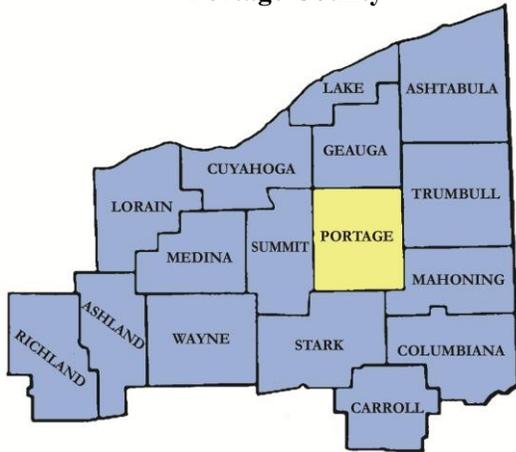


Building Public Health Capacities through Collaboration: Accelerating Progress in Northeast Ohio

Northeast Ohio Region: Portage County



Goal

Develop an informed and shared approach to assuring effective and efficient delivery of essential public health services in Portage County, Ohio.

Participants

City of Ravenna Health Department (RHD)
City of Kent Health Department (KHD)
Portage County Health Department (PCHD)
Task Force for Improving Public Health
Center for Public Policy & Health, College of Public Health, Kent State University

Project Description

This project builds on the work of the Task Force for Improving Public Health in Portage County, a voluntary stakeholder group formed in 2011 to improve public health in Portage County. In 2012, this Task Force recommended that the three health districts serving Portage County explore ways they can work together to improve the public health system in the county and pursue health department, accreditation.

With support from the Center for Sharing Public Health Services and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, project participants created three working groups to engage with one another and to foster collaborations that can improve public health in Portage County. Through the work of the working groups, the project team, and their community partners, the project has achieved a number of important accomplishments.

Accomplishments

- Developed a Strategy and Action Plan for improving public health in Portage County through collaborative pursuit of public health improvements and local health department accreditation.
- Steered the newly merged RHD and PCHD (PCHD now provides virtually all public health services for Ravenna) toward renewed public health improvement efforts, as well as financial savings – which were also achieved through the RHD-PCHD consolidation that occurred during the project period.
- Completed a county-wide Community Health Assessment (CHA) with extensive stakeholder involvement. This is creating a shared understanding of the public health needs in the county.
- Created an inventory of public health services and an analysis of the level of collaborative service provision in the county to help inform future collaborative efforts.
- Built stronger relationships with community stakeholders through outreach activities during the project, and these are likely to foster more effective public health improvement efforts in the future.

Next Steps

Continue collaborative efforts toward public health improvement, including completion of a Community Health Improvement Plan and continued engagement with the Task Force for Improving Public Health in Portage County.

Contact Information

Josh Filla (jfilla@kent.edu) and John Hoornbeek (jhoornbe@kent.edu) or 330-672-7148
Center for Public Policy and Health, College of Public Health, Kent State University www.kent.edu/cpph/