

HEALTHY TOMORROWS

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Health Information Technology Part II: State of the State

On October 29, 2004 the **Center for Healthy Communities**, in partnership with the **Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO)** and **Ohio Kepto**, sponsored the first **Ohio Health Information**

Technology Summit. The purpose of the Summit was to share information about what was happening with HIT across the state of

Ohio, and to begin the dialogue about developing Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs). William Hayes, President of HPIO opened the meeting and Kate Cauley, PhD, served as emcee. The keynote presentation was made by the Honorable Jonathan C. Javitt, MD, MPH, Chair, Health Subcommittee, President's Information Technology Advisory Committee, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President. Dr. Javitt's address was titled *Revolutionizing Health Care through Information Technology*. Over twenty Universities, hospitals, state agencies, and physicians groups from were made from all parts of the state gave presentations demonstrating strong interest and support of HIT adoption efforts in Ohio.

To highlight, a physician at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine is working with hospitals and physician practices in the Cleveland area on a project that uses health information technology to study diabetes treatment, with a goal of establishing a disease management program for patients. Case Western is using a health information technology called Epic developed by a large vendor currently assisting several hospitals in the Cleveland area. Faculty from Ohio University are working with the National Library of Medicine to develop a common information system to benefit the Appalachian community. The Ohio State University College of Nursing is developing an application for their



learning lab that will foster practice in the use of a clinical information systems bedside. Presentations by the Office of Medicaid Policy at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Mental Health described current planning processes for increased use of HIT. For CHC, Mary Crimmins presented on the HIEx system and how it is being used in the Dayton area. All of the presentations may be accessed through HPIO's website at <http://www.healthpolicyohio.org/OHHIT/Index.html>

In Montgomery County there are a number of additional HIT efforts underway. For example, Premier Health Partners is working with Epic to develop what is called an enterprise system, meaning that all parts of the Premier Health Partners enterprise will be electronically linked and coordinated. Through the Office of the Montgomery County Administrator, a project called AgencyLink is being developed that will provide an electronic management information system for all county funded programs. The Veteran's Administration uses VISTA to store electronic health records for patients across the country.

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The Center for Healthy Communities is a community-academic partnership committed to improving the health and well-being of the community and enhancing health professions education.

Our partners include: the Dayton community; Wright State University Schools of Medicine and Professional Psychology, the Department of Social Work, College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Nursing and Health; Sinclair Community College Division of Allied Health Technologies and Division of Extended Learning and Human Services; Dayton Public Schools; Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority; Kettering Medical Center Network; Premier Health Partners; the Combined Health District of Montgomery County; many community and regional health, human services and faith-based organizations, and local and state governments.

In addition to the direct and in-kind support provided by our academic partners, the Center is funded through the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), Montgomery County Children Services Board, Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health, Planned Parenthood of the Greater Miami Valley, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Health Awareness and Fun: 4th Annual African American Wellness Walk

*by Dionne M. Henderson, Kinship Caregiver Coalition
Program Director, Center for Healthy Communities*

Saturday, August 21, 2004 marked the **Fourth Annual African American Wellness Walk**. Hundreds of participants gathered at RiverScape MetroPark to raise awareness of

the top two killers of African Americans: heart disease and stroke. According to the American Heart Association, these two health problems are more prevalent in African Americans, but many of the risk factors associated with them can be controlled through lifestyle changes.

Presented by the American Heart Association, the Health Dayton Coalition, and the Center for Healthy Communities, the African American Wellness

Walk provided a non-threatening forum for health education on a number of issues including physical activity, nutrition, obesity, and the effects of smoking. The Wellness Walk attracted over 800 participants. The day's events consisted of a 1-to-3 mile non-competitive walk, health screenings, entertainment, and activities for children. Heart-healthy snacks were provided for the participants along with other giveaways from the many vendors who were present at the event. The event was presented at no cost to the participants. Every participant that registered to walk received a free event t-shirt.



Participants at the 4th Annual African American Wellness Walk enjoy a beautiful day at RiverScape MetroPark in Dayton.



This event was successful through community partnerships. The American Heart Association worked diligently with Five Rivers MetroParks and the Healthy Dayton Coalition to accomplish this task. Funding was secured through sponsorship solicitation. The following organizations were sponsors: Bally Total Fitness, Key Bank, Premier Health Partners, Wallace-Kettering Neuroscience Institute, Wright State University, and Wright State University School

of Medicine.

Planning for the Fifth Annual African American Wellness Walk has already begun. The walk is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2005. The African American Wellness Walk will be one of the highlights of the first Annual Juneteenth Event presented by Five Rivers MetroParks. This all-day event will celebrate African American history with food, entertainment, and storytelling.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping with the planning for the Fifth Annual African American Wellness Walk, please contact: Dionne Henderson at 937-775-1116, or email at dionne.henderson@wright.edu, or Julia Ricks at 937-279-2444 x 1207, email at jricks@metroparks.org.



Families and community members came together to have fun and learn more about controlling risk of heart disease and stroke.



About and in the Community

Healthy Dayton Coalition Website Launched

by Kay R. Parent, Program Director, Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, Center for Healthy Communities

For some time, the Healthy Dayton Coalition had been dreaming about an interactive website to encourage healthy lifestyles, such as improved nutrition and increased physical activity. They wanted to promote and support the health promotion events going on in the community, specifically those that relate to healthy lifestyles. Now their dream has become a reality through a partnership with the

Center for Healthy Communities and the **Department of Information Systems and Operations Management, Wright State University Raj Soin College of Business**. As part of their MIS 495 course, a team of 3 seniors, Charles Bell, Ron King and Ross Robertson, designed the site with the support of their professor, Barbara Denison. The website is hosted by the Wright State University School of Medicine on the Center for Healthy Communities website.

The website features links to all organizations who are members of the Healthy Dayton Coalition as well as providing specific email and phone contact information of individual representatives. Current and past meeting agendas and minutes are available to be downloaded.

Healthy Tomorrows is a quarterly publication of Center for Healthy Communities, a division of the Wright State University Department of Community Health, School of Medicine

Editor: Carla Lachecki

Contributors: Kate Cauley, Carla Clasen, Kimberly Conner, Mary Crimmins, Dionne Henderson, Carla Lachecki, Kay Parent

For more information or to make suggestions, please call Kate Cauley, Ph.D., Center Director, at (937) 775-1114. Contributions to the Center may be made through the Wright State University Foundation. All contributions are tax deductible.

Additional Healthy Dayton website features include:

Events Listing: An online form is available for organizations to provide local health event details for announcement on the web page.

Walking Trails: Charts of walking trails list the locations and length of trails in 13 areas surrounding the Miami Valley, with links to corresponding park district web pages.

Resources: A resource page provides links to information on food portion size, adding fruits and vegetables to one's diet, healthy eating plans, smoke-free restaurants, and information on ways to increase physical activity.

Tip Sheets: Twelve weekly downloadable tip sheets provide a wide variety of health information, from losing weight and exercising to healthy eating and goal setting. These sheets can be downloaded and used for classes or individuals.

Quiz Yourself: This interactive page offers a fun way to test your health knowledge. It gives immediate feedback by telling you if you have chosen the correct answer or whether you should try again. How many can you answer correctly? This page also includes handy links to national organizations that can provide additional information.

BMI Calculator: Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measurement of body fat content. You can find your BMI by

dividing your weight in pounds by your height in inches squared, then multiplying this number by 703. Or you can choose a faster and easier way by entering your height and weight in the appropriate boxes on this web page. Your BMI will be automatically calculated for you! A chart is available to show you where you should be in terms of your BMI.

Healthy Dayton is now many steps ahead in its program goals as a result of the work of the Center for Healthy Communities and the Wright State University MIS students.

The Healthy Dayton website can be seen at:
www.med.wright.edu/chc/healthydayton/index.htm



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Center for Healthy Communities staff will continue to work through the HealthLink Miami Valley Network to monitor health information technology developments in Montgomery County with the goal of community wide coordination and utilization.

Additionally, CHC staff will continue to work at the state level through the Ohio HIT Summit. *Healthy Tomorrows* will continue to feature stories related to Health Information Technology in coming months.



Seminars Inform Montgomery County Healthcare Providers of Resources for the Underserved

HealthLink Miami Valley (HLMV) Outreach Task Force recognized that many of the healthcare providers that work with indigent people often do not know where to refer their clients for help. Many community resources are available in Montgomery County but many providers do not know how to access them. In an attempt to clarify these issues and to provide up-to-date information to people

who work directly with the underserved population, the HLMV outreach task force presented a series of quarterly half-day seminars in 2004. Each seminar addressed a specific type of resource area and featured representatives from area health organizations or services to speak on the topic. The seminars were also designed to provide continuing education hours for attending nurses and social workers. The seminars were provided at no cost to the participant and were very well attended. The series will be continued in 2005 with a new set of resource areas for investigation.

The first program examined different aspects of health care for the uninsured and underinsured population. An overview described who is in need and seeking help with health care, emphasizing that it cuts across all demographic sectors. The services of local community resources, such as Reach Out, Montgomery County Combined Health District clinics and Unified Health Solutions, were described as well as how to access them.

The second program looked at prescription and medication services available for the uninsured and underinsured population, including the elderly. An overview described who is in need and seeking help with prescription services. Community resources providing prescription services, including Unified Health Solutions, Wellness Connection of the

Miami Valley, Rx for Ohio, and the Ohio Senior Health Insurance Program, were described. Presenters also explained the changes in Medicare through the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003.

The third program addressed vision and dental services available for the uninsured and underinsured population, including the children. Local providers presenting resources included Miami Valley Hospital Dental Sealant Program and Prevent Blindness Ohio.

The final program for 2004 focused on mental health services available for the uninsured and underinsured population. The program included a description of funded services and agencies in Montgomery County and a description and purpose of the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board.

HLMV Outreach Task Force Seminars 2005

Health care provider seminars planned for 2005 include:

March 29, 2005

Adult Health & Social Services Safety Net

June 28, 2005

Chemical Dependency and Crisis Care

September 27, 2005

Social Security

December 6, 2005

Electronic Health Record

All seminars will be held at Madison Lakes Lodge in Montgomery County. There is no fee to attend but registration is required. Continuing education credit is available for nurses and social workers.

For more information, contact Annemarie Halfpap at donna.halfpap@wright.edu or (937) 775-1114. To register for a seminar, call the Center for Healthy Communities at (937) 775-1114.



For more about HealthLink Miami Valley outreach seminars, please visit www.med.wright.edu/chc and click on "Health Promotion" then "HealthLink Training"

Women's Health Month 2004 Grantees Reach Out to Area Women



Empowering community members to become active participants in their own health is one of the Center for Healthy Communities' goals. For the past nineteen years, **Women's Health Month (WHM)**, a program unique to Ohio, has supported community education on women's health issues. The Center for Healthy Communities is designated

an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) for Region IV in Ohio and contracts with the **Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention**

Program at the Ohio Department of Health to implement Women's Health Month activities in our region.

Community organizations and agencies are funded at amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1300 to plan and present workshops, conferences, and health fairs on women's health during the month of September. In 2004, the Center awarded ten grants to support WHM activities for women in Clark, Champaign, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Preble counties. Over 600 women participated in the events that ranged from half-day forums on women's health issues to consciousness-raising neighborhood walks against breast cancer to lecture demonstrations over the entire month. Congratulations to the following grantees for participating in Women's Health Month 2004 and reaching out to women in our community with education and support:

- **Cancer Prevention Institute**
- **Center for Healthy Communities Kinship Caregiver Coalition**
- **Clark County Combined Health District**
- **Combined Health District of Montgomery County**
- **Greene County Combined Health District**
- **Home Based Arts, Inc.**
- **Innerwest Community Development Corporation & UJIMA Neighborhood Network**
- **Reach Out of Montgomery County**
- **Sisters Network Dayton**
- **Tri-County Women's Network**

Women's Health Month 2005 Funding Available

The Ohio Department of Health will be offering limited funding for **Women's Health Month 2005** for events that address women's health issues during the month of September. Priority issues are as follows: prevention/wellness; violence against women; impact of low-income, poverty and homelessness on women's health; impact of racism on health and access to health care; chronic diseases including lung cancer, breast cancer, arthritis, lupus, sickle cell, diabetes, osteoporosis, asthma, hypertension; effects of media messages and advertising images on women's health; occupation health issues; reproductive health; health issues of women with disabilities; women and addiction; eating disorders; women and HIV/AIDS; health needs of women with alternative lifestyles including lesbians, women choosing to have no children and women in non-traditional employment; health issues of incarcerated and other institutionalized women; health status of women in historical roles, i.e. single-parent, care-giver, including

parenting leave issues; empowerment/self esteem; the status of women and its effect on health and life options; effects of sexism on health and access to health care; women's changing health needs over the life span, i.e. young women (including adolescents) and mid-life women; professional ethics; and effects of environmental pollution on women's health.



Attendees at Care 4 the Caregiver, a program presented by the Kinship Caregiver Coalition, practice stress reduction techniques.

If your organization would like more information about applying for a Women's Health Month grant, please contact Carla Lachecki by e-mail at carla.lachecki@wright.edu or by telephone at (937) 775-1125. Grant application materials can be sent electronically and will be available starting January 2005. Proposal submission deadline is **April 15, 2005**.

Ten Years of Service Learning: An Evaluation

by Carla Clasen, MPH, RN, Associate Director, Center for Healthy Communities

In 1994, the Center for Healthy Communities launched the first of three rounds of funding from the **Corporation for National and Community Service's Learn & Serve America: Higher Education initiative**. Ten years later, the Center is still involved

with the teaching methodology of service learning, and we have learned a lot along the way.

Service learning is a teaching methodology in which learning objectives for students are paired with service objectives that meet a real, community-identified need. High quality service learning also requires thorough preparation for the experience and adequate time for students to reflect on the experience. The need to introduce service learning into health professions education came from the recognition that there were growing numbers of people without access to health care services, and the need for a future health care workforce prepared to meet the challenges of changing health care delivery systems and patient populations.

During the initial round of funding, from 1995-1998, health professions faculty (including nursing, medicine, psychology, social work, dietetics, and dental hygiene) from Wright State University and Sinclair Community College learned about service learning and discovered ways to incorporate it into existing courses. Their work resulted in the formulation of the Service Learning Protocol for Health Professions Schools, or SLPHPS--or 6 components necessary for a successful service learning experience: 1) include more community sites and build long term relationships with partners, 2) develop a service learning experience using both learning and service objectives, 3) develop an orientation component, 4) develop a reflection component, 5) integrate evaluation, and

6) promote the professional ethic of service.

Next, in 1998 through 2001, under the able direction of Annette Canfield of the College of Nursing and Health at Wright State, we expanded our service learning network statewide, recruiting health professions faculty from six partner schools in Ohio. We shared what we had learned about service learning with health professions faculty in Ohio through faculty development workshops presenting the SLPHPS. We also made mini-grants available to faculty to enable them to develop service learning courses.

Finally, in the last funding round, we expanded our network of service learning scholars to a six state region: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, adding faculty from each of these states and creating the Midwest Health Professions Service Learning Consortium. We continued to present faculty development workshops on the basics of service learning, and developed several new presentations that explored some aspects of service learning in more depth. We also continued to make faculty mini-grants available.

What resulted from these ten years of work? Over this period, thousands of health professions students were involved in projects in which they learned while serving community needs, providing hundreds of thousands of service hours to



Service learning health professions student

hundreds of thousands of community residents. We presented scores of faculty development workshops, resulting in about 2000 faculty being trained in how to incorporate service learning into health professions training.

We solicited input from faculty, students, and community partners about the quality of the service learning experience, and learned that a majority of students and faculty both report that students learned more from service learning experiences than from more traditional classes. Community partners reported that students required no more, and in most cases, less time to supervise than volunteers or workers, and that the students were very effective in fulfilling their tasks. Faculty reported that preparation for service learning was more time consuming than preparation for traditional classes. Well over 90% of students, faculty, and community partners said that they would be willing to do a service learning experience again.

We also wondered if service learning would have an effect on a range of students' attitudes. To assess this, we asked students to complete an attitude survey before and after their service learning experience. Students' attitudes showed a significantly positive change in agreement with these statements:

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- I feel well prepared to practice my profession in a community similar to the community in which my placement is located.
- I would like to work in settings where health care professionals are underrepresented.
- I would be interested in working on a multidisciplinary team
- I believe that health care professionals have a responsibility to volunteer for community service activities.
- I believe that health care would be improved by the increased practice of multidisciplinary health care teams.
- It is important for me to be involved in a program to improve the community.
- I believe it should be mandatory for health care professional students to participate in community service.
- I feel that it is important to consider a wide range of health care practices (such as nontraditional practices) when planning treatment for my client/patient.
- I believe that there are valid alternative health care beliefs/practices that may differ from traditional health care practices.

On the other hand, students' agreement with the following statements did not change significantly:

- I believe students should volunteer their time helping people without resources.
- Health care professionals should always try to incorporate the patient/client's health beliefs/practices when planning treatment.
- I feel that I can have a positive impact on the community in

which I work by volunteering my time.

- Learning by doing is a necessary component for adequate training of health care professionals.

Students also reported an increase in their level of knowledge about community resources, how health care delivery systems impact work in the community, the responsibilities of other professionals in a multidisciplinary team, barriers to receiving health care in the community, the impact of socioeconomic status on health and illness, and what the terms "community resources" and "community service" mean.

To assess the wider impact of our efforts to increase knowledge of and use of service learning in health professions schools, we performed a survey of Ohio faculty at the beginning and again at the end of our second period of funding. We found that, among Ohio faculty, the percent familiar with service learning, who had practiced service learning in the past and/or who were currently practicing service learning and who knew of other faculty currently using service learning all increased significantly. Before and after the third funding period, we surveyed administrators of health professions schools in the five state region surrounding Ohio, and found that the level of institutionalization of service learning had increased. Clearly, service learning as a teaching methodology in health professions schools has gained in importance and popularity in the ten years since we started!

We continue to practice and encourage the use of service learning in health professions training. Our experience and empirical data indicate that service learning leads to many benefits to students, faculty, the community, and

the college and university. Our goal is to one day perform a more extensive and long term evaluation of the effects of service learning on students, the community, and institutions.

Wright State University Hosts 2004 Service Learning Conference

As part of the work of the **Midwest Health Professions Service Learning Consortium (MHPSLC)**, the **Center for Healthy Communities** hosted annual conferences to highlight the work of students and faculty from the close to 100 colleges and universities in the region practicing service learning in the health professions curriculum. This past year the conference was held in partnership with the **Wright State University Service Learning Committee**, supported through the Office of the Provost.

This exciting conference, keynoted by Barbara Holland, Ph.D., of the National Service Learning Information Clearinghouse, provided a forum for administrators, faculty and students from nineteen different disciplines to review the benefits of service learning and civic engagement, and to showcase their work in their communities.

Service learning has significantly expanded in recent years both at Wright State University, where it is now offered through courses in the College of Liberal Arts, in the Raj Sooin College of Business, the College of Engineering, College of Math and Science and College of Education and Human Service, and at Sinclair Community College, where Marilyn Rodney heads up the Office of Service Learning within the Division of Extended Learning and Human Services.

Community Advocate Course Sinclair Community College Spring 2005

Are you interested in community health, community resources or health professions? Starting in March, Sinclair Community College will be offering **ALH 210-Introduction to Community Health Advocacy**. In this course developed by the Center for Healthy Communities, students will be introduced to community health concepts, resources, and skills related to the role and responsibilities of a Community Health Advocate locally and nationally. The classes will be held twice (morning and evening hours) on Tuesdays and Thursdays during spring quarter, March 28 – June 12, 2005. Transfer credit is accepted at Kettering College of Medical Arts, Sinclair Community College, Wright State University and the University of Dayton.



*Center for Healthy Communities Community Health Advocates
Barbara O'Meara (l.) and Bonnie Grooms (r.) offer referral
information at a local health fair*

Registration begins February 14, 2005. Scholarships are available. For more information, contact Kimberly Conner at (937) 512-2039 or at kimberly.conner@sinclair.edu.

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