

# OUR OPTIMAL HEALTH

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

## March/April 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 over the past 14 months, 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 & wellness a refined calling question has emerged:

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

At our last two assemblies, the following questions emerged that the community identified as having potential for shifting our health care system to meet our purpose.

- ***How will a neighborhood or community organize itself to achieve optimal health for all its citizens?***
- ***What are the potential revenue streams available for Affordable & Sustainable Health Care?***
- ***How do we assure the poorest of the poor move from the emergency room to the “wellness center”?***
- ***How might we, as a community, engage our elected officials in a meaningful (bi-partisan) discussion about the equitable distribution of our public health care dollars?***

### Update on Core Hosting Group Planning

- **Monthly Community Assemblies:** These assemblies provide space and resources for those who wish to come together and work on the emerging projects and activities that the community has identified as having the potential to shift our health care system.

At Assembly 7 and 8, held at the Fawcett Center, new questions were raised, and three conversations from Assembly 7 were continued. These ongoing conversations are moving participants to think about ways they can begin to take action in their communities and neighborhoods. Potential ideas include offering training to several neighborhood organizations on community action, creating a pilot project for community “wellness,” and expanding our definition of the population that needs education about “wellness”.

***See the back of this newsletter for details about the assembly dates for the 2007 calendar year.***

- **Expanding Awareness:** The hosts of the Our Optimal Health project continue to educate community groups about the work that has been done to date. If you would like a representative from OOH to speak at your community program, agency or event please contact Sandy at 884-2440 ext. 218.
- **Our Optimal Health in the News:** A copy of an article published in the *Columbus Dispatch* about Our Optimal Health project is included with this newsletter.
- **Training:** The hosts of the OOH project are working with national and International speakers to provide training to Franklin County residents and agencies. The trainings will help individuals increase their skills around organizing, assist them in learning new ways to identifying the *real* needs of a neighborhood, and help recognize the potential for change.

**Our CORE HOSTING GROUP are volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to:**

- Provide clear, concise communication
- Assure process for informed decision making
- Harvest & share data in a way to get results
- Be willing to follow through to ensure the realization of the project's purpose
- Surface the wicked questions and create the safe space for all stakeholders to create the needed new solutions
- Insure inclusion
- Practice patience and teach patience and stay committed to hold the project's purpose
- Protect and yet adapt the vision in an evolutionary way (protect the integrity of the project)
- Maintain and invite energy in service of the core purpose.

**Our Core Hosting Group**

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Jeff Biehl        | Ruben Herrera         |
| Dianne Biggs      | Bill Kumler           |
| Phil Cass         | Steven Loeb           |
| Debbie Crawford   | Marc Parnes           |
| Kevin Dixon       | Malcolm Porter        |
| Jerry Friedman    | Michelle Vander Stouw |
| Matt Habash       | Bruce Wall            |
| Tuesday Ryan Hart | Donna Woods           |
| Deborah Helber    |                       |

**Invitation to come and work with others on projects and activities that are emerging from the assemblies and in the community**

To begin to connect the threads of the emerging activities see the listing of scheduled events below

**2007 Calendar of Events - Mark Your Calendars**

**Assemblies**

**Time: 6:30 – 9:30**

**Place: Fawcett Center**

May 30

June 14

July 25

August 9

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13

**Institute for Innovation and Change**

There will be 4 opportunities for you to come and learn how to Create a Community of Innovation and Change in 2007-2008. Dates To Be Announced Soon!

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| <p><b>Major Funding:</b></p>            | <p><b>Additional Funding:</b></p>         <p>Wolfe Associates, Inc.</p> |
| <p><b>Project Administered By:</b></p>  | <p><b>In-Kind Support By:</b></p>      |

If you have questions for the Core Hosting Group on how to get involved or would like to share ideas about your emerging activities, please email us at: [sandy@ouoptimalhealth.net](mailto:sandy@ouoptimalhealth.net)