: universal health care, single payor, socialized medicine, medical home, optimal health, value)
- b) Learn from other health policy initiatives taking place around the country. (ex: Oregon, Massachusetts, labor/business coalitions, SPAN Ohio)
- c) What do we want government officials to do? (ex: commit to shaping health policy that optimizes health and demonstrates value)
- d) How do we engage in safe and productive dialogue with government officials? (ex: design, hosts, participants)

Participants then shared some of the following thoughts for future exploration together:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What level of government – federal, state, local - are we focused on?</li> <li>• We need to go beyond OOH’s purpose statement with specific proposals. What are our ideas for policy? Do we have clear definitions?</li> <li>• Do we have clarity of OOH’s principles? Are they reflected in the proposals?</li> <li>• How can public policy impact the depth of the health care problem? How do you ‘pass a law that changes efficiency of the system’?</li> <li>• What have other states and localities done?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we work with the community to achieve broad input? (Oregon had large number of town meetings around the state.)How does Ohio’s existing governmental structures impact our ideas? The role of county government as a delivery agent for federal and state dollars.</li> <li>• Do we have a clear definition of what constitutes a ‘public dollar’? How big is the amount of hidden public dollars that are already in the system?</li> <li>• The role of education is big, at many levels             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amongst all audiences around confusing policy terms</li> <li>▪ Amongst elected officials who do not understand health care</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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**Planned next steps:** Participants were invited to continue the discussion at one of the following scheduled times

<p>June 20 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.          Broad Street Presbyterian          760 E. Broad St.          Free parking the rear          Note: Please bring your lunch, water will be provided</p>	<p>June 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.          Mid-Ohio Food Bank          1625 W. Mound St.          free parking east of the building          Note: Coffee &amp; Juice will be provided</p>
<p><b>Please RSVP (indicating which session you plan to attend) via an email to <a href="mailto:jeff@biehl.ws">jeff@biehl.ws</a></b></p>	

For the full report from these two groups, as well as the reports from the other groups that met over meaningful conversations please visit our website [www.ouoptimalhealth.net](http://www.ouoptimalhealth.net) for the Assembly Report.

**SAVE THESE DATES - MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

<b>September 19 ABCD Asset Based Training</b>	<b>November 1 &amp; 2 Art of Hosting Training</b>
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<p><b>Major Funding:</b></p>	<p><b>Additional Funding:</b></p>	<p><b>Project Administered By:</b></p> <p><b>In-Kind Support By:</b></p>
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