Health in All Policies Position Statement

Peoria County Board of Health Supports a Health in All Policies Approach

*The Peoria County Board of Health supports a HiAP approach as a strategy for multi-sector partners working together to ensure health equity within Peoria County.*

The Peoria County Board of Health recognizes the impact policies by local, state, and federal government agencies can have on the health of Peoria County residents. By implementing a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach to determine and assist in how decisions are made; both government and non-government agencies can ensure policies have either beneficial or neutral effect on the determinants of health. In addition, HiAP provides a framework for multiple sectors to collaborate and acknowledge how policies and decisions are related to the health of a community.

**Recommendations & Strategies**

The Peoria County Board of Health recommends implementation of the following strategies to establish a HiAP approach and improve health equity within Peoria County.

- Educate decision-makers in public and private sectors on HiAP and implementation strategies.
- Develop measures to use in supporting collaborative processes that translate health into other sectors.
- Implement ordinances that incorporate HiAP into planning and policy making.
- Support health impact assessments to measure the health and financial cost of current and proposed policies.
- Contribute to and prioritize evidence-base strategies to address health and the social determinants to health.
- Determine the economic costs and benefits on healthcare in integrating HiAP strategies.
- Promote incorporation of health into decision-making processes, specifically prioritizing policies that support identified health issues through CHNA/CHIP.
- Affirm the importance of social determinants on the impact of population and individual health.
- Evaluate the impact of policies but establishing shared metrics and milestones.
Background

The Peoria City/County Health Department’s mission and vision focuses on promoting health, preventing disease, and providing a safe environment through the education, engagement and collaboration. In 2016 the PCCHD Board of Health adopted a three-year Community Health Needs Assessment and Improvement Plan (CHNA/CHIP). This plan’s foundation included the community values focused on health equity. In support of the CHNA/CHIP the Board of Health adopted as part of their three-year strategic plan in 2017 a goal focused on improving health equity through HiAP strategies. The PCCHD Board of Health’s strategic plan outlines their tasks, which include:

- Educating internal and external partners on CHIP, Health Equity and HiAP.
- Building and sustaining cross-sector partnerships to enhance collaboration.
- Promoting incorporation of health into decision-making; specifically, in prioritization of policy.
- Enhancing workforce capacity.
- Leveraging and sustain funding around shared goals.
- Integrating research, data systems, and evaluation between partners.
- Synchronizing communication and messaging.
- Implementing accountability and reporting on CHIP and Health Equity measures
- Advocating for adoption of HiAP approach within and across local government.

In addition, the PCCHD Board of Health agrees with the foundation that good policies create and support healthy behaviors and fundamentally lead to improved health outcomes.

References

1. National Association of County & City Health Official; Statement of Policy Health in All Policies 12-01 Updated November 2015
2. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation What is Health?
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Health in All Policies
4. Association of State and Territorial Health Officials