



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ACHD Begins Return to Communities to Share Plan for a Healthier Allegheny *Informative Open House Events Also Offering Health Screenings*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) today reminded the public of the start of the series of community open houses it will host this summer to promote its Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (PHA). The PHA is a five-year plan and roadmap for health improvement in Allegheny County which focuses on five critical priority areas: Access to Healthcare, Chronic Disease Health Risk Behaviors, Environment, Maternal and Child Health, and Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

“The input at the community meetings and the involvement of the advisory coalition were critical elements in the development of the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny.” said Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department. “This Plan is a living document that will help guide us toward our future goals. Success requires a collective approach that includes the continued commitment of our Advisory Coalition and broader countywide community participation. Our PHA community open houses are an opportunity to share the final product with the public and thank them for their contributions.”

The priorities were developed by the Health Department with the assistance of an advisory coalition with more than 70 organizational members. The final plan incorporated input from 14 community “*Our Health, Our Voice*” meetings attended by over 400 residents. The PHA is the product of more than a year of data collection, analysis and community outreach.

“As Chair of Council’s Health and Human Services Committee, I am thrilled to see the progress that the Health Department has made with its Plan for a Healthier Allegheny,” said Council Member John Palmiere. “I hope that the public will attend one of the community open houses to learn more about the Plan and find out how they can help us make Allegheny County a healthier place.”

The first two open houses will take place this coming Monday and Tuesday. Each will provide an overview of the PHA and key strategies it sets forth; an introduction to new ACHD data tools – such as the Allegheny Community Indicators dashboard; and, health screenings and information stations run by community organizations involved with the PHA’s development and implementation.

Monday, June 22, 2015
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Castle Shannon Library
3677 Myrtle Avenue
Castle Shannon, PA 15234

Tuesday, June 23, 2015
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Allegheny Intermediate Unit
475 East Waterfront Drive
Homestead, PA 15120

Learn more about the PHA on the ACHD website <http://www.achd.net/pha/index.html>

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