



Population Health Think Tank: Building Collaborations to Improve Community Health

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Session objectives

- Describe one model for collaboration between a COM and local organizations to identify and address health challenges in the surrounding area
- Identify ways COMs and their students can contribute to larger efforts to improve health on a population level
- Discuss reasonable time frames for development of trusting relationships and population-level health impacts



Population Health Think Tank

- Informal group convened in 2014 by CUSOM Dean and local hospital CEO
- Gathering of health professions faculty, community physicians, local hospital leadership, and representatives of local agencies



Who We Are

University

- Medical school
- PA program
- School of Public Health
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Nursing
- School of Business
- Divinity school

Community

- Harnett Health administration and physician
- County Health Department
- Harnett County Schools
- Mental Health facility
- Foundation for Health Leadership



What We Have Done

- Meet 2-4 times per year (90 minutes)
- Reviewed
 - Routine County Health Assessments
 - NC DHHS/DPH annual report to NCMS
- Discussed grants/projects in progress
- Connected with local faith-based efforts (Pastor's Health Summit)
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What We Have Done

- Engaged PH students in assessment
 - Identify high utilizers of local EDs
 - Interviews for Community Health Assessment
- Created a needs summary, identified priorities for action
- Involved health professions student groups
 - Preventive Health Club



What We've Accomplished

- Relationships!
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Mutual understanding and good will



Challenges

- Limited resources
 - Time
 - Money
 - People?
- Innovation vs. joining with others
- Big project vs. multiple smaller projects





Lessons Learned

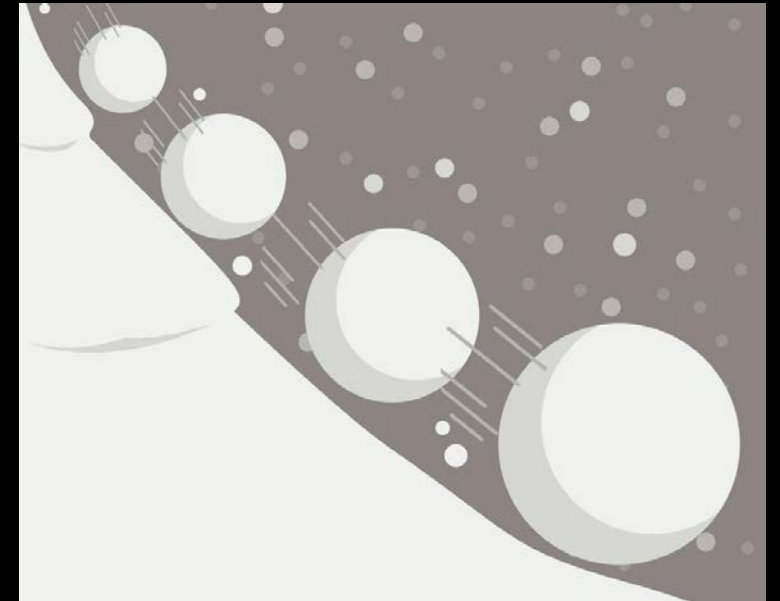
- Continued dialogue is worthwhile
- Building relationships just as important as moving forward on a project
- Flexibility is essential
 - Broad invitations
 - Variable engagement





Lessons Learned

- Involving students not easy
 - Training
 - Supervision
 - Connection to curriculum
- Progress is slow
 - Don't give up!





Next Steps

- Investigating grant opportunities
 - Collaboration on applications
- Exploring models for action
- Continue the discussions!
 - Unanimous desire to keep meeting



Questions?

