

ARIZONA TURNING POINT PROJECT

PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE NEW CENTURY: A PLAN FOR IMPROVING ARIZONA'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

SUMMARY

The following goals and objectives represent a summary of the 96 recommendations in Arizona's public health improvement plan. The complete plan is available and may be requested from the Arizona Turning Point Office.

GOAL 1. A STRENGTHENED PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ARIZONA'S POPULATION AND A REDUCTION IN HEALTH STATUS DISPARITIES IN 2010 AND BEYOND.

1.1. Utilization of the influence of Turning Point to reduce health status disparities throughout the state.

Objective 1. To take a lead role in influencing and encouraging all public health and health organizations to take the necessary steps to close the health disparities gaps which exist in the state.

1.2. The improvement of the state's public health financial systems.

Objective 1. To develop a statewide public health financial database leading to the development of an integrated financial resources management system in order to effectively plan, analyze, project, coordinate and evaluate public health expenditures in Arizona.

Objective 2. To review and recommend revisions, as necessary, to the rules and processes utilized to fund counties and local communities, taking into account local needs aimed at assuring that every area of the state has the resources to carry out the public health functions necessary for its population.

1.3. The review and revision of the state's public health statutes.

Objective 1. To review, and as necessary, revise the state's public health statutes in order that public health services may be appropriately provided to meet the future needs of Arizona's population and eliminate the health status disparities in the state.

1.4. The development of a comprehensive state health plan.

Objective 1. To develop and implement a clear and comprehensive state public health plan for Arizona which incorporates the objectives of the

Healthy People 2010 plan and sets priorities for funding, workforce development and other resources required to meet identified needs.

Objective 2. To assess and document the magnitude of the problem of underserved populations and develop a workable program to address the access issues that impact these groups.

1.5. The assessment of capacity and development of performance standards by state and public health departments.

Objective 1. To assess the capacities of the Arizona Department of Health Services and the county health departments to perform the core public health functions and essential services and develop an action plan to address the infrastructure needs identified.

Objective 2. To develop public health standards, with an action plan, for a core set of public health services to assure that all Arizona residents receive high quality public health services.

1.6. An improved system of data collection, quality and dissemination.

Objective 1. To establish a statewide data council to improve public health data; review state, federal and tribal statutes and rules relative to data dissemination; support the efforts of the existing Data Sharing Committee; and coordinate surveys being conducted in the state.

Objective 2. To assure that data and information systems which are valid and reliable, user friendly, available at the lowest possible geographic level, useful for ethnic minority populations, and tribal-specific, are made available to communities and include information on such issues as the environment, communicable diseases, toxic materials, etc.

Objective 3. To establish ADHS as the central repository for all public health data that is collected.

Objective 4. To design a statewide electronic data system to link all state, public health, tribal health, research and academic institutions and other health and public health partners.

1.7. An improved and strengthened workforce.

Objective 1. To establish a statewide workforce commission to assess the status of the public health workforce in the state, and to review and forecast public health and medical workforce and education needs.

Objective 2. To develop a plan to increase the numbers of health professionals capable of working with ethnic minority populations in the state through active recruitment of ethnic minorities to the health professions, cultural competency training, etc.

Objective 3. To include staff that are fluent in Spanish language and medical Spanish in all public health and health programs that serve Spanish-speaking populations.

Objective 4. To promote the integration of practitioners of clinically-proven complementary, alternative and traditional methodologies with those in behavioral and physical health practices.

Objective 5. To provide a comprehensive orientation for all newly-hired professional public health staff, including the basic public health functions and ten essential services.

Objective 6. To bring together all relevant academic entities to review educational programs and identify curricular changes needed to respond to current and future public health needs.

Objective 7. To assure that public health education is available to both future and current public health workers, and lay health workers, as well as, members of local boards of health, including certificate programs, work site exchange programs, fellowship programs and education which facilitates integration among various disciplines.

Objective 8. To develop an educational curriculum that incorporates specific skill sets in the delivery of the ten essential public health services, content from the humanities and liberal arts, cultural sensitivity concepts, Spanish language/medical Spanish, and moves toward a community, rather than an institutional focus.

Objective 9. To train, and promote the employment of, promotoras, lay health workers, community health representatives (CHRs) and other community health workers to provide health education and wellness information to residents of underserved and ethnic communities.

GOAL 2. AN IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM THROUGH EMPOWERING AND INFORMING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

2.1. The establishment of a state public health policy advisory council *

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Objective 1. To establish a state-level public health council, in conformity with ARS 36-109, to work with ADHS to address the public health needs of Arizona's people.

Objective 2. To ensure that the membership of the council is reflective of the diversity of the population of the state.

2.2. The development of the ability of rural communities to advocate for their public health needs.

Objective 1. To train communities to make their public health concerns known to their local representatives, both as individual citizens and through group meetings.

Objective 2. To advocate for increased resources for the underserved, for certified school nurses, for improved and new school based/school-linked clinics, etc.

Objective 3. To advocate for public health services to be made appropriately and fairly available throughout the state.

Objective 4. To support a rural delivery system that includes community-driven planning and decision-making with adequate resources for a strengthened public health infrastructure.

2.3. The establishment of an “academy without walls” to provide technical assistance and training for communities throughout the state.*

Objective 1. To obtain adequate resources to assure that training and technical assistance are made available, on both a local and regional basis, for communities and public health employees through an “academy without walls.”

Objective 2. To establish a clearinghouse of information within the academy on training opportunities throughout the state.

Objective 3. To encourage training in cultural sensitivity and competency to all health care providers who work with diverse populations.

Objective 4. To assure that training is provided on the national 2010 objectives with an emphasis on the reduction of disparities in health status.

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2.4. The improvement of public health systems in urban areas of the state.

Objective 1. To foster collaboration among community residents, state and local agencies, and public and private partners to assure that public health services are available to any urban resident and that barriers to access are minimized.

Objective 2. To increase cooperation between tribal health departments and urban health providers to ensure that all Native Americans receive needed services whether on the reservation or in the city.

GOAL 3. IMPROVED PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS OF COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND SOCIAL MARKETING

3.1. Improved dissemination of public health education and information

Objective 1. To establish a “Center for Health Education and Disease Prevention” to coordinate existing health education activities throughout the state and develop new programs to target areas and populations not being reached.

Objective 2. To promote the implementation of healthy aging, utilizing the “McArthur Foundation Model for Successful Aging” or other tested models to improve the health status of the population.

Objective 3. To plan for the development of a communications infrastructure that will strengthen ADHS communication internally and with its community partners, including the counties, tribes, other providers and the non-health sector.

Objective 4. To assure that announcements of available funding resources and grants are made available, in clear and simple language, to all counties, tribal health entities, health organizations and community groups.

Objective 5. To develop a guide to cultural diversity resources, resource materials and a library of references, reviewed by ethnic minority individuals, for public health and other practitioners, as well as communities to use for local capacity building.

3.2. Improved public interest and involvement in public health.

Objective 1. To develop a marketing plan to educate residents about public health issues in their own communities, including better strategies to publicize public health month in Arizona.

Objective 2. To survey the public as to its understanding of public health and its attitudes about the importance of public health to all individuals and communities.

3.3. An expanded use of technology to improve the state's communications systems.

Objective 1. To develop a strategic plan for the establishment of a state-wide telecommunications/telemedicine network which takes into account statewide health needs, the resources available to meet these needs and the potential partnerships and systems efficiencies needed to implement the plan.

Objective 2. To apply telecommunications techniques to enhance information sharing (chat rooms, listserves, distance learning and education and videoconferencing for meetings, site visits, grant negotiations, etc.)

Objective 3. To establish "centers for public health" in public libraries and reservation service centers, with appropriate training to facilitate internet access to populations throughout the state. *

Objective 4. To develop and publicize a public health web page to provide a central but widely accessible platform for a proposed "Arizona Public Health Information System" (APHIS).

GOAL 4. INCREASED COLLABORATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PARTNERSHIPS TO MEET FUTURE PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS

4.1. Strengthened relationships and increased communications with the tribes in the state.

Objective 1. To provide support to the tribes in their efforts to form an Arizona Native American Health Care Association.

Objective 2. To offer assistance to the tribes in improving their capacity to perform the core public health functions of assessment, policy development and assurance.

Objective 3. To assure that all public health staff receive training in the understanding of, and sensitivity to, Native American culture from recognized experts.

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4.2. Enhanced collaboration and coordination among public health, its partners, tribes and community agencies and organizations.

Objective 1. To conduct a broad-based review of all public health programs to evaluate collaborative activities, recommend needed improvements and build upon existing successful models.

Objective 2. To develop a collaborative network among health, public health and private partners, to include *Think Tank* groups, focus groups, and consumer participation at all levels of health planning and programming.

Objective 3. To collaborate with the Department of Education to re-establish and strengthen comprehensive school health education programs in the state's public schools and to assure the availability of certified school nurses in schools.

Objective 4. To fill the tribal liaison position within the ADHS director's Office, including a council to advise the position.

Objective 5. To restore staffing to the ADHS Office of Local and Minority Health to coordinate and oversee minority health activities.

4.3. Improved collaboration across county, state and international borders.

Objective 1. To elicit agreement that will ensure collaboration around services and the standardization of health care services across county, state, reservation and international borders.

Objective 2. To broker agreements between local and tribal public health agencies designed to establish common definitions of service and eligibility, promote integration and remove barriers to services among jurisdictions.

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