Improving Population Health by Working with Communities: Action Guide

Kim Ibarra, National Quality Forum
Laura Ross-White, Community Service Council of Tulsa
Silas Buchanan, The Institute for eHealth Equity
Cynthia Andrews, Oberlin Community Services

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Objectives

- Explain the importance of collaborating to improve population health
- Identify elements for success for working together to improve population health
- Demonstrate how the Action Guide can be used by communities
What is the National Quality Forum?

The National Quality Forum’s (NQF) mission is to lead national collaboration to improve health and healthcare quality through measurement.

NQF **leads, prioritizes** and **collaborates** to drive measurable improvements in health and healthcare.
Action Guide to Improve Population Health by Working with Communities

- To support working together at local, state and national levels to improve population health
The Action Guide includes:

- Definitions of important terms
- Ten elements for making lasting improvements in population health
- Ideas for actions to take
- Examples and links to practical resources
Definitions of Important Terms

**Population Health:** The health of a population, including how health outcomes and disparities are distributed across the population.

**Population:** All individuals in a specified geopolitical area.

**Health:** A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
Ten Elements for Making Lasting Improvements in Population Health

- Collaborative Self-Assessment
- Leadership Across the Region and Within Organizations
- Audience-Specific Strategic Communication
- Community Health Needs Assessment and Asset Mapping Process
- Organizational Planning and Priority-Setting Process
- Agreed-Upon, Prioritized Set of Health Improvement Activities
- Selection and Use of Measures and Performance Targets
- Joint reporting on Progress Toward Achieving Intended Results
- Indications of scalability
- A plan for sustainability
Collaborative Self-Assessment

Community Health Needs Assessment & Asset Mapping

Leadership
Strategic Communication
Scalability
Sustainability

Joint Reporting
Planning & Priority Setting
Measures & Performance Targets
Agreed-Upon Health Improvement Activities
Ideas for Actions to Take Example
Testing the Guide in the Field

- Community Service Council of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK
- Oberlin Community Services and The Institute for eHealth Equity, Oberlin, OH
- Colorado Cross-Agency Collaborative, Denver, CO
- Designing a Strong and Healthy NY (DASH), New York, NY
- Empire Health Foundation, Spokane, WA
- Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement, Charleston, WV
- Geneva Tower Health Collaborative, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Michigan Health Improvement Alliance, Saginaw, MI
- Trenton Health Team, Inc., Trenton, NJ
- The University of Chicago Medicine Population Health Management Transformation, Chicago, IL
Select Resources in the Action Guide Related to America Walks Work

- **The Blue Zones Project**: encourages individuals and community members to aspire to health lifestyle ideals
- **Let’s Move**: online resources on how to play a role in preventing and reducing childhood obesity
- **Moving Health**: tools and resources to help transportation professionals and health practitioners identify and address the health impacts of transportation
- **YMCA Healthier Communities Initiatives**: resources for promoting healthier communities, including a guide to linking policy and environmental strategies to health outcomes