

COMMUNITY PARTNERS 2012

ACRE COALITION TO IMPROVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD
ACRE FAMILY
AFRICAN CENTER FOR MERRIMACK VALLEY
ALTERNATIVE HOUSE
ANNE SULLIVAN CENTER
ASIAN TASK FORCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
BILLERICA HOUSE OF CORRECTIONS
BILLERICA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER HEALTH NET PLAN
BRIDGEWELL/PATHFINDERS
CARSTAR
CAMBODIAN MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION
CENTER FOR HOPE AND HEALING
CENTERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION GROUP
CHELMSFORD BOARD OF HEALTH
CHRIST JUBILEE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
CITY OF LOWELL
COALITION FOR A BETTER ACRE
COMMUNITY TEAMWORK INC.
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES
D'YOUVILLE SENIOR CENTER
EASTERN BANK
ELDER SERVICES OF MERRIMACK VALLEY
FALLON COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN
GENESIS HEALTHCARE
GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS
GLENWOOD CARE AND REHAB
GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
GREATER LOWELL YMCA
HABIT OPCO, INC.
HALLMARK HEALTH
HANNAFORD-LOWELL
HEALTHY FUTURES
HOME AWAY FROM HOME
HOME HEALTH VNA
INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND RECOVERY
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LOWELL
LATIN AMERICAN HEALTH INSTITUTE
LIVING WATERS
LOWELL ADULT EDUCATION
LOWELL BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
LOWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
LOWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL
LOWELL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
LOWELL HOUSING AUTHORITY
LOWELL HOUSE, INC.
LOWELL NATIONAL PARKS
LOWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT
LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LOWELL SENIOR CENTER
LOWELL TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION
LOWELL TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER
LOWELL WIC
MARCH OF DIMES
MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE OF PORTUGUESE SPEAKERS (MAPS)
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH
MASS HEALTH OPERATIONS
MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF
CRUELTY TO CHILDREN
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF GREATER LOWELL
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MIDDLESEX SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MERRIMACK VALLEY AHEC
MERRIMACK VALLEY CATHOLIC CHARITIES
MERRIMACK VALLEY FOOD BANK
MERRIMACK VALLEY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.
MERRIMACK VALLEY TRAUMA SERVICES, INC.
MERRIMACK VALLEY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MILL CITY GROWS
MSPCC-HEALTHY FAMILIES
NETWORK HEALTH
NEXT STEP LIVING
NORTHEAST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
PAWTUCKETVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
POLISHED DENTAL
PRIDESTAR
PROJECT BEAM EARLY INTERVENTION
PROJECT BREAD
SENIOR WHOLE HEALTH
SERVINGS
SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME
SOLAMOR HOSPICE
SOUTH BAY EARLY INTERVENTION
SOUTH BAY MENTAL HEALTH
SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATEWIDE HEAD INJURY PROGRAM
STOP AND SHOP
SUNBRIDGE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
TEWKSBURY BOARD OF HEALTH
TEWKSBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT
TEWKSBURY STATE HOSPITAL
TOBACCO-FREE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
TOWN OF CHELMSFORD
TRINITY EMS
TYNGSBORO HEALTH DEPARTMENT
UNITED TEEN EQUALITY CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
UMASS LOWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT
VNA OF GREATER LOWELL
WESTFORD BOARD OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

2012



THANK YOU TO OUR 2011-2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NORMAND DESCHENE, Chair
President/CEO
Lowell General Hospital

CRAIG SLATIN, Clerk
Professor
University of Massachusetts Lowell

MICHELLE B. DAVIS
Interim Executive Director
Director of Marketing Operations
& Community Development
Lowell General Hospital

RASY AN
Executive Director
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Association

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Lowell Public Schools

DORCAS GRIGG-SAITO
CEO/President
Lowell Community Health Center

BERNARD LYNCH
City Manager
City of Lowell

JEREMIAH MENYONGAI
Pastor
Christ Jubilee International Ministries

SONITH PEOU
Director
METTA Health Center



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Joining as the new Executive Director of the Greater Lowell Health Alliance (GLHA) is a great honor and great responsibility. We are fortunate to build on the work that was initiated in 2005 when the Greater Lowell Health Alliance was established. The year ahead holds many exciting opportunities to strengthen our organization in the midst of great changes in the health care environment. Working collaboratively with our Executive Board, our Task Forces, our regional community leaders, and the public will make us successful in influencing healthier lifestyles.

Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, and community organizations that are a working part of the GLHA. With your ongoing dedication and support, we will continue improving the health of each community in our region. Our mission of sustaining a "collaborative coalition" would also not be possible without the region's longstanding public commitment and volunteerism. The outcomes from these united efforts will lead to new and more effective programs and services. These efforts are reflected in our first Strategic Planning Retreat, our updated Vision and Mission, and the formation of our new Steering Committee.

As the Community Health Network Area (CHNA) 10, a coalition of public, non-profit and private sectors, we sponsored the first Annual Northeast Regional CHNA Forum in May of 2012. This forum helped us establish stronger ties among the five regional CHNAs and resource sharing. We partnered with PLANET MassCONNECT of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard University to coordinate evidence-based trainings for the GLHA coalition members. We also strengthened our collaborations with local health and other safety departments, especially in the Towns of Chelmsford, Billerica and Tewksbury. This coming year, the GLHA will strive to gain greater visibility and enhance the trust among all our region's businesses and public leaders.

Our success in 2012 has been built from those who worked tirelessly to improve the many levels of public health in the region. Our vision forward will build upon this success with more proactive emphasis on "wellness" throughout our Task Force initiatives. Together we can continue to make a positive difference in the health of our loved ones, our friends, and our region. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Coughlin
Executive Director
Greater Lowell Health Alliance

CULTURAL COMPETENCY TASK FORCE



- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) created an Organizational Self-Assessment survey for businesses, agencies, and organizations in Greater Lowell and the Merrimack Valley that will help assess readiness and sensitivity toward working with LGBTQ identified clients, members, and/or patients.
- We held the first Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR); sponsored two film screenings followed by open discussion to bring awareness about LGBTQ communities
- Reintroduced CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) National Standards discussions with Task Force members to formulate ways to integrate standards in organizations and communities served
- The Bridging the Gap (BTG) medical interpreter training classes trained a total of 33 participants (compared to 25 in the previous year) in November 2011 and May 2012 for the following languages: Khmer, Portuguese, Lao, Spanish, Kiswahili, Russian, Indonesian, and French.

HEALTHY WEIGHT TASK FORCE



- Completed Community Health Assessment/CHANGE tool to gather baseline data around Healthy Eating and Active Living strategies
- Monthly health articles have been written for electronic distribution in the Greater Lowell region on nutrition and physical activity
- Participated as an Act Fresh Environments Support Health Campaign (Act FRESH) representative with a current focus on statewide public policy involving school nutrition standards
- Created and distributed a Physical Activity and Nutrition Resource guide (also available on the GLHA's website)
- Representatives from the task force joined the Chelmsford Wellness Advisory Committee

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH TASK FORCE

- Launched a toll free number with resources on Early and Adequate Prenatal Care to help gather data in order to define our next steps in addressing adequate care for pregnant women
- Coordinated our first community-wide Car Seat Safety Check-Up Event in April 2012 and collected car seats to benefit over 50 local families
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention sub-committee has distributed Parent Surveys in Portuguese, Spanish and Khmer, as well as completing a Community Mapping of Teen Pregnancy and community resources in Lowell to determine our future focus and direction



MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE



- Built a strong active membership comprising of over 15 organizations representing primary health care, behavioral health services, community based
- Successfully conducted a strategic planning process, in alignment with Healthy People 2020 Objectives, to identify the priority areas of increasing access to treatment and improving overall systems of care for persons with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders
- Collected baseline data regarding the demand for services impacted by having a dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse/use
- Identified two priority needs related to mental health and substance abuse/use for future action: advocacy and education for the Greater Lowell region

SUBSTANCE USE & PREVENTION TASK FORCE



- Changed Task Force name from ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs) to Substance use & Prevention in order to clarify the focus of the Task Force
- Expansion of partnership to include UMass Lowell, Tewksbury, and Dracut Police, as well as the Health Departments of Chelmsford, Lowell, Tewksbury and Westford
- Promotion of Unwanted Medical Disposal Days
- Promoted community efforts on dangers of tobacco, alcohol and other substances
- Supported passing of Tobacco Sale Ban in pharmacies throughout Lowell