



central massachusetts center for

healthycommunities

A program of LUK, inc

Funded by the MA Dept. of Public Health

44 Front Street, Suite 280  
 Worcester, MA 01608-1733  
 508-438-0515 or 800-820-0036  
 Fax 508-438-0516  
 www.cmchc.org

**Address Update:**

In order to serve you better we would like to keep our list serve/database up to date. Please e-mail: [candersen@cmchc.org](mailto:candersen@cmchc.org) or fax 508-438-0516 with your current contact info. **Thank You!**

**To find out more about your local CHNA call us or visit**

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/ohc/config.htm>

Page 4

**Inside This Issue:**

<b>Letter from the Director</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHNA 5:</b> Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Dudley, East Brookfield, Holland, North Brookfield, Oxford, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Wales, Warren, Webster, and West Brookfield	<b>2</b>
<b>CHNA 6:</b> Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Franklin, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge	<b>2</b>
<b>CHNA 8:</b> Auburn, Boylston, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Paxton, Shrewsbury, West Boylston, and Worcester	<b>3</b>
<b>CHNA 9:</b> Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Barre, Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Hardwick, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, New Braintree, Oakham, Pepperell, Princeton, Rutland, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Westminster, and Winchendon	<b>3</b>
<b>Community Health Network Area Contact Information</b>	<b>4</b>



**Letter from the Director**

**Winter 2006/2007**

Dear Community Partners,

All communities have a source of vibrancy and effectiveness. These are assets to build upon. One of the vehicles to do so in MA is through the Community Health Network Areas (CHNAs). Every city and town in MA has one that covers their area. The four in central MA are CHNA 5, 6, 8 and 9.

There are 27 CHNAs in MA, and in my experience, no two have the same approach. This is the beauty of a developmental rather than a prescriptive model. Each CHNA can decide how to address its own health priorities based on local data. The particular approach they take is one that is owned, fueled, and designed by the community and agencies working together.

When the CHNA model was introduced in MA in 1992 there were some principles and approaches that were recommended by then Department of Public Health Commissioner David Mulligan. The CHNA approach focuses on public health strategies that are relationship driven, locally supported, guided by

data and asset-based. Having a group of people invested in public health and being reflective of the community are cornerstone principles, which have produced positive results in many locales throughout the world.

The CMCHC assists in the CHNAs success. Apart from helping them use sound prevention practice we help them to identify funding opportunities and evaluate their strategies. This enhances the effectiveness of their approach and assists them in smooth transitions.

In this edition we've invited each of the CHNAs to briefly share some of the exciting things they are doing. If you're interested in going to their next meeting or event, contact information for each of them is provided. Community-based prevention is working and the CHNAs in central MA are more than happy to push back the chairs to make room for others.

Happy holidays to you and those you care about from all of us here at the CMCHC, *Vicente Sanabria*

## Greater Southbridge CHNA 5

How best to describe what is happening with CHNA 5? The words that come to mind are progressive, community-driven, and asset based. CHNA 5 serves fifteen communities in South Worcester county in their goals of becoming healthier communities.

Building healthy communities is a shared responsibility. CHNA 5 will be involving all sectors of their communities – community residents, health professionals, government, business leaders, clergy and schools to improve the health and quality of life for all residents. Right now a workgroup of the CHNA is meeting to put the Operating Principles in place to further build capacity within the CHNA. The Principles will be discussed and voted on during the next general meeting in December.

Membership is open to anyone interested in furthering and supporting the mission and vision of CHNA 5. At the moment, meetings are held at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge, but in the future, meetings will be held within as many of the communities in the CHNA as possible. For more information about joining CHNA 5, please contact Doug Crapser by e-mail at [dcrapser@harringtonhospital.org](mailto:dcrapser@harringtonhospital.org). You may also contact Vicente Sanabria at [vsanabria@cmchc.org](mailto:vsanabria@cmchc.org) or by phone at 508-438-0515.

## Community Partners for Health CHNA 6

CHNA 6 was created in 1992 as part of a statewide Department of Public Health initiative to facilitate effective collaboration to identify, plan and advocate for healthier communities. CHNA 6 membership is diverse and represents 13 communities in the Greater Milford and Blackstone Valley areas. The overall goal is to create a local coalition of public, non-profit and private sector organizations that work together by identifying health needs, sharing resources, collaborating and supporting each other's efforts.

CHNA 6 welcomes representatives from health promotion facilities, community-based health organizations, educational facilities, human service organizations, local government, faith communities, local businesses, and the general community. General meetings are held five times each year at Milford Regional Medical Center.

In addition, we are currently soliciting proposals for mini-grants in the \$200 to \$2,500 range. The agency or organization making a grant application must be an active member of CHNA 6, or agree to become an active member. Deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, February 16, 2007.

To obtain a grant application, including guidelines, or to be placed on the CHNA 6 mailing list, please contact Aaron Whitesel at [aaronw@unitedwaytri-county.org](mailto:aaronw@unitedwaytri-county.org).

## Common Pathways CHNA 8

We hope to have our Worcester's Indicators Report ready to share with everyone, professionals, business people and residents, by January 2007. But that is not all! We want to reflect about each indicator, and establish a continuing dialogue with experts and residents about: what these indicators mean to us regarding our quality of life (housing, safety, youth, transportation, and others) and how we as individuals, families, and organizations can move these identified indicators toward a positive change. Look for our invitation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Community FORUM and small group discussions in early Spring 2007. The time for coordinated action is getting closer and we need your input, energy and commitment to improve our city together.

Common Pathways is also interested in reactivating the CHNA 8 networking group. We know that there are many human service providers and other organizations that used to attend CHNA 8 meetings to provide each other with support and opportunities for networking. We also know that they are still working effectively, benefiting our local children, youth, adults, families, and seniors. Common Pathways wants to invite all previous and new members to a meeting of the CHNA 8 networking group in January 2007. If you are interested in attending these meetings please contact Clara Savage at (508) 438-0515 ext. 13 or via e-mail at [csavage@luk.org](mailto:csavage@luk.org).

## Greater Fitchburg/Gardner CHNA 9

CHNA 9 is alive and well. We meet quarterly at 2:00 PM in the Trustees Room on the first floor of the Burbank Hospital Campus of HealthAlliance, 275 Nichols Road, Fitchburg 01420. Everyone is welcome. CHNA 9 is a great place to network with other providers of North Worcester County. It is also a place to present and hear about initiatives and issues of concern and interest for our communities.

Our last meeting took place on November 16th at which we had a presentation by Jennifer Chow, Outreach & Enrollment Manager, Health Care For All, on the new Commonwealth Care Insurance Program, one of the first major pieces of the MA health care reform legislation passed recently to be implemented. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2007, 2:00 PM.

As some of our Steering Committee members have recently resigned from that role due to changes in jobs or job responsibilities, we are looking to recruit some new members to that committee. If anyone is interested in joining the Steering Committee, has any questions about CHNA 9 or would like to recommend an item for our agenda, please contact Bill O'Connell at 508-792-7880 x2169 or via email at [bill.oconnell@state.ma.us](mailto:bill.oconnell@state.ma.us).