

Nashville Community Health Needs: Key Talking Points

What went on during your meeting at Vandy?

We organized a collaborative group of representatives from nearly 45 Nashville area organizations to work together to achieve the overall goal of making Middle Tennessee the healthiest region for our children and youth. We concentrated on working with Alignment Nashville's six health goals for children & youth toward achieving the following objectives:

- Determine and prioritize Middle Tennessee children's true emerging and declining needs
- Compare current programs and services against future needs to identify opportunities to improve existing programs and provide new services
- Complete action plans to strengthen current service and program offerings
- Document a process to routinely assess how well programs and services match community needs

What are the six health goals for Nashville's Children and Youth

The six goals are the result of a collaborate effort between Alignment Nashville, Metro Public Schools, and the Mayor's office of Children and Youth to achieve a mission of making Nashville the healthiest city for kids ages 0-24. Here are the six goals and their respective chairpeople:

1. All children begin life healthy: Dr. Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, Metro Public Health Department
2. Vaccine preventable diseases are eliminated: Dr. Joel Bradley, Cumberland Pediatrics
3. Children and youth engage in good health practices: Mary Kate Mouser, Vanderbilt Children's
4. Adolescents are sexually responsible: D'Yuanna Allen, Metro Public Health Department
5. Children and youth are physically health: Mary Bufwack, United Neighborhood Health Services
6. Children and youth are mentally well: Dr. Frances Clark, Metro Public Health Department

What came out of the meeting?

Over 50 people from 45 agencies worked on identifying strategies and needs to achieve our six goals. In total, we spent over 720 collective hours working in small and large groups. Here's a summary of what we did:

- Participated in 6 "tradeshow" presentations to give us all a wealth of background information to set the stage for our session.
- Identified 32 growing & emerging needs for improving the health of Nashville's children & youth.
- Formulated over 100 tactics to help us address these needs across all areas.
- Discussed several barriers we'll need to overcome, and found that many of these barriers were common to more than one goal.
- Identified the most important features our programs & services should have to ensure they successfully address the needs of Nashville's children & youth.

How will the results of this benefit our organization?

Your voice has been heard! You have been able to share your expertise and learn from your peers on current issues, programs and services offered and other beneficial information.

This event brought a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge into one place, setting the stage for further collaboration as we all move forward. We all learned a great deal about children's health issues and concerns that aren't necessarily in our specialty areas, but we found we had a lot of common challenges and concerns. That commonality will help us push forward in a more cohesive manner to achieve our goals.

What are the next steps?

- Alignment Nashville, under the leadership of Sydney Rodgers, will be taking the prioritized needs, strategies, and tactics back to the six alignment committees.
- The HCA Foundation, Junior League, and Vanderbilt Children's hospital will be using this information in Strategic Planning for their 2008 funding cycles.
- The Executive Sponsor Team, led by Joanne Pulles, will be taking this information to a group of local funders including United Way.
- The HCA Foundation in collaboration with Alignment Nashville will issue a report to all the participating organizations on activities and progress since the design session on the six goals by May 2008.
- Alignment Nashville is planning 6-8 pilot projects through the health committees for Fall 2007, expecting to take them to scale in 2008. We expect the six committees to have identified their respective pilots by June 1.

Where will all this information go?

Every participant will receive a CD (within a few weeks) containing all of the presentations and information from this Rapid Design Session. That information is yours to share with your organizations to give them the information they need to help achieve our vision of making Nashville the healthiest city for children and youth.

We will also publish selected information from this event in our community rooms on the new Alignment Nashville website, expected to be launched around May 1.

How can I stay involved?

Participants of the Rapid Design Session are encouraged to stay involved through the Alignment Nashville Health Committees. Those that are interested should submit their name and contact information to Sydney Rogers at srogers@nashvillechamber.com.

Will other organizations be involved?

Healthways Foundation has already committed to help fund projects coming out of Alignment Nashville, and we expect other organizations to jump on board.