

May 20, 2012
FOR RELEASE

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Monona County Community Alliance
Moving Forward
Community Partnership and Leadership Team Take Shape

After months of preparatory work by dedicated members, the Monona County Community Alliance (MCCA) has evolved to a community group with a leadership team. A group of Monona County residents, made up of business people, education leaders, community and faith leaders, government officials and others, were recently elected by MCCA membership to the group's newly created steering committee. The mission: to take a broad-based community approach to better health.

"The goal is to address our county's most pressing health issues in an inclusive and well-informed way," said Ken Johnson, Administrator of Monona County Public Health. "That way, problems can be solved with the participation of the whole community — public sector, private sector and individuals — using accurate and current information."

County residents participating in MCCA have been working together for several years to improve health outcomes. Most recently, the group has provided community leadership to reduce the prevalence of smoking and to prevent and/or reduce adolescent alcohol abuse. Many of these same members also participated in the 2010-11 Monona County Community Health Needs Assessment. Their participation in surveys, focus groups or key informant interviews as part of a series of county health assessments conducted by public health resulted in the groundwork for the identification of priority health issues in Monona County.

MCCA will use MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) to improve county health. MAPP is a strategic planning model developed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

"MAPP focuses on community partnerships, and we are pleased and grateful to have a great variety of sectors represented on our steering committee," said Geri Johnson, community leader and long time MCCA member. "It will take more than just the Health Department alone to bring about the kind of lasting change our community needs."

MCCA Steering Committee members are:

Kathy Boehm, Ad Manager, Mapleton Press,
Mahlon Carothers, Elementary Principal, MVAO Community School,
Tim Coyle, Manager, Vaughn Foods (Fiesta); City Council Member
Diane Foss, Executive Director, HMS Early Childhood Iowa
Geri Johnson, Community Leader
Aaron Pier, Youth Minister, Whiting Christian Church
Dr. Jennifer Schenne, Burgess Family Clinic - Mapleton
Fran Tramp, President, Burgess Health Center

Upcoming MCCA plans include developing a 2012-14 Monona County Health Improvement Plan — to look ahead and identify forces that could influence Monona County’s health and to consolidate resources to solve community and personal health issues. The MCCA Steering Committee will use the plan to prioritize and formulate specific action plans for improving health in Monona County.

As they move through this planning process, MCCA members are optimistic about making lasting changes.

“Our belief is that everyone has an important role to play in health and quality of life, said Fran Tramp, Burgess Health Center president and member of the Steering Committee. “We feel this far-reaching partnership will be the key to the county’s success in the long term.”

For more information about the Monona County Community Alliance and its Leadership Team, visit <http://mononacountypublichealth.org>

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