



# Washington County Community Health Improvement Plan

## Phase IV Strategic Issue Identification

Washington County: One Community and Saint Croix Valley Healthy Communities co-convened the Strategic Issues Identification meeting on November 18, 2010. Each Healthy Maine Partnership invited no more than ten of the MAPP members and/or key stakeholders to assist with the identification of strategic health issues based on the four MAPP assessments; Community Strengths and Themes, Local Public Health Assessment, Community Health and Forces of Change.

Betsy Fitzgerald and Eleody Libby co-facilitated and participated in the meeting convened in Calais, Maine. Participants included; Mark Smutz, Denise Harris, Rose St. Lewis, Sara McConnell, Al May, Heather Henry, Paul Stuart, Paula Lumbert, Michael Edwards, Judy East, and Gail Wahl.

Eleody Libby presented the vision, community strengths and themes and forces of change summaries to the group. Al May presented the priorities identified from the Washington County Local Public Health Assessment and Michael Edwards discussed the Community Health Data.

The group selected areas of concern based on the four MAPP assessment summaries and areas of concern. The group then reviewed each issue and cross referenced the issues based on the four assessments and vision. The group prioritized the strategic issues taking into consideration the area of concern and if the issue was found in all assessments and within the vision. The group discussed the similarities and differences of various regions of Washington County. The group determined that each Healthy Maine Partnership convene phase V within their respective areas to prioritize the strategic issues and develop the goals and strategies that reflect the individualized needs of the area.

### **Strategic issues with associated areas of concern**

How can we encourage healthy lifestyles?

- Cancer contribution from tobacco use and unhealthy diets
- Obesity contribution of unhealthy diets and inadequate physical activity
- Obesity in turn a contributor to high diabetes and heart disease rates
- Barrier of transportation to wellness programs and recreational resources
- Special barriers for elderly and disabled

How can we reduce substance abuse?

- High rate of prescription drug abuse by adults but not for youth, while both have high smoking and alcohol abuse levels
- More community supports for recovery from addictions
- Better coordination of services needed between behavioral and primary health care
- Childhood trauma a recently recognized contributor
- Hopeless attitudes related to poor economy and job prospects seen as a contributor

How can we assure health care access?

- Transportation barriers—limitations in public knowledge of existing resources, transportation programs, and ownership of reliable vehicles by low-income residents; distance to specialty care providers a barrier for all
- Cancer issues—access to screening and treatment limited by insurance and transportation barriers and to distance from specialists
- Coordination of services among providers to improve integration and continuity of care in face of fragmented care system, such as between behavioral health and primary care
- Elderly—special barriers to health care and services, especially for high fraction who live alone

How can we foster a healthy environment?

- More surveillance and research on impact of industrial and agricultural chemicals and natural hazards such as arsenic in well water
- Cancer contributions from environmental causes

How can we promote economic opportunities?

- Shortage of meaningful jobs contributes to out-migration of youth and many health-related problems

How can we reduce chronic disease incidence/impact?

- Elderly a major population of concern
- Obesity link to diabetes and heart disease
- Poor diet, limited physical activity, and smoking as major risk factors
- Cancer issues
- Need for better coordination of care and self-management of disease

How can we promote a sense of community?

How can we motivate community participation?

How can we mobilize partnerships between service providers and communities?

Strategic issue #1

**How do we assure access to healthcare?**

The Strategic issue has been identified as a community theme within our vision

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:  
Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment  
Washington County Local Public Health Assessment

#### Strategic Issue #2

##### **How do we encourage healthy lifestyles?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:  
Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment  
Washington County Local Public Health Assessment  
Community Health Status Assessment

#### Strategic Issue #3

##### **How do we reduce substance abuse?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:  
Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment  
Washington County Local Public Health Assessment  
Community Health Status Assessment

#### Strategic Issues #4

##### **How can we reduce chronic disease incidence/impact?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:  
Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment  
Washington County Local Public Health Assessment  
Community Health Status Assessment

#### Strategic Issue #5

##### **How do we mobilize coordination between health systems that provide services?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:  
Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment  
Washington County Local Public Health Assessment  
Community Health Status Assessment

#### Strategic Issues #6

##### **How do we provide a healthy environment?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment  
Washington County Local Public Health Assessment  
Community Health Status Assessment

Strategic Issue #7

**How do we provide economic opportunities?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment  
Washington County Local Public Health Assessment  
Community Health Status Assessment

Strategic Issues #8

**How do we promote a sense of community?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment

Strategic Issues #9

**How do we motivate and encourage participation in communities?**

The Strategic issue supports the vision for Washington County

Issue has been identified within the following assessment:

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment  
Forces of Change Assessment

