

Wisconsin Public Health Association

2014 RESOLUTION

Supporting Collaborations to Improve Land use, Community Design and Transportation-related Health Outcomes

WHEREAS, we recognize that decisions about land use, community design, and transportation planning directly influence not only environmental conditions such as air quality, housing conditions, and ground and surface water quality¹ but also a) support or constrain the ability of community residents to make healthy dietary, physical activity, and other choices, and b) increase or decrease levels of chronic stress experienced by community residents

WHEREAS, these environmental and built environmental conditions have a direct effect on the incidence of chronic disease (such as asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease), on rates of overweight and obesity, mental illness, and pedestrian injury and fatality^{2 3}

WHEREAS, these health issues have a disproportionate effect on vulnerable populations such as individuals and communities of color, children, and the elderly⁴

WHEREAS, many planning decisions that influence health have traditionally been made outside the jurisdiction of health agencies and without the input of public health professionals⁵

WHEREAS, the need to create and strengthen the bridge between land-use planning, community design, and public health practice is recognized and encouraged by the American Planning Association (APA) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Public Health Association encourages an interdisciplinary approach to creating and maintaining healthy communities,⁶

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WPHA is supportive of efforts to:

1. Provide tools, resources, and networks to foster improved collaboration between public health and planning professionals⁷ such as: inclusion of health chapters in comprehensive plans, inclusion of planners in Community Health Improvement Process Plans (CHIPP), Community Health Assessments (CHA), Health Impact Assessments (HIA), and Health in All Policies (HiAP) frameworks⁸
2. Help local public health agencies and local planning agencies gain a better understanding of their respective authorities and functions, and how they can provide input and guidance to one another for healthier land-use planning⁹
3. Raise the awareness of the importance of such planning – public health collaborations with: a) local public health officials so they can better proactively participate in land use planning decisions; b) local planners so they can bring a more informed health lens to the planning table; and c) WPHA members at large so they can see the importance of such partnerships and policy work for advancing public health outcomes
4. Encourage and support a) WPHA membership for planners, and b) long-term partnerships between public health professionals and planners to design healthier communities in Wisconsin through interaction with Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning

Legislation,¹⁰ Wisconsin Community Health Improvement Process Planning,¹¹ and Wisconsin Environmental Protection Act.¹²

5. Establish a partnership with the American Planning Association-Wisconsin Chapter

Probable impact on public health

Where we live, work, play and learn affects the health of all Wisconsinites, therefore more and better collaboration between public health professionals and planners will benefit the health of all Wisconsinites by bringing a health lens to the planning process and through creating healthier community design.

Approved at the WPHA Annual Business Meeting on May 13, 2014.

¹ American Planning Association. Healthy Communities through Collaboration Public Health and Land Use Planning Retrieved on 8/12/13 from <http://www.planning.org/research/healthy/>

² American Planning Association. Healthy Communities through Collaboration Public Health and Land Use Planning Retrieved on 8/12/13 from <http://www.planning.org/research/healthy/>

³ Wernham A. Health Impact Assessment Are Needed In Decision Making About Environmental And Land-Use Policy. 2011. *Health Affairs*. 30(5):947-956.

⁴ American Planning Association. Healthy Communities through Collaboration Public Health and Land Use Planning Retrieved on 8/12/13 from <http://www.planning.org/research/healthy/>

⁵ Wernham A. Health Impact Assessment Are Needed In Decision Making About Environmental And Land-Use Policy. 2011. *Health Affairs*. 30(5):947-956.

⁶ Wisconsin Public Health Association Resolution:

Supporting the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) to guide policymaking. Retrieved on 12/4/2013 from <http://www.wpha.org/docs/Resolutions/HIA-Section-Resolution---2011>

⁷ American Planning Association. Healthy Communities through Collaboration Public Health and Land Use Planning Retrieved on 8/12/13 from <http://www.planning.org/research/healthy/>

⁸ Healthiest Wisconsin 2020. <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/p00557.pdf>

⁹ American Planning Association. Healthy Communities through Collaboration Public Health and Land Use Planning Retrieved on 8/12/13 from <http://www.planning.org/research/healthy/>

¹⁰ Wisconsin Dept. of Administration. Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Legislation. <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=5436>

¹¹ <http://www.walhdab.org/NewCHIPPResources.htm>

¹² American Planning Association. Healthy Communities through Collaboration Public Health and Land Use Planning Retrieved on 8/12/13 from <http://www.planning.org/research/healthy/>