

**ACHIEVE INITIATIVE
SITE VISIT FINDINGS
Lake County, Ohio**

PRESITE VISIT CONFERENCE CALL CONVENED: June 8, 2009

ACHIEVE SITES VISITED: Lake County, Ohio

DATES OF VISIT: June 22-23, 2009

NATIONAL PARTNERS ATTENDING: Ali Jaglowski, David Yum and Randy Kirkendall

COACHES ATTENDING: Tori Luyster (LCGHD) and Maureen O'Hearn (LCGHD)

CHART MEMBERS ATTENDING (including windshield and community tour participants): Matt Battiato, Dick Bennett, Mary Ann Blakeley, Mary Ellen Condon, Jim Fodor, James Gills, Dave Gilmer, Lee Homyock, Brian Katz, Wayne Lindstrom, Stephen Madewell, Jan Meyer, Sharon Minjares, Traci Salkiewicz, Richard Schule, Lisa Siciliano-Miller, Dan Troy, Cathy Zeller, Ron Graham, Kathy Milo

STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TA EXPERT ATTENDING: Nancy Schaefer, Public Health Nutritionist and Health Educator, Ohio Department of Health

BRIEF STATEMENT OF VISIT:

The site visit provided the national partners with a great opportunity to get to know the CHART members better and learn about the unique challenges and opportunities taking place in Lake County, OH.

The site visit began at the County Health District office in the county seat of Painesville. From there a county-wide windshield tour kicked off that started with the west side of Lake County. This provided an opportunity to see the many diverse political sub-regions in the area, with 23 there was much to see during the two day visit. Immediately it was noticeable that the county has a vast array of park spaces, historical societies/land marks and residents who take pride in their communities. The different socio-economic make up of the west side communities, townships and villages were described. Also, it was discussed that a GIS asset mapping of all grocery stores and parks in the area had been completed by a CHART member. Each sub-region has its own version of Commissioning boards, School boards and a slate of other elected officials. While not all 23 regions each had an exact replicate of the other with respect to the governing bodies, it is clear that county wide policy and environmental changes will require adoption and implementation at varying levels. Continuing on the tour the next stop was Lakeland Community College. Mary Ann Blakeley, Chief of Staff and Director of Development

provided a tour of the college and described process the college undertook when completing the CHANGE tool assessment. Upon returning to the County Health District office, a CHART meeting was held over lunch to discuss the upcoming Action Institute, Budget and CHANGE tool data collection. The meeting was well attended by over 20 CHART members and LCGHD staff. A healthy lunch was provided. The meeting began with introductions and flowed nicely through the agenda items. The Coaches have a clear sense of the CHART team and facilitated the large group with ease. The meeting concluded with a review of the windshield tour findings and thoughts from the group. A dinner meeting was convened with NACDD, the LCGHD and SHD EA to reflect on the day's highlights and other issues of the CHART and overall ACHIEVE initiative.

The next day, the windshield tour of the east side of the county got underway. A stop at the Perry Community Fitness Center revealed a combined school, fitness center and community center that is enjoyed by the school students and the community. With low membership fees and access to a pool, basketball court, volleyball court and a fitness center this was an asset to the Perry community. A second stop at the Lake Metroparks Environmental Center after lunch provided an opportunity to meet with Steven Madewell, Interim Executive Director of the Lake Metroparks. Mr. Madewell discussed the expansion plans for the park system and opportunities to increase access and connectivity among the vast park system. The site visit culminated with a debriefing session with coaches, LCGHD staff and NACDD consultants.

SUMMARY: This is a community that has many challenges due to the number of political sub-regions that have home rule over the districts. This same challenge is also an asset; there is a wide variety of opportunities for policy and environmental change strategies to be potentially implemented. The CHART members and coaches have developed an excellent network of partners and collaborators willing to assist in CHANGE tool data collection and Community Action Plan (CAP) development. The desire to work county wide stems from the difficulty in choosing any one community, township or village to target, as all areas could benefit from the CHARTs efforts. This model has been successfully accomplished with previous ACHIEVE communities and Lake County, OH has a great likelihood of success with this model.

CHART DEVELOPMENT: The Lake County CHART is comprised of key members throughout the county. The Lake County General Health District (LGCHD) has a long history of working on public health issues within the community and is well-respected by the state health department and by the CHART members. The State Health Department Expert Advisor (SHD EA) has been a strong supporter of the ACHIEVE initiative with other Ohio communities and already demonstrated that same level of support to Lake County. The coaches, Tori Luyster and Maureen O'Hearn both bring unique leadership skills to the group and complement each other nicely. Both seem to have a good sense of the CHART team and demonstrate excellent

facilitation and delegation skills. Conversely, the CHART team is willing and able to assist in fulfilling the ACHIEVE initiative and it was witnessed on numerous occasions CHART members stepping up to volunteer in assisting with current activities. In addition to the CHART members and coaches already listed, the team has members representing Job and Family Services, mental health services, community colleges, schools districts, engineers, economic development groups, Metroparks, the county hospital, OSU Extension offices, GIS mapping, and a County Commissioner. It is a diverse team in that it represents the majority of the county.

STRENGTHS OF THE CHART: The coaches work in a very collaborative and respectful way with each other and seem to collaborate on distributing the workload and keeping each other abreast of actions. The LCGHD has allocated various staff members to assist the ACHIEVE initiative which demonstrates a high level of buy in and support by senior leadership at the LCGHD. There is a strong commitment ~~to~~ not to overlap or repeat strategies that are already being implemented in their community through other activities and organizations. This is a group of highly talented, motivated, educated, and connected individuals. Some members of the CHART are long-time residents of the city and have close ties with decision-makers. All CHART members are very aware of the need for policy advocacy at all levels.

CHANGE UTILIZATION: The CHART had many comments about the tool; many of which were addresses on the CHANGE Tool conference. They did not experience any difficulty in implementing this within their community; but are interested in how to use the results to prioritize their CAP. There is a desire to use the CHANGE Tool in other areas of Lake County to initiate more activity around policy, systems and environmental change strategies in multiple settings within a given sector. Currently, ~~the~~ Lake County ACHIEVE is focusing on completing the collection of CHANGE tool data from the 5 sectors and prioritizing for CAP development.

CAP DEVELOPMENT: The CHART is still focused on CHANGE tool collection and had not begun CAP development by the date of the site visit.

RESOURCES REQUESTED FROM NACDD:

The CHART did not specifically ask for any resources; however, it was requested to have further discussions about the website development to utilize as a communication/marketing mechanism for the CHART and community. Additional follow up included:

- Update the website to reflect the name of the CHART (currently listed as Ohio Action for Healthy Kids Coalition Zone 4)
- Availability of media tools for the CHART (for professional development)
- Access info about web traffic of the existing ACHIEVE website (for planning purposes)

STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TECHNICAL EXPERT ROLE: Nancy Schaefer is a past SHD EA who worked with Stark, OH in 2008. Ms. Schaefer's knowledge of the state's resources, plans for chronic disease prevention and current state legislation affected chronic disease prevention was evident during the site visit. As already mentioned she has been an asset and supporter of the ACHIEVE initiative since 2008, and her continued role with the efforts in Lake County are appreciated and evidence of that support.

ACTION STEPS / AGREEMENTS REACHED: The CHART will continue to collect CHANGE tool data and participate in the upcoming 2009 Action Institute in Denver, CO.

During the post-site visit debriefing with coaches, NACDD consultants recommended

- Careful planning of the next CHART meeting after the Action Institute, especially for the engagement of CHART members who would not be able to travel to Denver. This will ensure that the entire Lake County CHART can participate in building upon the level of interest and engagement towards policy and environmental changes that has already been reached.
- NACDD also suggested members of the faith community and media to further diversify and strengthen the CHART. A media link, in particular, will ensure that strong, receptive messages on policy and environmental changes will reach stakeholders and community members.
- At the time of the site visit the CHART was focused on the county as a whole for the target population. As mentioned during the meeting, this decision is entirely up to the CHART. With the 2008 communities there were successful examples of both county-wide and community-based approaches. If the CHART decides to re-focus efforts please notify your NACDD point of contact (Ali), as the different approaches require different technical assistance models.
- Recommended continued engagement of the SHD EA Nancy Schaefer during the assessment and planning process. Her expertise from the state level and working with a 2008 ACHIEVE community are valuable and should not be overlooked.

RESOURCES / REFERENCES OBTAINED FROM THE CHART (ON FILE WITH NACDD):

- Site Visit agenda
- CHART Meeting agenda
- ACHIEVE Lake County, OH CHART Contact List

- PowerPoint slides from Budget update at CHART meeting
- Resource list on all 23 Regions in the County
- The Lakeland (Community College Newspaper)
- Campus Map of Lakeland Community College
- Lake MetroParks Report to the Community
- Perry Community Fitness Center schedule
- Lake County Community Guide