

Waco Team Participates in Public Health Leadership Program

Waco, TX (DATE) – The McLennan County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Team has been selected to participate in the National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health (NLAPH), funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NLAPH is a national program focused on improving population health by working with multi-sector leadership teams to train them 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, 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 CHIP team will work on local projects that tackle important health issues to improve public health outcomes. McLennan County currently ranks 147 in health outcomes among 252 counties in Texas, according to the County Health Ranking & Roadmaps program. The 2013 McLennan County Community Health Needs Assessment indicates three areas for improvement to better the health of the community: Women’s Health, Obesity, and Access to Care. The NLAPH Fellows assembled to undertake these critical issues are: Kahler Stone, Waco-McLennan County Public Health District; Natalie Kelinske, Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas; Ashley Thornton, Act Locally Waco; and Ramona Curtis, Baylor University.

“We are thrilled that our local CHIP group was selected to participate in this program, said Sherry Williams, Director of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District. “The CHIP team along with the Health District and many community leaders, is committed to improving the health of McLennan County residents.”

NLAPH will provide training and support to assist the team in successfully addressing the three areas of Women’s Health, Obesity, and Access to Care in McLennan County. 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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