

Creating Communities of Health and Hope

Long Term Vision and Goals

Inspired by the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and the charism of Bon Secours, Bon Secours Health System (BSHSI) is recognized for leadership in justice, transforming the communities in which we serve and work into places of health and hope, and for being a prophetic voice for systemic US health reform and a more humane world.

One of BSHSI's goals is to build healthier communities. A healthy community is achieved through improved and coordinated use of existing and new assets with **the most important asset being the people who live and work in the community**. To contribute to the transformation of economically poor and vulnerable communities into places of health and hope, BSHSI draws on its Catholic social tradition. Our tradition teaches us that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in terms of economics and politics—directly affects the capacity of each person to grow and develop. Therefore, building healthier communities requires a systemic, ecological, multi-sector approach that acknowledges all of the social determinants of health such as housing, education, employment, public safety and social justice.

Healthy Community Initiative

A healthy community initiative is founded in long term, collaborative relationships in which service organizations engage and empower the members of a defined geographic community to support them in improving their quality of life and holistic health. Developing a successful and sustainable healthy community initiative requires servant leadership and the deployment of certain key elements.

- ❖ **Define** health and well-being holistically.
- ❖ **Create** a shared vision.
- ❖ **Focus** on systemic improvement within defined geographic community.
- ❖ **Build** diverse citizen participation and community ownership.
- ❖ **Commit** to share resources, responsibilities, risk and rewards.
- ❖ **Leverage** community assets and strengths to build capacity.
- ❖ **Intervene** at multiple levels including environment and public policy.
- ❖ **Risk** and persevere.
- ❖ **Modify** interventions based on outcome and process measures.

These key elements, woven into a circular, interdependent and fluid process of development and renewal, provide the strategic framework for BSHSI to further develop its ability to respond to its call to be a prophetic voice. BSHSI's strategy is to increase its commitment and actions in advancing just political, economic and social structures and policies through participation in a healthy community initiative in each community served.



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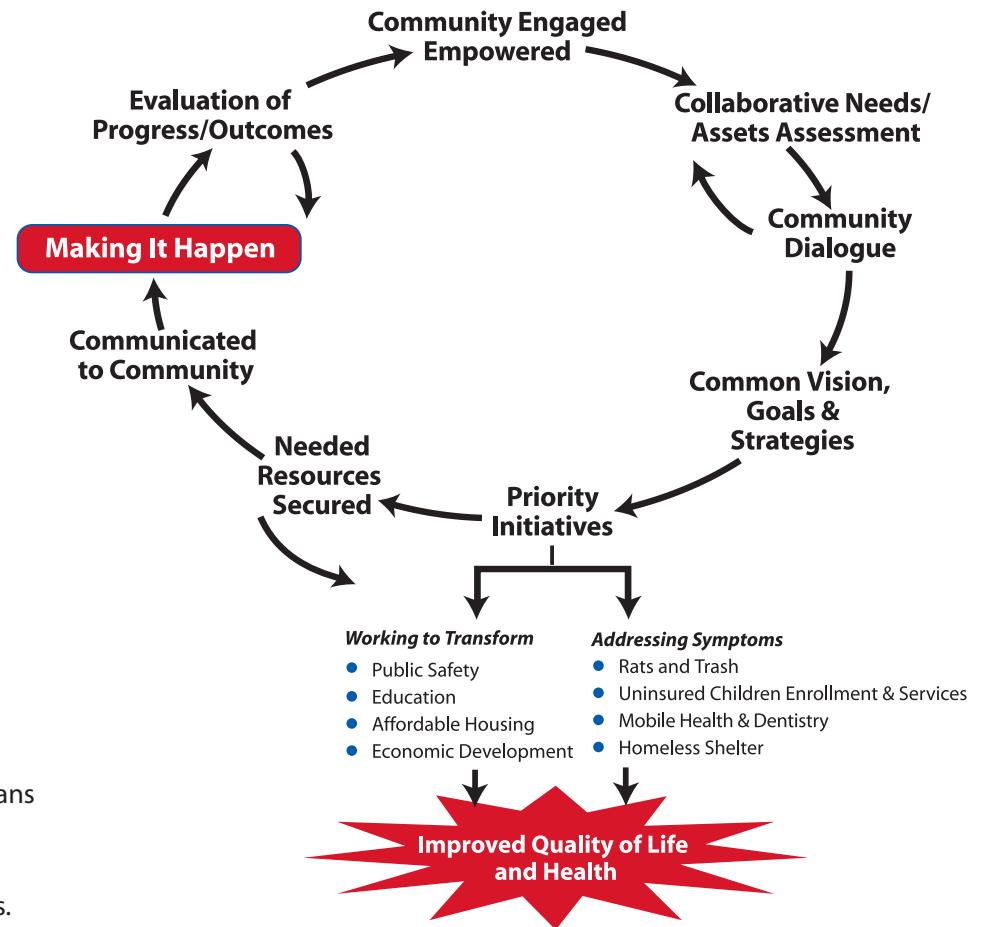
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Strategic Framework for a Healthy Community Initiative

- ❖ **Community Engaged**
 - Engage diverse community participation and ownership.
 - Address concerns of potentially competitive entities.
- ❖ **Collaborative Needs/Assets Assessment**
 - Embrace a broad definition of health and well-being.
 - Focus on community assets and strengths.
- ❖ **Community Dialogue**
 - Create an atmosphere that reflects the importance of all participants.
 - Agree on a structure for working together.
- ❖ **Common Vision, Goals and Strategies**
 - Create a compelling vision from shared values.
 - Set up criteria for the plan—maximizes existing resources, aligns with the vision, and is economically feasible.
- ❖ **Priority Initiatives**
 - Focus on addressing both the symptoms of injustice and transformation /systemic improvement.
- ❖ **Needed Resources Secured**
 - Build capacity using local assets and resources.
 - Identify other potential partners.
- ❖ **Communicated to the Community**
 - Provide ongoing communication to the community to relay plans and acknowledge successes and contributors.
- ❖ **Evaluation of Progress / Outcomes**
 - Determine evaluation process and targets before action begins.
- ❖ **Community Empowered**
 - Celebrate successes; refine strategies and move on to next community priorities.



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