

Cumberland/Perry Counties Focus Group
Central Pennsylvania College
Notes

1. What are the three emerging issues related to Access To & Availability of Health Services?

- Transportation to appointments
- Cost of care/coverage – the uninsured and underinsured
- Lack of willing providers – Doctors and dentists – Perry County
- Overabundance of retirement communities, that don't always treat residents correctly (lack of mental care)
- Difficulty in navigating the complex health care system
- Lack of specialists
- Aging doctor population
- Hospitals that are now privately owned (Carlisle Medical Center) – more expensive
- Growing non-English speaking population
- Both coverage and length of application process for Medical Assistance
- Copay increases
- Affluent communities
- Lack of education on various issues (i.e. depression)
- Inequity in coverage for psych meds and services
- Patients not showing up for appointments

2. What are the most important changes in the characteristics of your current range of clients over the last three years?

- Increase in low income families and families with no insurance. They either do not qualify for medical assistance
- Increased lack of affordable housing for clients
- Clients with more significant needs – more ill
 - Earlier diagnosis
 - Need for higher level of service
- Kids with multiple issues
 - Earlier diagnosis
 - Lack of prenatal care (i.e. illegal immigrants)
- Increase in obesity/lack of activity
 - Increased risk for obesity-related health problems

3. What are the considerations in building partnerships to improve access to & availability of health services?

- Lack of time to form partnerships and to keep them strong. Should we try to get retirees to help?
- Not always finding the correct person at an organization to form partnership with

- Not inviting an organization to attend meetings or form a partnership because it's assumed that they aren't interested or can not attend
- Lack of communication
- For legal reasons, some partnerships can't exist
- Cultural/demographic differences – need one force to bring everyone together

4. What financial, community or human resources do you need?

- Perry County – More funding for transportation
 - Wee need more people to WANT to use public transportation
 - System now operates at more of a scheduled pick up type of schedule
- Money

5. How can the community and it's partners join together to create solutions?

- Bring in a convener to bring everyone together
- Speak to “consumers” – get them more involved
 - Ask them what their problems are and how they compare to what we think they are
 - “Don't Do Anything About Me Without Me”

-Who do we get involved?

State government, agencies, insurance companies, hospice, school systems, county planning agencies, youth (fresh faces not already involved), residents.

-How do we get people to stay involved?

More time must be given, there must be a benefit seen from meeting/forming partnership, possible morning meetings.