



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cattaraugus County
Health Department
Established 1923

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760, Tel. (716)373-8050, Fax (716) 701-3737



Kevin D. Watkins, M.D., MPH, Public Health Director

Gilbert N. Witte, M.D.
Medical Director

Kathleen M. Ellis
Administrative Officer

* * * PRESS RELEASE 04/20/2015 * * *



Sandy George, CXO Communication for IHI
sandy@exocommunication.com, (617) 413-6126

Melissa Blair, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
media@rwjf.org, (609) 627-5937

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY'S HEALTHY LIVABLE COMMUNITIES CONSORTIUM NAMED A SCALE AWARDEE BY INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT

Selected as a pacesetter community to join national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation aimed at accelerating the improvement of health and well-being

The Cattaraugus County Health Department today announced that the Healthy Livable Communities Consortium (HLCC) has been named a final awardee and will receive funding from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to support promising community-based work on health improvement, as part of the SCALE (Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation) initiative. Made possible by a \$4.8 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and led by IHI, Community Solutions, Communities Joined in Action, and the Collaborative Health Network, SCALE will help communities further their capability to improve the health of targeted populations and develop ways to share and spread community-driven approaches across the country.

SCALE is designed to jumpstart an unprecedented community-to-community learning system right out of the gate in that the initiative matches four “mentor communities” – those with a recent track record of achieving better health – with 20 “pacesetter communities” that are seeking to accelerate their pace of change. HLCC has been named a pacesetter community and will continue work begun through Community Transformation Grant (CTG) funding. For physical activity interventions, work will increase the number of child care centers and homes that provided developmentally appropriate physical activity for young children, increase the integration of physical activity into elementary classroom settings, increase access to safe routes to school and increase access to safe and accessible streets for walking and biking (Complete Streets). For healthy eating interventions, work will increase participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, develop regional food procurement initiatives to consolidate food procurement and standardize menu planning, and increase access to healthy beverages. For tobacco control interventions, work with school districts will implement school wellness policies prohibiting tobacco use at off-campus, school-sponsored events, and will increase access to smoke-free multi-unit housing properties.

“After reviewing hundreds of impressive applications, we are pleased to welcome these 24 communities to the SCALE initiative and to bring them together to deepen their ability to create effective improvement and to generously share what’s currently working in various locales,” stated Soma Stout, MD, MS, Principal Innovator in SCALE, and Executive External Lead, Health Improvement, IHI.

“Where we live affects our health in multiple and complex ways and making change on a large scale can be overwhelming for a community without obtaining financial resources. This initiative to improve the health

“Public Health for Healthy Communities”



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outcome of Cattaraugus County made possible by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is a great investment toward the multi-faceted, concerted effort of the Healthy Livable Communities Consortium to tackle the various factors that contribute to poor health outcomes of our community,” stated Dr. Kevin Watkins, Public Health Director, Cattaraugus County Health Department.

Since its initiation in spring 2011, the Healthy Livable Communities Consortium (HLCC) of Cattaraugus County, and its co-leads, the Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD) and the Cattaraugus County Department of Aging, has had as its intent to instill upon other key stakeholders that *we are all called to action* to tackle health issues in this county. It is not the sole responsibility of wellness, health promotion, treatment and care modalities to create a healthier community; *health is everyone's business*, whether it be for self, family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even our pets. We must better follow the national mantra of creating “healthy choices as the easy choices” for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, employment status, education, living quarters, etc. Many of our participants found that we shared the same “needs and wants” including a Resource Liaison (since formed as a computer based dashboard model, <http://next.alleganydatareserve.org/Cattaraugus%20Home>). There were a complexity of sites where local data and reports were being stored without being updated, adding confusion and time to those completing grant applications or reports.

SCALE communities will seek to obtain improved health outcomes, spread effective best practices as quickly as possible in order to realize improvements in health, and become beacons and resources for any community, anywhere, striving to obtain the best health possible – especially those communities most vulnerable to poor health due to poverty, violence, or lack of social supports. The initiative will tap into the expertise of Abraham H. Wandersman, PhD, from the University of South Carolina, who will lead a team of experts in formative evaluation across institutions.

SCALE marks the first community-based program of the recently announced global initiative, 100 Million Healthier Lives, led by IHI and 140 founding partners. Through unprecedented collaboration, this initiative aims to achieve an audacious goal: 100 million people living healthier lives by 2020. To date, nearly 500 patients, community members, leaders, organizations, and implementers across the domains of public health, community health, health care, policy, academia, business, and financing have joined the 100 Million Healthier Lives initiative.

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