

JUNE 2011



Colonel James Wallace and Faith Kellar review assessment findings at the Health Summit, September 2010.

Health Assessments

Assessment is one of the three core functions of public health. It is also a cornerstone of community health development. Community health development is a process through which communities prioritize issues, identify available resources, and develop and implement strategies that use available resources to meet local needs. At the heart of this process is collaboration and cooperation of key stakeholders in order to increase efficiency in the use of resources, as well as the participation of members of all sectors of the community. The two ultimate goals of the community health development process are population health improvement and strengthened community capacity to address health issues.

In practice, the Center for Community Health Development applies this process using the Partnership Approach, which is comprised of four phases: Phase I, Preliminary analysis of community information to determine the partnership strategy; Phase II, Community health status assessment; Phase III, Designing and implementing programs to address identified issues; and Phase IV, Evaluating progress and determining next steps.

In the Partnership Approach, the initial activities include mobilization of local stakeholders as partners in sponsoring a community health assessment. Over the past 10 years, the Center for Community Health Development has worked with communities across the State of Texas in this process, collaborating in eight separate assessments covering 30 counties. Our model for assessment uses four components to create a snapshot of health and factors that affect health in a community: comprehensive secondary data, community discussion groups, key informant interviews, and a random sample household survey. The information provided by analyzing these data allows for a good understanding not only of what the local health issues might be, but also what circumstances are contributing to those issues. This gives local communities a foundation for collaboratively planning and implementing activities to improve the health of their residents.

CCHD has assisted in conducting assessments in the following Texas communities: Concho Valley (2001), Brazos Valley (2002, 2006, 2010), Lower Rio Grande Valley (2003), Cook Children's Health System (2007), Tarrant County (2008), and Waller County (2010).



Center for Community Health Development

160 SRPH Administration Building | College Station, TX 77843-1266 | 979.458.0937 | Fax 979.862.8371 | www.srph.tamhsc.edu

Celebrating 10 years of Accomplishments

Brazos Valley Health Assessment Findings and Outcomes

	Key Findings	Community Response/Outcome
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fragmentation of services Limited public transportation Need for medication assistance Access to primary and specialty care and social services in rural communities Alcohol and drug abuse Poverty Teen Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created Brazos Valley Health Partnership (BVHP) as a forum for working with communities to improve health status and access to care Developed 5 rural health resource centers which are facilities that have co-located health and social service organizations that offer comprehensive case management, medication assistance, health education, drug and alcohol screening and counseling, indigent health care, information and referral services, counseling to at risk youth, audiology, housing and energy assistance, and more. Initiated a volunteer driver transportation program through the resource centers which transports transportation limited residents to health related destinations County governments in Burleson, Grimes, Leon, and Madison counties appointed health resource commissions to provide oversight of the health resource centers.
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited public transportation High obesity/overweight population Access specialty care in rural communities Lack of mental health resources in rural communities Health status and access disparities for rural populations, low-income residents and minority/ethnic populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BVHP organized as a community non-profit organization in 2009 to support the health resource commissions' local efforts BVHP and the Brazos Valley Area Agency on Aging partnered to sustain the health resource center transportation programs which connected rural communities to specialty care in Brazos County BVHP Special Commission on Obesity, now known as the Brazos Valley Obesity Prevention Network, created to identify obesity prevention strategies for the Brazos Valley Local communities committed funding to maintain the operations of 5 health resource centers Burleson and Madison counties provided funding for comprehensive case management at the resource centers Through the efforts of the BVHP Special Commission on Mental Health, Leon County partnered with Texas A&M University's Educational Psychology Program to pilot mental health counseling via telehealth at the Leon Health Resource Center
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of reliable, affordable public transportation Growing rate of obesity High rate of chronic disease Poor access to mental health services Alcohol and substance abuse Lack of resources/services for older population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BVHP is currently developing partnerships and strategies to address obesity, chronic disease, transportation, and the ongoing development and sustainability of local health resource centers BVHP has created the organizational infrastructure to apply for grant funding for local initiatives Madison, Burleson, Leon, and Grimes Health Resource Centers are now working with the Alzheimer's Association to provide local support groups Madison County, Madison Health Resource Center, and the Brazos Valley Area Agency on Aging created a new more efficient Senior Meals Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Program which is being replicated in Grimes County through the Grimes Health Resource Center and in Leon County Grant funding is being sought to expand Texas A&M Educational Psychology's counseling services via telehealth to Madison County

Sponsors of the Brazos Valley Health Assessments include: Brazos County Health Department (2002, 2010); Brazos Valley Council of Governments (2002, 2006, 2010); College Station Medical Center (2002, 2006, 2010); Madison St. Joseph Health Center (2002); St. Joseph Health System (2002, 2006, 2010); Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health (2002, 2010); Brazos Valley Community Action Agency (2006, 2010); Center for Community Health Development (2006, 2010); Trinity Medical Center (2006); Scott & White Hospital– Brenham (2010); City of Bryan (2010); United Way of Brazos Valley (2010); Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley (2010); Burleson St. Joseph Health Center (2010); Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley (2010); City of College Station (2010); Texas A&M Health Science Center (2010); and Brazos Valley Health Partnership (2010).

Center for Community Health Development