



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County, Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health DeSalvo Host Public Health 3.0 Event *Day-Long Discussion to Spotlight Innovative Approach to Public Health*

PITTSBURGH –Dr. Karen B. DeSalvo, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, and National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will visit Allegheny County on Wednesday, April 4, 2016 for a day-long discussion of Public Health 3.0, an initiative led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. The event, occurring on the first day of National Public Health Week, will spotlight how local public health advocates are working across sectors to improve the health of their communities.

“At a time in this country when, too often, your zip code can be the most accurate determinant of your health, we must work together toward solutions – empowering local leadership and building strong, community-based coalitions,” said Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health. “Public Health 3.0 is a chance to bring people from across sectors, like the terrific leaders here in Allegheny County, together for a discussion on how we can build healthier communities throughout America.”

Allegheny County is the first of several communities where participants will be encouraged to learn from one another in facilitated breakout sessions. In addition to Assistant Secretary DeSalvo and representatives of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Pennsylvania Department of Health Secretary Dr. Karen Murphy will attend along with other state and local public health officials. Invitations have also been extended to members from the business, nonprofit, government and urban planning communities to come and learn how to advance Public Health 3.0 concepts.

“It is an absolute pleasure to welcome Assistant Secretary DeSalvo to Allegheny County for this Public Health 3.0 event,” said Fitzgerald. “Over the last few years, with Dr. Hacker’s leadership, we have a Health Department which works with its partners to the benefit of our residents. That renewed focus on the health of our community,

the improving outcomes, and the engagement of so many in the effort to live healthier lives has resulted in the county jumping from 49th in 2010 to 26th this year in Health Outcomes in the annual Robert Wood Johnson Foundation county health rankings. We have much more work to do, but with the assistance of Dr. DeSalvo, and the leadership of Dr. Murphy and Dr. Hacker in our community, we can continue to have a healthy community.”

The full-day session will be held at the Hosanna House, 807 Wallace Avenue in Wilkinsburg, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Breakout sessions will focus on enhanced leadership and workforce skills, cross-sector partnerships, accreditation and infrastructure, data and analytics, and funding. Additionally, there will be spotlight on the Live Well Allegheny initiative which will be led by the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, Dr. Karen Hacker, and a panel session on the role of both state and big-to-small local public health departments which Secretary DeSalvo will moderate.

“Here in Allegheny County, we are proud to be recognized as a national model for Public Health 3.0,” said Dr. Hacker. “We are striving to work across sectors to improve the health of the entire county. Our recent County Health rankings are an indication that we are moving in the right direction, but we have work to do. This event represents an opportunity to highlight our efforts and reinforce our resolve to improve health in all of our communities.”

Public Health 3.0 is an upgrade in public health practice to a modern version that emphasizes cross-sectoral environmental, policy and systems-level actions that directly affect the social determinants of health. Individuals interested in participating in the event are asked to contact the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-ACHD (2243).

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