An Alliance for Community Health Improvement

A Merger of Two Strong Organizations

The Alliance for Community Health
- A coalition of local organizations working to develop and implement a community health improvement plan for San Antonio and Bexar County.
- Organized and facilitated by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District.
- Includes broad community participation, such as community clinics, non-profits, faith-based organizations, neighborhood associations, local foundations, hospital systems, school districts, universities, and the City of San Antonio.
- Follows a nationally recognized strategic planning process called Mobilizing for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP).
- Performs a series of community health assessments to guide strategic planning.
- Relies on public health partners and community members as decision makers.
- Addresses a variety of strategic health issues based on the recommendations of the Alliance members.
- Creates ownership for public health issues within the community.
- Participation open to any individual or organization interested.

The Health Collaborative
- A collaboration among public and private health-related organizations working to assess and improve the health status of the residents in Bexar County.
- Garners diverse and stable funding.
- Has organizational and staffing infrastructure.
- Has committed strategic and funding partners.
- Demonstrates sustainability.
- Benefits from senior executive community leadership.
- Focuses resources on a small number of targeted issues.
- Track record of accomplishments.

Organizational Characteristics: Current vs. New

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Alliance</th>
<th>Current Health Collaborative</th>
<th>New Health Collaborative: An Alliance for Community Health Improvement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mission</strong></td>
<td>To improve the health status of the community through collaborative means.</td>
<td>An alliance for community health improvement to gain through collaborative means a safe and healthy community in which all individuals can achieve optimum physical, social and mental health – today, tomorrow and en el futuro.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td>Coalition 65113</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Governance</strong></td>
<td>Consensus</td>
<td>Board of directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Membership</strong></td>
<td>Interested individuals/organizations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>In-kind</td>
<td>Member dues, grants, corporate sponsorships and user fees.</td>
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| **Assessments**  | Completed one series of assessments:  
- Local Public Health Status  
- Community Themes and Strengths  
- Forces of Change  
- Local Public Health System | Completed two Community Health Assessments with Metro Health |
| **Strategic Initiatives** |  
- Tracking Change  
- Healthy Lifestyles  
- Public Policy  
- Sense of Community  
- Access to Care  
- Safe Environment |  
- Measuring health status  
- Fit City/Fit Schools  
- Youth Mental Health  
- Tracking Change  
- Fit City/Fit Schools  
- Sense of Community  
- Public Policy  
- Access to Care  
- Safe Environment  
- Youth Mental Health |
| **Staffing**     | One FTE funded by and stationed at Metro Health, with technical assistance from the Center for Disease Control & National Association of City and County Health Organizations | One full-time executive director and contract staff for Fit City/Fit Schools and business support. |
| **Implementation** | Preliminary stages |  
- Fit City/Fit Schools  
- Healthy Vending  
- Body Mass Index  
- Fit Schools policies  
- Corporate Wellness  
- Community awareness  
- Professional networking  
- Youth Mental Health Council  
- Communication vehicles  
- Fit City newsletter  
- Health Collaborative newsletter  
- Fit City Monthly Messages  
- Proactive public relations |  
- 3 FTEs (executive director, associate executive director and administrative assistant) and contract staff for Fit City/Fit Schools and business support. |
| **Evaluation**   |  
- Quarterly process evaluation  
- Quarterly reports to CDC & NACCHO  
- Biannual in-person meetings with CDC & NACCHO  
- Constant monitoring of committee progress and participation |  
- Monthly Walk San Antonio outcomes reports  
- Quarterly media publicity value reports  
- Program updates to board  
- Annual board strategic planning |  
- All, plus Community Council and Advisory Council meetings. |

“The opportunities that accompany this merger and their benefits will assure our community’s health and well-being in the future.” — Dr. <First Name> Guerra, <Title>
Combining Efforts

Builds on Strengths – Takes progress of each organization to a higher level.

Increases Effectiveness & Decreases Duplication – Eliminates confusion among stakeholders by combining similar efforts with mutual goals.

Uses Resources Efficiently & Streamlines Efforts – Integrates all community health assessments, governance, and staffing.

Enhances Sustainability & Increases Synergy – Strengthens ability to secure resources, and channels grassroots energy into decision-making.

Focuses on Outcomes – Provides an implementation vehicle for important community health initiatives.

“The single most compelling reason to merge nonprofits or to consider developing an alliance is to tap into complementary strengths.”