Partners Call to Action:

The overall health of residents is first and foremost for our partners. Join us in our collective action and take control of your health for you and your family. Take advantage of the many programs offered through our partners both health care facilities and public health organizations to make the healthy choice the easy choice.

Newsletter/Blog Article:

Our counties; Meeker, McLeod, and Sibley have identified common goals and objectives throughout our region that need to be improved. The overall health of residents is first and foremost for our partners. Join us in this action and take control of your health for you and your family.

How do you picture a healthy community? By witnessing people making positive choices and behaviors, many individuals can and will impact the greater population. Look for people being active around you...biking, walking, and running. Maybe it will inspire you to also make active choices? Look for activities or events on food preparation, cooking demonstrations and seminars to promote making better food choices for you and your family. Check your areas listing of events and make a change to impact your health for today and tomorrow. It may inspire you to make a change. Let's make all of our communities a healthier and happy place to live.

One of the collective actions initiatives is to improve access to food and decrease obesity rates for our residents. The Power of Produce at the Farmer’s Market in Hutchinson is a great way to encourage kids to purchase fresh vegetables. Giving the kids authority and access to fresh items allowed them to buy and consume locally grown produce. What a fantastic way to get our youth started in the right direction. Take advantage of the many programs offered thru our partners both health care facilities and public health organizations. Check our website for more success stories throughout our region.

Sample Letter or Intro Template for Partnering Agencies/Organizations:

(Please customize letter or introduction to fit your agency/organization.)

As charter members of the Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Leadership Team (CLT), (Organization Name) has long recognized the value of diverse entities working together to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities. From coordinating the performance of an in-depth Community Health Needs Assessment to the development and implementation of a Community Health Improvement Plan, we’ve seen the value of collaboration demonstrated in action.

Evolving the culture and physical environment in our communities to encourage and facilitate healthy choices is generational endeavor. Working alone we can accomplish some things; working together multiplies our impact.
(Organization Name) is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the CLT, and we look forward to continued work with our Meeker-McLeod-Sibley partners in advancing the health of our communities.

(Organization Leader)
(Organization Title)
(Organization Name)

*Sample provided courtesy of Hutchinson Health.

Facebook Post:

Did you know that Meeker, McLeod and Sibley (MMS) Counties have banded together to cross community lines and work as a team? There was an assessment of all of our counties and by working and coordinating our forces, it will help improve the health across our region. Working alone we can accomplish some things; working together multiplies our impact. Look for information to come as we roll out the initiatives recognized in our MMS assessment. Check our website mmshealthycommunities.org for more information.

Other Ideas:

- Share a story on our website. This is how you share a story on our site:
  - Go to www.mmshealthycommunities.org
  - Hover over the Community Happenings tab and scroll down to Share Your Story.
  - Fill out the form on the Share Your Story page and we will notify you when we publish it via our blog or Facebook page.

- Share an event on our website. This is how you share an event on our site:
  - Go to www.mmshealthycommunities.org
  - Hover over the Community Happenings tab and scroll down to Submit an Event.
  - Fill out the form on the Submit an Event page and we will notify you when we publish it via our Event Calendar or our Facebook page.

Additional Resources:

Healthy Minnesota 2020 http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthymnpartnership/hm2020/

Creating Health Equity in Minnesota http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/che/about/creatinghealthequity.html

CDC Community Health Improvement Navigator https://www.cdc.gov/chinav/index.html
For Immediate Release

Contact: (Organization Contact)

Meeker, McLeod and Sibley (MMS) Healthy Communities Collaborative releases the 2017 Community Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

(Date) City, MN, Date - For over 20 years, the three-county collaborative between hospitals, public health and partnering organizations have worked together in effort to create healthier communities. This year, with the release of the community assessment there will be an added document and commitment for collective action through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) from all partnering agencies/organizations.

“Collective action occurs when all partners agree to coordinate activities in pursuit of shared goals and objectives,” said (Agency/Organization Spokesperson, Title). Too often there is a challenge in balancing resources and staff capacity between internal priorities and external community needs. While partners are active and engaged with community level initiatives there continues to be internal agency/organization priorities.

The collective action approach requires collaboration from all partners to work on overarching goals to address the community needs and establish common priority areas for health. Each agency/organization utilizes shared local public health data to work on interventions specific to their agency/organization and contribute as a whole to overall community goals. Diagram A represents a visual of the collective action approach created by The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC).

*This approach will allow each partnering agency to identify their contributions (if any) towards the identified priority areas. This will allow agencies to share information, resources, and coordinate services that will result in a larger impact on the community. (Mays, 2010) * MMS Healthy Communities, 2017 Community Health Assessment (pg. 8)
Results from the 2017 MMS Community Assessment targets six priority areas for health. In addition, Health Inequity in Meeker, McLeod and Sibley Counties has been identified and incorporated into the plans of collective action.

- Obesity
- Senior Health
- Mental Health
- Access to Care
- Binge Drinking
- Choice/Behavior/Culture

Taking national, state and local data into consideration, the collaborative has identified common goals and objectives with initiatives underway throughout the three-county area. The goal of the collaborative will be to communicate with partners and the community to take action on the plans to improve the overall health of the MMS communities. More information will be shared on each priority area for health as well as success stories along the way, consider ways to join and follow the action at: mmshealthycommunities.org

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Date: December 11th, 2017
To:
From: Allie Elbert, CHS Administrator
Re: MMS CHS Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan

Hello,

I am excited to share with you our most recent Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services (MMS CHS) Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Both the CHA and CHIP are requirements that local public health must complete as part of MN Statute 145A. For more information on the statutory requirements, please visit http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/ophi/gov/lphact/.

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) identifies and describes factors that affect the health of a community, and the factors that determine available resources to address those health needs. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems in the community. It is based on the results of the CHA.

While local public health has had requirements to complete improvement plans for many years, changes to MN Statute in recent years added additional requirements. In addition, around the same time as the statutory updates, local hospitals also received a new IRS requirement to also complete a CHA and develop an improvement plan.

MMS CHS works very closely with the MMS Healthy Communities Leadership Team (CLT). The CLT is comprised of organizations throughout MMS, including local hospitals, HeadStart, the business community, active transportation organizations, U of M Extension, the Regional Development Commissions, and the MN River Area Agency on Aging. The MMS CLT is the backbone for this work. In 2013, MMS CHS and the four local hospitals completed a joint CHA that was facilitated through the MMS CLT. Through the CHA, three priority areas were identified – obesity, mental health and prevention & wellness. The CLT formed subcommittees to address this work. While there was some success with this method, there were also some lessons learned and applied to the next CHA and CHIP process.

The hospitals are required to complete their CHA every 3 years, so in 2016, MMS CHS partnered with the hospitals, again through the CLT, to facilitate this process. Much of the data used during this process was local data collected through a 2014 Community Behavior Survey that was funded through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). During this process, six priority areas were identified by the community – obesity, senior
health, mental health, access to care, binge drinking and choices/behavior/culture. The CLT decided to use a collective action approach to address the identified priority areas. A collective action model was developed in which overall objectives were identified for each priority. The indicators selected to measure progress came from the local Community Behavior Survey. This survey will be repeated in 2019 to measure progress. Each participating organization in the CLT has developed their own internal improvement plans that contribute to reaching the overall objectives of the Collective Action Plan.

Enclosed with this letter are resources related to the CHA and CHIP:

1. Summary of the CHA
2. MMS CLT’s Collective Action Community Health Improvement Plans
3. MMS CHS’s internal CHIP that MMS CHS is implementing over the next 5 years
4. Two-page infographics that highlight each priority area, meant to be more user-friendly for the general public

All of these documents are available electronically on the MMS CHS website [www.mmspublichealth.org](http://www.mmspublichealth.org).

I encourage you to review, use and share any and all of these documents as you see fit, as they have been created to address the identified heath needs of the community. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out to me at (507) 766-3531 or allie.elbert@co.mcleod.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Allie Elbert,

MMS CHS Administrator