

Healthy Communities Wyandotte Education Action Team



The Healthy Communities Wyandotte Education Action Team hails from Wyandotte County, Kansas. And no, it's not just cows and Dorothy over here! In fact, the Kansas City metro region was recently named the "Coolest" City in America by the illustrious Huffington Post.

With 160,000 residents in 151 square miles, Wyandotte County is one of the most urban counties in Kansas. We greatly value our cultural diversity- our population is 25% African American, 27% Latino, 3% Asian, 2% American Indian and 42% White. In fact, 69 languages are spoken in Kansas City Kansas Public Schools alone, and that is only one of our four school districts in the county. Wyandotte County has a growing refugee population (Burmese, Bhutanese and Somali Bantu) and a strong recent immigrant population (Central American and Mexican). We also have a multi-decade tradition of immigrants settling in our county (long-standing Hispanic, Croatian, Polish and Serbian communities).

When the County Health Rankings were first published in 2009, our county unfortunately ranked at the very bottom, with our very affluent neighboring county ranking highest. Our mayor at the time considered this ranking as an opportunity and call to action. After two years of community engagement and the input of nearly 100 community members, HCW published a community health improvement plan called Recommendations for a Better Future in 2011 and formed the Healthy Communities Wyandotte Coalition. They created teams to address nutrition, infrastructure, health services, communications and education (our current team). The Education Action Team currently has approximately 20 engaged members, and our NLAPH team of four was selected by that group to participate.

Our team's Applied Health Leadership Program will advance the work of the Healthy Lifestyles Initiative (HLI), a movement in which multi-sectoral partners become oriented, create their own customized work plan—called MAPPS for change—and implement it to infuse HLI core strategies into the delivery of their services. These strategies are evidence-based clinical and community approaches to effectively lower risk for obesity, including:

- M-** Consistent use of **message - 12345 Fit-Tastic!**
- A-** Consistent **assessment** of weight status and behaviors.
- P-** Customized healthy lifestyle **plan** for all.
- P- Policies** and environments that enable healthy eating and active living.
- S- Statistics** on message reach, assessment/plans completed and policy/environmental changes made.



As part of our AHLPP, we are carrying out a community messaging campaign to spread the 12345 Fit-Tastic! message throughout the county, and hosting an event in July to engage decision-makers from a variety of sectors to ask for their engagement in spreading the message to the community members they work with.