



KANSAS RURAL HEALTH WORKS

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Rural Health Works

- National program to help foster sustainable rural health care systems
 - Training in 43 states
 - Active programs in 30-35 states
 - Supported by Office of Rural Health Policy & Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) program
 - Sponsored in Kansas by the Kansas Rural Health Options Project
 - Introduced in Kansas by Your Demand

Program Objectives

- Help foster sustainable rural community health care system
- Increase awareness of health care importance
- Assess citizens' perceptions and use of available health care services
- Identify any unmet health care needs
- Identify health-related issues in the community
- Mobilize the community if issues arise and evaluate feasibility of community initiatives

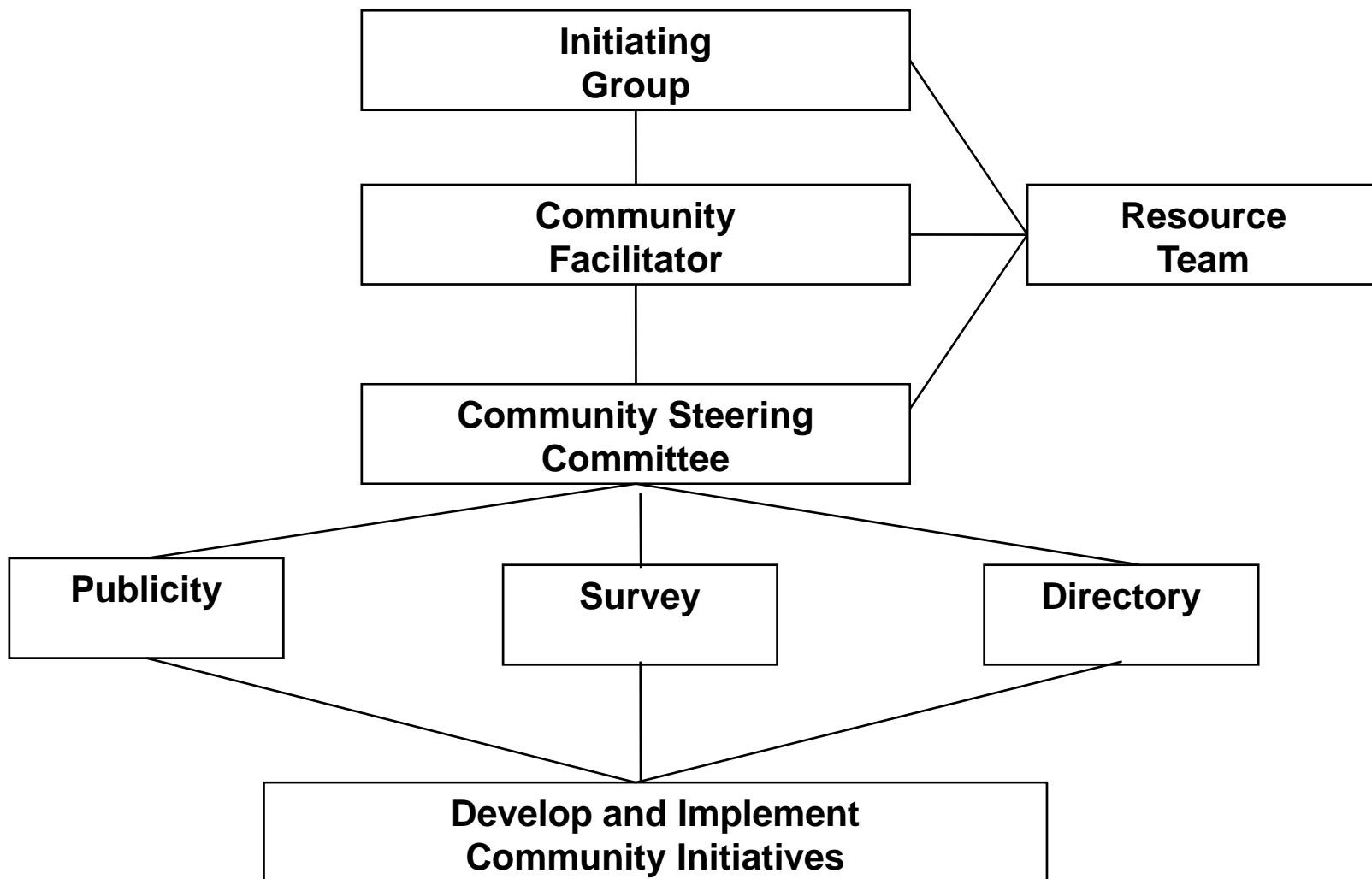
Community-driven Process

- Community-based, not driven by hospital, health care provider, or outside agency
- Local people solving local problems
- Community provides energy and commitment, with input from health care providers
- Public represented by you - community leaders who care enough to participate

Potential Benefits of Local Health System Review

- Better use of limited resources
- Improved coordination of health care services
- Increased cooperation among health care providers
- Increased public awareness of health care services

Community Health Engagement



Resource Team

- KDHE Office of Local and Rural Health
 - Chris Tilden
 - Gloria Vermie
- Kansas Hospital Association
 - Chad Austin
- Office of Local Government, K-State Research and Extension
 - John Leatherman

Resource Team

- Facilitate meetings
- Technical assistance for data development, analysis and presentation
- Technical assistance in identification and evaluation of key issues

Initiating Group

- Identify Community Facilitator
- Identify individuals for Steering Committee
- Send invitations to potential Steering Committee members
- Publicize process at civic, social, church meetings, local restaurants, company break rooms, etc.

Community Facilitator

- Key leadership role
 - Work closely with resource team
 - Arrange meetings, distribute publicity
 - Cultivate local leadership
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- Jackie Barton, Cloud County Community College

Steering Committee

- Broad-based community leaders
 - hospital and health care professionals
 - County Health Dept. & Extension
 - municipal, civic & social organization leaders
 - Chamber of Commerce & employers
 - concern citizens
 - health care system “critics”
- Key to health review program success

Steering Committee Meetings

- 5-6 meetings over 5-6 months
- One hour working meetings over lunch
- Emphasis is on development of information products
- Summary meeting at conclusion

Steering Committee

- Lead and direct community health engagement process
- Participate in working sessions, review and discuss findings
- If issues emerge, work on a community action plan
- Evaluate and implement community initiatives, if necessary

First Meeting

- Overview community health engagement process
- Secure participation and commitment of community members
- Discussion questions
 - health care and health-related issues?
 - community health-related goals/aspirations?
 - any particular assets or barriers to achieving the desired goals?

Focus on Information Products

- Economic impact of health care system
 - vital to community economic viability
- Health services directory
 - frequently more services than people realize
- Community health care survey
 - community wants, needs, use
 - you help design and publicize
- Data and information reports
 - may help to identify needs or issues

Summary Meeting

- Review highlights from the information products generated
- Revisit initial perceptions of any community issues or needs
- Steering Committee identifies any issues of importance and worthy of follow up
- Steering Committee assigns priority and develops action strategy
- You decide whether anything is needed

Action Planning

- Discuss tentative action plan at the final formal KRHW meeting
- Resource Team can investigate issues and available resources
- Steering Committee sets plan, time table and implementation steps
 - shares the plan with community through media outlets
 - invites feedback and community participation

Contact Information

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Questions

Your Perceptions

- What do you see as a health concern in Cloud County?
- What do you think Cloud County needs in order to have a complete, high-quality health care system?
- What should Cloud County's health-related goals be?
- What assets does Cloud County have to help meet these goals?
- What barriers stand in the way of meeting these goals?

Next Steps

- Review discussion questions
- Present economic impact of health care report
- Work on survey questions
- Community demographics fact sheet and discuss
- Next meeting date