

St. Clair County Health Care Commission

Our Mission and Vision

We are a collaborative public health system that mobilizes resources to meet identified health needs and promote the health and well-being of all of the residents of St. Clair County.

We do this to enable St. Clair County to be among the healthiest counties in America by the Year 2020.

Since 1991, the Commission has worked to develop and strengthen the collective capacity of our efforts and expertise to assess and address the public health needs of the citizens of St. Clair County. Along the way, we have not only increased our membership fourfold, but have been recognized as a statewide and national model for collaboration.

History of the St. Clair County Health Care Commission

The establishment of St. Clair County's community-based participation in public health assessment and planning emanated out of the formation of the St. Clair County Health Department in 1986. Then County Board Chairman, Jerry Costello, with support of the elected County Board members, appointed a public health task force of community health and civic leaders to hold public hearings on the need for an outer county Health Department. Based upon community input, the County Board established the

Health Department through ordinance, in October 1985. This foundation of community participation was built upon with the appointment of the Board of Health.

The Board of Health, recognizing a key community problem of an alarmingly high infant mortality rate established a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Committee in 1987. This committee served as a vehicle for bringing together representatives from the medical providers, area hospitals, public health agencies, and local educators. Their mission was to assess the problem, coordinate resources, and develop strategies to reduce infant mortality.

As the MCH committee deliberated on solutions to the infant mortality problem, it became abundantly clear that the risk factors that contributed to this major health problem in St. Clair County were also contributing risk factors for other serious problems. The county infant mortality rate served as a "window" through which the MCH Committee peered and identified many other factors that served as an indicator of the health status of the larger community. Access to care, self-responsibility, medical liability, and other problems were all identified as contributing to not only infant mortality, but a myriad of other health problems as well. Based upon this broader view, the Board of Health advocated the establishment of a County Health Care Commission. John Baricevic, then County Board Chairman, embraced the concept of an officially appointed local health care planning group and formed the Commission in May 1991.

THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH CARE COMMISSION INCLUDED:

- Chairman of the Board of Health's MCH Committee,
- Chief Executive Office of each of the four hospitals located in St. Clair County,
- President of the Medical Society,
- Program Director SIU School of Medicine Family Practice,
- Obstetrical nurse managers at three hospitals which provide obstetrical services,
- Public Health Administrator of East Side Health District,
- Public Health Administrator of St. Clair County Health Department.

In 1994, the Commission began an ongoing and long-range strategic planning process to assess community health needs and develop collaborative plans to establish goals and objectives for service delivery and health improvement. These efforts have produced a dynamic array of community health assessment and planning projects that have culminated each year into a series of partnership forums (listed on the opposite page):



COMMISSION PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIP FORUMS

- 1994 – Community Health Assessment & Planning Project (IPLAN Round 1)
- 1998 – An Assessment on the Health of Our Community (Forum)
- 1999 – Community Health Assessment & Planning Project (IPLAN Round 2)
- 2001 – Moving Forward in the 21st Century (Forum)
- 2002 – Building Healthy Community Partnerships (Forum)
- 2002 – St. Clair County Comprehensive Youth “At Risk” Needs Assessment
- 2003 – An Assessment of Asthma for the Greater St. Louis Metro East Area
- 2003 – Improving Health for ALL of the Community – Eliminating Health Disparities (Forum)
- 2004 – Addressing the Public Health Concerns of Diabetes (Forum)
- 2005 – Stop the Epidemic of Childhood Obesity (Forum)
- 2006 – Disaster Preparedness Assessment for Persons with Special Needs
- 2006 – Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership Assessment & Planning Project (IPLAN Round 3)
- 2006 – Real Teens, Real Issues, Real Solutions! (Forum)
- 2007 – IPLAN Year in Review Workshop Using the Six Thinking Hats (Forum)
- 2007 – Get Up & Go! – A County-wide Health and Wellness Campaign (Forum)
- 2008 – Maintaining Collaborative Community Health Partnerships Using Open Space Technology (Forum)
- 2009 – 1st Annual Health Policy Summit – Theme: Active Living (Forum)
- 2010 – 2nd Annual Health Policy Summit – Theme: Food Deserts and Nutrition (Forum)
- 2011 – 3rd Annual Health Policy Summit – Theme: Creating Safe Communities for Healthy Living (Forum)
- 2011 – Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership Assessment & Planning Project (IPLAN Round 4)
- 2012 – 4th Annual Health Policy Summit – Theme: Collective Impact
- 2013 – 5th Annual Health Policy Summit – Theme: Building Connections for Healthy Minds, Bodies & Communities
- 2014 – 6th Annual Health Policy Summit – Theme: The Changing Healthcare Landscape
- 2015 – 7th Annual Health Policy Summit – Theme: Embracing a Culture of Health

For over twenty-four years, the Commission has invited many appointed and affiliate organizations to work together for health. Currently the Commission has 16 appointed organizations with an additional 25 that serve as active affiliate organizations and coalitions.

HEALTH CARE COMMISSION APPOINTED* & AFFILIATE MEMBERS, YEARS 1991-2016

- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- Area Agency on Aging
- Arthritis Foundation
- Asthma Coalition for the Greater St. Louis Metro East Area
- BASIC Initiative
- Call For Help
- East Side Health District*
- Gateway Region YMCA*
- Get Up & Go! Inc.
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois Public Health Institute
- Illinois Public Health Assoc.–AmeriCorp Program
- Lindenwood University*
- LINC, Inc.
- March of Dimes
- McKendree University*
- Memorial Hospital*
- MidAmerica Public Health Training Center
- Programs & Services for Older Persons*
- Regional Office of Education*
- Scott Air Force Base*
- St. Clair County Health Department*
- St. Clair County Housing Authority
- St. Clair County Medical Society*
- St. Clair County Mental Health Board*
- St. Clair County Office on Aging*
- St. Clair County Transit District
- St. Clair County Youth Coalition
- St. Elizabeth’s Hospital*
- Southwest Illinois College
- Southern IL Health Care Foundation*
- Southern Illinois University, School of Nursing*
- Southwest Illinois HIV/AIDS Coalition
- Touchette Regional Hospital*
- University of Illinois Cooperative Extension
- Violence Prevention Center
- Willard C. Scrivner, MD Public Health Foundation

These Commission members serve as a nucleus of health professionals to assess community needs and collaborate on strategies for success. Additionally, the Commission extends community participation beyond health professionals. This includes consumers, educators, business representatives, parent groups, media representatives, and community based organization representatives through other alliances and coalitions. In this manner, more comprehensive views are included in the assessment, policy development, and assurance functions.