

Benchmark Activity: 41.2: The local board of health shall take actions to foster local health department partnership-building efforts and staff interactions with the community.

**Durham County Board of Health
Agenda Item Summary**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2016

Agenda Item Subject: Mayor's Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) Health Task Force Community Health Workers (CHW) Pilot Program

Attachment (s):

Staff or Board Member Reporting: Joanne Pierce, MA, MPH, Deputy Health Director

Purpose: _____ Action
 X Information only
 _____ Information with possible action

Objective: To provide an update on the development of the Mayor's Poverty Reduction Initiative Health Task Force CHW program.

Summary Information:

In 2014 Mayor Bill Bell created the Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) and created 6 groups to work on ways to improve the health and well-being of the community. They focus on: finance, health, education, jobs, public safety and housing. In early 2015 the work groups, collaborated to gather the opinions of residents. That work formed the foundation for the work of the task forces. The Health Task Force is chaired by School Board Chair Heidi Carter, City Council Member Don Moffitt, Franklin Village resident and Community Health Worker L'Tanya Gilchrist, and Founder and Executive Director of Together for Resilient Youth Wanda Boone.

Over the past year, the Health Task Force met twice a month and accomplished the following:

- Surveyed residents
- Selected CHW program as the best strategy based on survey results and evidence base
- Defined CHW scope of service and agency to train and place CHWs
- Engaged Durham Technical Community College to develop CHW training curriculum
- Received approval from Durham County Board of Health to establish CHW certification system
- Reported accomplishments back to community and developed proposal for funding

Community Health Workers (CHW):

- Are trusted community leaders who live in the neighborhood. Residents often turn to these

individuals for advice, support and resources.

- Do not provide direct medical services such as nursing or nursing assistant services.

The Health Task Force is currently working to:

- Develop a training program at the community college for Community Health Workers
- Create a certification process for CHWs
- Find funding for a pilot program

Recommended Action:

Approve

Approve & forward to Board of Commissioners for action

Approve & forward to_____

 X

Accept as information

Revise & schedule for future action

Other (details):_____