



United Way
of Lancaster County

VISION:

We will be a key catalyst to improve lives.

MISSION:

To build a stronger Lancaster County by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

VALUES:

We are committed to building relationships-- seeking truthfulness, acting with compassion and respect, valuing fairness and fun and working accountably.

We are committed to being leaders-- seeking inclusiveness, acting with altruism, valuing innovation and working to impact our community.

Partnership for a County Public Health Department

**Steering Committee Members
(2005-2010)**

Volunteers

Sally L. Craig, DO – Penn State; Elizabethtown Board of Health

Lamonte Garber – Environmental Consultant

Vincent Glielmi, DO – Ephrata Community Hospital

Sharon Greelish Cody, Esq – Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation

Marla Konas – Lancaster Regional Health

Robert Krissinger, MD – retired

Jim Laughman – Lancaster County Human Services

Jo Ann Lawer, Esq – Lancaster General Hospital

Jeff Martin, MD – Lancaster City Board of Health

Albert Price, MD – retired

Susan Scott (& Jennifer Thompson) – St. Joseph Health Ministries

Beverly Shank – Lancaster County Medical Society

Carol Simpson – Manheim Township Commissioner

Charles Stream, PA-C – Drexel University

Nikitas Zervanos, MD – semi-retired

Staff

Susan Eckert – President, United Way of Lancaster County

Hilda Shirk, PhD – Project Manager

Support for County Health Department

Funding Partners

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster General Health
Lancaster Osteopathic Health Foundation
St. Joseph Health Ministries
United Way of Lancaster County

Endorsement Letters

Healthcare Providers

South East Lancaster Health Services
LGH Family Medicine Residency
Walter L. Aument Family Health Center
Lancaster Neuroscience & Spine Associates
Stephen T. Olin, MD
Welsh Mountain Medical and Dental Center
Schreiber Pediatric Rehab Center Lancaster
Emergency Medical Services Association

Community Organizations

Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce
National Committee for Amish Religious Freedom
League of Women Voters
Hourglass Foundation
Lancaster Health Improvement Partnership
Lancaster County Immunization Coalition
Lancaster County School Nurses Association
Project Access Lancaster County
Lancaster County Business Group on Health
Lancaster City and County Medical Society
Lancaster Area Advanced Practice Providers
Mennonite Central Committee US

Other

School District of Lancaster
City of Lancaster, Office of the Mayor
Lancaster City Board of Health
Joyce A. Nettke, Esquire
Lamonte Garber, Environmental Consultant
Prof. Richard Fluck, F&M
Elizabethtown Borough

Why Do We Need a New Plan for Public Health In Lancaster County

Over the past five years, a group of concerned residents has considered the question, "Does Lancaster County need a local public health department?" We have talked with people around the county, the region, and the state in order to understand the needs and opportunities involved. We have become convinced that the ability to make decisions locally would benefit Lancaster County. With a local public health department, we would be much better positioned to address quickly and effectively concerns such as toxic lead levels in children, illnesses from vaccine-preventable diseases, H1N1, air pollution, and high death rates from stroke, asthma, and melanoma.

A Steering Committee was formed by numerous physicians, medical organizations and others interested in implementing the ideas generated by the Drexel study. A Project Manager was hired to research and develop a plan that would bring the right public health services to Lancaster County, based on current needs and fiscal realities. The Steering Committee studied the process for creating a local department with hopes of gaining the support of the County Commissioners to pass a resolution.

The intent of the Steering Committee was to gain the support of the County Commissioners to pass a resolution to create a county public health department. In February 2007, the Board of Commissioners requested and received a Certificate of Approval from the PA Department of Health, granting the county permission to establish a county health department, if it so chose. However, with a change in members of the Board and the subsequent downturn of the economy, establishing a department was no longer an option for the County.

The Steering Committee was challenged to search for other ways of addressing the gaps in delivery of public health services. Using the momentum already in force and strong community interest, the concept of a private/public partnership surfaced, with the hope that someday the effort to create a county department can resume.

A new entity emerged - Partnership for Public Health in Lancaster County - with the following goals:

- Centralize public health information, research, and concerns
- Convene information, people, and funding to address public health priorities
- Disseminate public health information
- Coordinate efforts and resources to address public health priorities
- Document barriers to effective delivery of public health services
- Assure that state provided public health services align with the needs of Lancaster County
- Demonstrate the importance and efficacy of the need for an organized approach to address county-wide public health needs and priorities