Improving Community Health: ACA Requirements for Community Health Needs Assessment

March 2012
South Central Public Health Partnership

NCHA Transformation Model

How Good by When?

Improve Population Health

Enhance Experience of Care

Reduce Per Capita Cost

Determinants of Health

- Environment
- National economic strategy
- Education
- Genetic and ethnic factors
- Income and education
- Social environment
- Lifestyle
- Access to health care
- Personal behavior
- Health services

Age
Sex
Heredity

- Unemployment
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Obesity
- Poor nutrition
- Injuries
- Transportation
- Violence
- Personal capacity
- Access to health care
- Health services
- Health policy
The Key is **Collaboration**, particularly Public Health and Hospital.

- Recognize Community Health Needs Assessment as integral to a **Cycle of Continuous Improvement**.

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In order to move this work forward, IHI recommends using the Model for Improvement. Developed by Associates in Process Improvement, the Model for Improvement is a simple yet powerful tool for accelerating improvement that has been used successfully by hundreds of health care organizations to improve many different health care processes and outcomes.

The model has two parts:

1. Three fundamental questions that guide improvement teams to 1) set clear aims, 2) establish measures that will tell if changes are leading to improvement, and 3) identify changes that are likely to lead to improvement.

2. The Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle to conduct small-scale tests of change in real work settings — by planning a test, trying it, observing the results, and acting on what is learned. This is the scientific method, used for action-oriented learning.

**Implementation:** After testing a change on a small scale, learning from each test, and refining the change through several PDSA cycles, the team can implement the change on a broader scale — for example, for an entire pilot population or on an entire unit.

**Spread:** After successful implementation of a change or package of changes for a pilot population or an entire unit, the team can spread the changes to other parts of the organization or to other organizations.

You can learn more about the Model for Improvement on [www.IHI.org](http://www.IHI.org).
Policy Guidance for NC Hospitals and Public Health Departments

PURPOSE: Outlines a framework for public health departments and hospitals to collaborate to accomplish Community Health Needs Assessment.

- Jointly developed by NC DPH, NC Institute for Public Health and NCHA.
- Aligned with processes for NC Public Health Accreditation and NC Hospital Community Benefit.
- Links to websites and online resources.
- Posted to NC DPH and NCHA websites.
NCHA Community Health Needs Assessment Resources

• Joint Policy Guidance and FAQs
• Community Health Needs Assessment Webinar
• Whitepapers
• IRS Schedule H Guidance

NCHA Community Benefit Reporting
https://www.ncha.org/issues/community-benefit

• About 100 NC hospitals post their community benefit reports and financial assistance policies.
• Transparent reporting adopted by NCHA members in 2007, with reports posted for 2007 to 2010.

How to Connect Public Health Resources and Guides

The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will interest his (her) patients in the care of the human frame, in diet and in the cause and prevention of disease. *Thomas Edison*

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal. *Henry Ford*

 Somebody’s got to do something. It’s incredibly pathetic that it’s got to be us. *Jerry Garcia*

Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do. *Steve Jobs*
When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President. I’m beginning to believe it. *Clarence Darrow*

The best thing about this group of candidates is that only one of them can win. *Will Rogers*

If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates. *J. Leno*

Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hardworking, honest Americans. It’s the other two percent that get all the publicity. But then, we elected them. *Lily Tomlin*

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies. *Groucho Marx*

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**Improving Community Health:**
**ACA Requirements for Community Health Needs Assessment**

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**Outline of the Key Elements of the Joint Policy Guidance**

- Background about the ACA Community Benefit Requirements
- Basic outline of the NC CHA Model, based on public health accreditation
- Summary of the CHA process for LHDs
- Defining Community Health Assessment in NC
- How to connect with your local public health department and your local Healthy Carolinians or community partnerships
- Weblinks and online resources