PLAN4Health – Miami Valley

A Planning for Health Initiative

Why We Should Plan for Health

Planning and public health are intrinsically linked. Planning originated with a public health focus, and health and safety are primary tenets of the practice today.

The Population Health Model shows that clinical care only factors in to 20% of overall health outcomes. The remaining 80% is attributed to social and economic factors, health behaviors, and the physical environment. These are all elements that can be influenced through planning.

A healthy community does not happen by accident. It requires a comprehensive approach covering aspects of social, physical, and economic conditions. Creating environments that promote healthy behaviors and improve health outcomes in our communities would require further collaboration and partnerships between planners and public health professionals.

PLAN4Health - Miami Valley

PLAN4Health - Miami Valley is a multi-year effort with a focus on projects and programs intended to:

• Promote and advocate for “Health in All Plans and Policies”
• Convene and engage partners to improve conditions that are known to be key determinants of health
• Advance planning efforts aimed at creating conditions for healthy people and communities

PLAN4Health - Miami Valley builds on recent joint efforts between the American Planning Association and American Public Health Association known as the PLAN4Health model. This model and its associated resources will be leveraged to advance planning for health in the Region.

This initiative does not seek to develop a regional health plan or duplicate activities undertaken by local public health departments. Likewise, this effort is not a health equity initiative; however this topic will be included as appropriate. A list of proposed projects for this initiative are described on the back page.
Proposed Projects

PLAN4Health - Miami Valley achieves the goal of healthy people and communities through a set of projects that are geared towards information sharing, capacity building, and generating collaborative solutions. Projects are slated for near-, mid-, and long-term implementation. Additional projects may be included as the project evolves.

Near-Term: Understanding Where We Are

- Using the Social Determinants of Health model, the Health Environment Assessment will examine where the Region stands on key determinants of health.
- The Built Environment Assessment will evaluate current conditions for active living. This assessment will identify locations to focus resources to improve active living conditions to improve health outcomes.
- In collaboration with local health departments, the Community Health Assessment Mapping project will compile and map out a range of health GIS data at the sub-county level.

Mid-Term: Identifying Barriers and Opportunities

- The Plan Audit and Needs Assessment will review existing plans, such as comprehensive and land use plans, and identify barriers and opportunities for cross-sector collaboration for embedding health into the planning process.

Long-Term: Seeking Solutions and Building Capacity

- The Healthy Communities Planning Toolkit will curate resources for planners and public health professionals to help advice health outcomes throughout the Region.
- Building on insights and capacity gained in earlier projects, the Healthy Communities Roundtable series will facilitate connections and seek collaborative working opportunities between health and planning professionals.