

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: LEARNING FROM THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY DURHAM



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9/30/2016

Partnership History

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This document provides supplemental information for the study *Building Healthy Communities: Learning from the Partnership for a Healthy Durham*. This supplemental report provides additional details about the history of the Partnership for a Healthy Durham. For a list of all study-related reports see Appendix A.

Partnership History

As detailed on the Partnership for a Healthy Durham’s website, the Partnership has been housed at the Durham County Department of Public Health since 2004. Beginning in June 2004, Durham County Commissioners and the Durham City Council launched a community-wide Results-Based Accountability project designed to strategically improve the quality of life in the community¹. This community-wide project included a health workgroup led by Gayle Harris, (who is currently the Director of the Durham County Department of Public Health) with MaryAnn Black, who was then the Chair of the Durham County Commissioners. At the time, applicants for county health funds had to be connected to a Results-Based Accountability group. This created an opportunity to connect the Partnership to funding and resulted in a significant incentive for participation in the Partnership. The organization expanded to include more lead administrators from non-governmental organizations, in addition to community members and health department staff.

Outlined in online resources is the lengthy history of the Partnership for a Healthy Durham. In December 2006, the Partnership worked together with Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods)², the Latino Community Credit Union, and Durham Health Partners to advocate for and develop a strategy for improved access to specialty medical services for the low-income uninsured population in Durham County. Working together with local stakeholders, referencing the existing program Project Access of Buncombe County³, North Carolina, and focusing on specialty services, Project Access of Durham County was developed. Leaders and partners from Duke University Health System, Lincoln Community Health Center, and Durham County Department of Public Health committed to helping generate sustainable funding and provided space for this program. Durham County Government as well as private foundations help to provide funds to support staff and pay for prescription medication and transportation to appointments. Project Access was designed to operate efficiently with a small paid staff to support donated care by a much larger group of clinicians. Specialty care services are donated by participating community providers. The strong collaboration between health care organizations and community members which resulted in Project Access is supported by the Partnership for a Healthy Durham Access to Care committee.

¹ City of Durham Goals & FY 2010-11 Major Initiatives. (2010). Retrieved from Durham, NC: <http://durhamnc.gov/documentcenter/view/533>).

² For more information on Durham CAN, visit <http://www.durhamcan.org/>

³ For more information on Project Access of Buncombe County, visit <http://www.mywcms.org/projectaccess>

The Partnership Obesity and Chronic Illness committee coordinates efforts focused on increasing opportunities for physical activity for under-served communities. Based on findings from the community health assessment, the committee established “Healthy Mile Trails” in underserved communities during 2013. Two trails were completed in 2013 with the first in collaboration with the Historic Stokesdale Neighborhood Council and the second trail in the Holton School area. Subsequent trails have been completed since that time. Durham County Play Streets events are also oriented toward under-served communities. These events serve downtown neighborhoods by opening the streets to physical activity. Initially started by Clean Energy Durham and the local transit authority, then later managed by Partnership for a Healthy Durham members, the Play Streets events use community volunteers to provide activities and healthy food during weekend festivals. Funding has been sustained due to collaborative efforts, and in 2012, Partnership for a Healthy Durham and Clean Energy Durham collaborators received a grant from Partnerships for America’s Health to continue support for these events. Shortly after, the City of Durham took over Play Streets and renamed the events Bull City Open Streets.

In 2014, Durham County was a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize⁴. The RWJF Culture of Health Prize “*honors communities which place a high priority on health and bring partners together to drive local change.*” Communities apply for the prize and those selected receive a no-strings attached \$25,000 cash prize. The funds were provided to the Partnership for a Healthy Durham by which they sought mini-grant applications from its committees and in July 2015 allocated its Culture of Health Prize funds to four projects. The projects selected promote health and equity around Durham’s health priorities and align with Partnership for a Healthy Durham’s committee action plans. The details regarding the RWJF mini-grant projects, their provisions/scope and the accomplishments of each are provided in a supplemental report (see Appendix A for details).

⁴ For RWJF award announcement and Durham County submission video, visit <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/articles-and-news/2014/06/coh-prize-durham-nc.html>

APPENDICES

Appendix A: List of Study-Related Reports

Listed below are study-related reports provided to the Partnership for a Healthy Durham by FHI 360 members of the study team. These reports include a main study report along with four supplemental reports containing expanded details on study methods, the history of the Partnership, descriptions and accomplishments of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize mini-grants, and additional study findings (i.e., analysis of conceptual frameworks).

1. Building Healthy Communities: Learning from the Partnership for a Healthy Durham
2. Building Healthy Communities: Learning from the Partnership for a Healthy Durham – Expanded Study Methods
3. Building Healthy Communities: Learning from the Partnership for a Healthy Durham – Partnership History
4. Building Healthy Communities: Learning from the Partnership for a Healthy Durham – RWJF mini-grant descriptions and accomplishments
5. Building Healthy Communities: Learning from the Partnership for a Healthy Durham – Partnership Framework