

Local Team Participates in Public Health Leadership Program

Melfa, VA. (Feb. 4, 2013) – Eastern Shore Healthy Communities (ESHC) has been selected to participate in the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health (NLAPH) program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NLAPH is a national program focused on improving population health by working with multi-sector leadership teams and training the teams through an applied, team-based collaborative leadership development model. The program is implemented by the Center for Health Leadership and Practice (CHLP), a center of the Public Health Institute (PHI), and will provide training and support for a period of one year.

“This program will impart population health teams with the skills to lead across sectors and collaboratively solve complex population health problems in innovative ways,” said Carmen Rita Nevarez MD, MPH, Vice President for External Relations and CHLP’s Director. “These are the types of leaders who will ultimately be able to drive critical efforts, such as the adoption of evidence-based policies and practices at the community level, which can have a tangible impact on health outcomes.”

The ESHC team will work on an applied health leadership project that tackles an important population health issue with the goal of improving public health outcomes. Accomack and Northampton counties currently rank 91 and 97 respectively among all 131 Counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia according to the County Health Ranking & Roadmaps program, which is designed to help communities create solutions addressing specific factors that are known to affect health. The team will focus on reducing overweight/obesity and tobacco use, primary underlying factors associated with chronic diseases by working with employers, churches and other organizations to implement policies that address nutrition, physical activity and tobacco-free environments. The team assembled to undertake this critical issue includes representation from: education, public health, business, and local government. Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, President of Eastern Shore Community College, leads the team that includes Scott R. Chandler, Administrative Manager of the Eastern Shore Health District (Virginia Department of Health), Aileen Z. Joeckel, Wachapreague Town Council Member and Vice President of Retail Sales, Blue Crab Bay Company, and Patti Kiger, Instructor of Pediatrics, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Eastern Shore Healthy Communities Executive Director.

“Our vision is to transform this NLPH training opportunity into the Eastern Shore Healthy Communities Leadership Institute,” said Dr. Thomas-Glover. “The Institute will be a joint effort of all ESHC partners and will be housed at Eastern Shore Community College. We will offer opportunities to sharpen leadership skills and deepen awareness of our communities’ assets and challenges, providing the Shore with individuals prepared to inspire improved health and economic well-being for local governments, businesses, non-profit organizations, and citizens.”

NLAPH will provide training and support to assist the team in successfully addressing their training project: policies to support healthier workplaces and churches. Training and support will focus on two tracks. The first is the development of leadership skills, including personal and

collaborative leadership in a multi-sector environment. The second emphasizes growth from team-based collaborative work to policy and systems change. NLAPH is provided at no cost to the participants or the community.

For more information, contact:

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