

PRESS RELEASE: Local Team Participates in Public Health Leadership Program

Savannah, GA (2/28/2013) – The Savannah Community Assessment Leadership Enterprise (SCALE) 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 SCALE team will work on an applied health leadership project that tackles an important population health issue with the goal of improving public health outcomes. Chatham County currently ranks 61 among all Counties in the State of Georgia 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. SCALE will work alongside local residents to develop a community engagement strategy that supports healthy living in East and West Savannah neighborhoods. Through this project, SCALE hopes to increase opportunities that engage residents from all walks of life in the planning and action steps necessary to create safer, healthier communities. The team assembled to undertake this critical issue includes representation from: Erika D. Tate, PhD of bluknowledge LLC (for-profit sector), Paula Kreissler of Wound Care Clinic – ESU, Inc. (healthcare sector), Cristina P. Gibson, MPH of the Coastal Health District (public health sector), and Teri Schell of the Forsyth Farmers’ Market (non-profit sector).

“We feel honored to participate in NLAPH and are excited to share this experience as a resource for our Savannah community,” said Dr. Tate of bluknowledge LLC. “This opportunity positions us to further engage community residents who have worked so hard to ensure that their neighborhoods are healthy and safe for everyone.”

NLAPH will provide training and support to assist the team in successfully addressing health outcomes related to health equity and community engagement. 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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