

Appendix 1: Glossary and Crosswalk of Community Assessments terminology used in New York State

Community Assessment: Part of a strategic plan that describes the community by collecting, analyzing and using data to educate and mobilize communities, develop priorities, garner resources, and plan actions to improve public health. (1)

Community Benefit: A term used in the health care sector. It refers to activities that enhance the health services that a not-for-profit health care organization has to provide to justify its tax-exempt status. (2)

Community Health Assessment: Part of a strategic plan that describes the health of the community by collecting, analyzing and using data to educate and mobilize communities, develop priorities, garner resources, and plan actions to improve public health. (1)

Community Service Plan: A Community Service Plan must identify at a minimum the populations and communities served by the voluntary non-profit general hospital and the hospital's commitment to meeting the health care needs of the community. In doing so, the hospital must identify its mission, show community input, demonstrate the hospital's operational and financial commitment to meeting community needs, prepare and make a public statement showing charity care commitment. (3)

Evaluation: The process of critically examining the inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes of a program or other intervention-usually in relation to established goals, objectives, and standards-to determine its operational strengths and weaknesses. Evaluations produce information about which programs work and also which program components work most effectively. Information obtained from evaluations is most often used for program appraisal, management, and improvement.(4)

Health: A dynamic state of complete physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.(5)

Impact Objective: An impact objective is short term (less than three years) and measurable. The object of interest is on knowledge, attitudes, or behavior. (6).

Indicator: An "indicator" is a measure, for which we have data that helps quantify the achievement of a desired result. Indicators help answer the question: "How would we know a result if we achieved it?" Examples of indicators include: rates of preventable disease among children; reading and math achievement scores;; rates of teen pregnancy and drug use; and crime rates. (7)

Measure: A mechanism to assign a quantity to an attribute by comparison to a criterion. (8)

Outcome Objective: An outcome objective is long term (greater than 3 years) and measurable. The objects of interest are mortality, morbidity, and disability. (4) .

Performance measure: A "performance measure" is a measure of how well public or private agencies and programs are working. Typical performance measures address matters of timeliness, cost-effectiveness, and compliance with standards. Examples of performance measures include: percentage of child abuse investigations initiated within 24 hours of a report; amount of child support collected for each dollar expended on child support enforcement; and police or fire response time. (7)

Process Measure: An index of the degree to which a service or procedure is performed correctly and appropriately; that is, the service or procedure's likely benefit exceeds its likely harms or risks. (6)

Public Health: Activities that society undertakes to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. This includes organized community efforts to prevent, identify, and counter threats to the health of the public (9) .

Result: A bottom line condition of well being for children, families, or communities. Results are, by definition, not "owned" by any single agency or system. They cross over agency and program lines, and public and private sectors. Examples of results include: children born healthy, children ready for school, children succeeding in school, young people avoiding trouble, stable and self-sufficient families, and safe and supportive communities. (7)

Strategic Planning: A disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization (or other entity) is, what it does, and why it does it. Strategic planning requires broad scale information gathering, an exploration of alternatives, and an emphasis on the future implications of present decisions. It can facilitate communication and participation, accommodate divergent interests and values, and foster orderly decision making and successful implementation. (6)

1. New York State Department of Health. Findings of Literature Review. Working definition of Community Health Assessment. Available at <http://www.nyhealth.gov/statistics/chac/usefulcha/findings.htm#definitions>. Accessed May 24, 2007.
2. Adapted from Community Voices: Healthcare for the underserved. First Health of the Carolinas Community Benefit Program available <http://www.communityvoices.org/Article.aspx?ID=148>. Accessed May 24, 2007.
3. NYS statute - 10 NYCRR, Section. 2801-l
4. Public Health Administration: Principles for population-based management. Ed. L. F. Novick and G. P. Mays; Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, Inc, 2001.
5. WHO'S New Proposed Definition. 101st Session of the WHO Executive Board, Geneva, January 1998. Resolution EB101.R2 available at http://www.searo.who.int/LinkFiles/Regional_Health_Forum__Volume_6_No._1_Constitution.pdf. Accessed September 18, 2006.
6. [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\)](#) MAPP is a community wide strategic planning tool for improving community health developed by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in partnership with CDC. It builds on information learned from [Assessment Protocol for Excellence in Public Health \(APEXPH\)](#), an internal organizational assessment tool for local health departments.
7. Prepared for the Finance Project. "A Guide to Developing and Using Performance Measures in Results-based Budgeting" by Mark Friedman, , May 1997 <http://www.financeprojectinfo.org/Publications/measures.html>. Accessed September 18, 2006.
8. National Quality Measures Clearinghouse. Glossary – Quality Measures. Available at <http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/resources/glossary.aspx>. Accessed December 1, 2006.
9. Public Health: What is it and How it Works. Turnock B.J.; Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, Inc, 1997.