

Buncombe County Public Health Foundation, Incorporated

Strategic Plan

For the period

July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Mission and Vision of the Buncombe County Public Health Foundation

The Buncombe County Public Health Foundation, Incorporated was created to enhance and support public health activities and initiatives of Buncombe County Health Center, a local public health department. Because the foundation supports/serves the interests of the Health Center, it adheres to the centers mission and vision statements and identified core public health functions as defined by an organizational assessment process completed in February 2005.

Mission:

We protect, promote, and assure health.

Vision:

To be the healthiest community in North Carolina

Core Public Health Functions:

Protect: Creating recommendations and enforcing laws to maintain good health.
Promote: Providing education and tools to help people improve health status.
Assure: Linking to or providing quality health services.

Background

The Buncombe County Public Health Foundation, Incorporated was formed / bylaws adopted on April 19, 2000. Articles of Incorporation were received from the State of North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State on May 9, 2000 and IRS approval as a 501 (c) 3 was received on February 4, 2003.

The purposes for which The Foundation was organized are:

- (a) Assuring access to health and dental care for the medically indigent population.
- (b) Developing a countywide school health program.
- (c) Addressing those public health needs which cannot be met by established organizations.
- (d) Funding innovative public health initiatives, which do not have established funding sources.
- (e) Promoting collaboration among private and public organizations to achieve public health goals. Collaboration efforts include contracting with local providers and organizations rather than creating new programs.

(l) Seeking only grants which are not germane to the financial viability of local private, non-profit organizations.

(g) Receiving donations, grants, endowments and contributions from individuals, organizations, foundations or other entities. The Foundation will make available informational literature about the organization, including how to make contributions.

Priority Areas

Since its inception, the Buncombe County Public Health Foundation has developed a track record of assisting Health Center patients through initiatives including the operation of a Food Pantry, support for indigent health care/primary care, and a community doula program in addition to supporting Health Center staff with recognition and professional development efforts.

To fulfill its mission, the Buncombe County Public Health Foundation pursues goals identified through an ongoing Community Health Assessment process co-facilitated by Buncombe County Health Center and HealthPartners, the local Healthy Carolinians coalition, in collaboration with community partners. Action teams composed of key community members carry out different parts of the assessment which is required to include both quantitative and qualitative data.

Conducted every five years, the Buncombe County Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a systematic, data-driven approach to determining the health status, behaviors and needs of residents in a defined geographical region. Subsequently, this information may be used to formulate strategies to improve community health and wellness. The Community Health Assessment serves as a tool toward reaching these basic goals:

- To improve residents' health status, increase their life spans, and elevate their overall quality of life.
- To reduce health disparities among residents.
- To increase accessibility to preventive services for all community residents.
- To acknowledge and address the underlying issues that contribute to diminished health and quality of life among residents.

The Foundation goals are relevant to priority areas and community action plans resulting from the community health assessment process and consistent with identified core public health functions.

Program-Related Goals and Objectives of Strategic Plan:

Goal:

Improve the health status of all Buncombe County residents.

Objectives:

1. Assure access to Primary Care for uninsured **and** underinsured Buncombe County residents.
2. Assure access to dental care for uninsured and underinsured Buncombe County residents.
3. Assure that cost effective, high quality behavioral health care is integrated in BCHC primary care settings.
4. Reduce health disparities and improve the health status of racial/ethnic populations in Buncombe County.
5. Assure medication access for Buncombe residents who are low-income, uninsured or underinsured.
6. Respond to urgent, emergent or other major community needs consistent with Public Health core values and/or community health action plan.
7. Establish and build collaborations for development and submission of joint proposals that include multiple community partners in initiatives to address identified community needs.
8. Serve as a vehicle for the Health Center Food Pantry to acquire and distribute food and supplies to patients in need.
9. Serve as a vehicle for contributions of funds and donations that will enhance the Health Center's capability to provide essential public health services.
10. Serve as a vehicle for contributions, honoraria, and other donations that will enhance the Health Center's ability to provide staff recognition, professional development and career enhancement opportunities.
11. Fulfill other purposes as may be determined by the Foundation Board of Directors in the best interest of the Foundation, Health Center, and public health needs in Buncombe County.