Greater Lowell Health Alliance of the Community Health Network Area 10

2010 Annual Report

Working together to build healthier communities.

GLHA Member Organizations

African Center of Merrimack Valley
Alternative House
Anne Sullivan Center
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence
Billerica House of Corrections
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan
CAB Health and Recovery Services, Inc.
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Christmas Jubilee International Ministries
City of Lowell
Community Teamwork, Inc.
Department of Social Services
Department of Veteran Services
D'Youville Senior Care
Elder Services of Merrimack Valley
F.O.C.U.S. Program
Genesis HealthCare
Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts
Glenwood Care and Rehab
Greater Lowell YMCA
Home Away from Home
Home Health VNA
Institute for Health and Recovery
International Institute of Lowell
Latin American Health Institute
Lowell Community Health Center
Lowell General Hospital
Lowell Health Department
Lowell House, Inc.
Lowell Police Department
Lowell Public Schools
Lowell Senior Center
Lowell Transitional Living Center
Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)
Massachusetts Department of 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 Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Merrimack Valley Legal Services, Inc.
Merrimack Valley Trauma Services, Inc.
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board
Network Health
Northeast Center for Healthy Communities
ONE Lowell
Pawtucketville Neighborhood Association
Project BEAM Early Intervention
Project Bread
Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell
Saints Medical Center
Senior Whole Health
Sisters of Notre Dame
SolAmor Hospice
South Bay Mental Health
Spina Bifida Association of Massachusetts
Statewide Head Injury Program
SunBridge Healthcare Corporation
Tewksbury State Hospital
Town of Chelmsford
Trinity EMS
United Teen Equality Center
University of Massachusetts Lowell
VNA of Greater Lowell
Westford Board of Health

FY2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

Starting Balance $46,051.29
Income
  Grant Money $6,000.00
  DON Payments $25,953.45
Expenses
  Staff Support & Education $12,847.34
  GLHA Appreciation $106.00
  Food & Functions $1,049.46
  Office Supplies $208.74
  General Supplies $928.29
  Insurance & Legal Fees $2,794.00
  Books & Subscriptions $1,075.34
  Outside Professional Fees $1,510.00
  Printing $169.90
  Postage $21.28
  Travel $29.50
End Balance* $57,264.89

2011 Goals

• Increase membership to communities outside Lowell and encourage active representation on the task forces
• Expand education through social media
• Continue to seek grant funding opportunities
• Establish a task force to focus on Shaken Baby Syndrome
• Engage with UMass Lowell to develop a strategic plan with goals for each task force using findings from the community health needs assessment
• Increase participation in state-wide level with other Community Health Network Areas
• Expand education to youth and the senior population and increase our capacity to reach out to the immigrant communities

*Balance as of 8/31/2010
A Letter from the Executive Director

October 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

In the several years that the Greater Lowell Health Alliance (GLHA) has been in existence, profound changes have occurred. Currently, we have four task forces addressing the following health disparities: cultural competence, healthy weight, mental health, and tobacco prevention and cessation. We have grown to have a membership of over 275 members representing more than 70 organizations.

We are committed to bringing together individuals and organizations within the Greater Lowell community. This has strengthened our ability to collectively enrich our communities, network and share ideas with people with similar interest in building a healthier Greater Lowell community, and to gain more knowledge about health-related issues and topics than we would alone.

Moving forward with our mission, we will continue to identify and address healthcare issues facing the Greater Lowell community. By raising awareness and providing resources for our communities, schools, civic and business leaders, and healthcare providers, we empower them to make decisions and take actions that will lead to an improvement in the overall health of our communities.

The events of this past year have helped us stay on target as we move forward to promote the growth and success of the Greater Lowell Health Alliance. We have hired an administrative coordinator and will continue to work towards securing financing and grant opportunities for the future of the GLHA. We have begun to focus our priorities to address the unmet health needs of the community and align with the priorities of the state. To enhance our communication efforts, we expanded our weekly newsletter, updated our website, and have explored further options to promote the health alliance and upcoming events and programs.

While we face a long road ahead to address the health disparities in our community, we are pleased to share some good news! We invite you to read the stories of four remarkable task forces in this annual report. Each one has made significant progress over the past year and advanced innovative efforts that help people collaboratively improve the health of Greater Lowell. We have tremendous confidence in the creativity and resiliency of these task forces to continue their good work over the next several years. We look forward to working with you, and other partners, to continue to serve and advance our community.

Best regards,

Winfield Brown
Executive Director
Greater Lowell Health Alliance

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2009 - 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Winfield Brown, Executive Director
Lowell General Hospital

Bernard Lynch
City Manager

Carole A. Cowan
Middlesex Community College

Carole Jamina
The African Center of Merrimack Valley

Chris A. Scott
Lowell Public Schools

Craig Slatin
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Dorcas Grigg-Saito
Lowell Community Health Center

Kevin Coughlin
Saints Medical Center

M. Patricia Crane
Lowell Resident

Normand Deschené
Lowell General Hospital

Oscar Patiño
Latin American Health Institute

Rachel Chaddock
VNA of Greater Lowell

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Cultural Competence Task Force
Chairs: Mercy Anampiu and Sheila Och, Lowell Community Health Center

- Received $1,000 Greater Lowell Community Foundation grant to develop a community-wide campaign around unnatural causes to be carried out in 2011
- Expanded the Bridging the Gap Interpreter Training Program to provide up to 5 scholarships each session for individuals from member organizations of the GLHA, which has increased the language capacity of trained interpreters in Greater Lowell to now include Nepali and Arabic
- Compiled a comprehensive list of GLHA organizations who utilize interpreter services in order to help individuals who complete the Bridging the Gap training find volunteer and employment opportunities
- The GLHA has representation by several members of Cultural Competence Task Force on the newly formed Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender and Questioning (GLBTQ) task force, as we continue to expand our definition of culture to provide culturally competent care to all

Mental Health Task Force
Chair: Sheila Och, Lowell Community Health Center

- Received over $25,000 through a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation focused on depression education and screenings. This enabled us to award mini-grants to the Latin American Health Institute, Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, and Christ Jubilee Ministries. Task force members and grant recipients also participate in quarterly state-wide Learning Communities
- Established quarterly forums for organizations to collaborate around the topic of depression in our immigrant communities
- Currently in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of mental health resources that will be distributed throughout the community
- Working with the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness subcommittee on behavioral health

Healthy Weight Task Force
Chairs: Deirdra Murphy, University of Massachusetts Lowell and Margaret Wandrey, Lowell General Hospital

- Developed monthly articles on healthy weight topics that are distributed to various organizations and are available in multiple languages
- In partnership with Lowell General Hospital and the University of Massachusetts Lowell, members of the task force received an American Heart Association (AHA) grant for a pediatric create your weight program which ran with 10 children and their families in the fall of 2009 for 10 weeks
- Attended the Merrimack Valley Food Bank’s community market bi-weekly throughout the summer to provide information on nutrition for children
- Joined forces with the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and increase food security and are working on a plan to conduct a food assessment of Lowell
- Participated in the annual wellness fair at the Lowell Public Schools providing information on healthy weight and physical activity
- Conducted a food drive for the Merrimack Valley Food Bank and successfully collected 250 pounds of food

Tobacco Prevention and Smoking Cessation Task Force
Chairs: Julie Brodie, Lowell General Hospital and Chris Morin, Lowell Health Department

- Successfully presented tobacco prevention program to 21 5th grade classrooms during the 2009-2010 school year at Lowell Public Schools with an average percent gain of 19% (using pre- and post- test results)
- Expanding the tobacco prevention program in 2010-2011 to include teacher evaluation surveys and resource packets
- Received $5,000 TeamWish for CancerCare grant to provide additional staff support for and expand the 5th grade tobacco prevention program outside of the Lowell Public School system
- Participated in a training for the Police and Community Together (PACT)-360 educational and awareness program, which is designed to help communities, parents and law enforcement appreciate the importance in preventing and responding to substance abuse