



SUMMARY SHEET

WHAT IS THE COALITION?

We are a local coalition of individuals and organizations in the public, non-profit, and private sectors in Worcester, Paxton, West Boylston, Boylston, Shrewsbury, Leicester, Millbury, Auburn, Grafton, and Holden.

Our mission is to promote the shared learning, reflection, and broad engagement that improves community decision-making, health, and well-being for residents of Greater Worcester.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Hundreds of individuals and organizations, including schools, colleges, faith-based, and businesses, are involved in the Coalition's work, and our hope is to continue to engage a broad cross-section of those who live or work in Greater Worcester.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

The Coalition brings people and organizations together around health issues that affect quality of life in the region. We raise awareness, create opportunities for networking, and support finding solutions. We develop, implement, and evaluate initiatives, events, projects and policies that address areas of common interest to members. Our hope is to mobilize the community to advocate for health in all policies and ensure implementation through effective program models and best practices.

One key initiative of which we are a part is the 2016 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The Coalition is working in partnership with the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance and nearly 100 other partner organizations and agencies toward implementation of the CHIP over the next 3-5 years. The plan has 1 overarching goal of healthy equity, with 3 core principles, 9 overarching aims, 31 measurable objectives, and 100 actionable strategies.

WHAT IS THE COALITION'S ROLE IN CHIP IMPLEMENTATION?

We hold shared responsibility with the Worcester Department of Public Health/Central Massachusetts Regional Department of Public Health for implementation of the 2016 Community Health Improvement Plan, working together to build a healthy community, with the goal of healthy equity. Our role is to ensure continuous community engagement that it is universally inclusive and representative of the diverse organizations, agencies, and residents of the region. We provide a mechanism for funding toward CHIP initiatives, and we build accountability by tracking and evaluating progress toward outcomes.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Coalition is led by a Steering Committee of representatives from public health, health care, and social service and other non-profit organizations. Four subcommittees provide strategic and operational support and guidance in community engagement, resource and development, research and evaluation, and policy and advocacy. Work groups in each of nine priority areas meet quarterly to report on progress and share best practices. The Coalition provides structure and tools for communication, collaboration, and reporting.

WHAT DO THE SUBCOMMITTEES DO?

Community Engagement: This subcommittee builds and maintains community engagement in Coalition activities and CHIP implementation, ensuring participation that it is inclusive and representative of the diverse organizations and residents of the region.

Policy and Advocacy: This subcommittee reviews the system and policy barriers to implementation of CHIP strategies. The committee also works to engage in activities to influence decision makers and mobilize allies at the policy level.

Research and Evaluation: This subcommittee develops a structure for qualitative and quantitative research, evaluating progress toward outcomes, including methods for participating organizations to report back and for community members to provide feedback.

Resource and Development: This subcommittee creates a process for grant-making and makes decisions about allocation and disbursement of funds for CHIP-specific initiatives, in addition to pursuing funding opportunities and building strategy for sustainability of the Coalition.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE OR BECOME INVOLVED?

Visit www.healthygreaterworcester.org or email info@healthygreaterworcester.org. Information on ways to get involved, sign-up for our e-newsletter "The Coalition Connection", and CHIP in! forms for both individuals and organizations are available on our website.