

# **Blue Ribbon Panel on Public Health in Minneapolis**

**Staff report to City Council  
directive of 5/14/04**

**Report to the Minneapolis City Council  
Health and Human Services Committee**

**By the Minneapolis Department of Health &  
Family Support  
January 20, 2005**

# Developing a plan

- Articulate key roles and responsibilities of the city and county health departments.
- Create a mechanism for residents, community leaders, and PHAC members to collaborate.
- Propose a process for elected officials to approve and oversee an Urban Health Agenda.

# Key roles and responsibilities of Hennepin County public health

- Oversight and management of large public health systems.
- Surveillance for communicable diseases.
- Tracking population-based health trends.
- Responding to specific health threats, such as tuberculosis.
- Managing a wide variety of direct services, including screening refugees/immigrants.

# Key roles and responsibilities of Minneapolis public health

- Focusing on specialized needs of urban residents and the urban environment.
- Engaging diverse constituencies in problem identification and solution.
- Targeting intense effort toward special health initiatives, such as reducing infant mortality and improving teen reproductive health.
- Limited direct services: lab, SBCs & NFC.

# Shared roles and responsibilities

- Emergency preparedness is a critical example of complementary roles.
- The two departments share oversight for the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee.
- The county focuses on surveillance and direct service providers while the city focuses on vulnerable populations and coordination with other city services.

# Recommendations regarding joint functioning

- Public health department leaders need to maintain a regular dialogue to assess division of roles and responsibilities. Meetings now occur monthly.
- The two advisory committees need to meet jointly to develop a shared Urban Health Agenda for Minneapolis.

# Including residents, community leaders, and providers

- City and County both have processes for eliciting community input for local public health plans.
- Mechanisms include needs assessments based on data and community observations, focus groups, public forums, and meetings of providers and community interest groups.

# Recommendations regarding inclusiveness

- The local public health planning process should be adapted to become the mechanism for development and oversight of an Urban Health Agenda.
- The meetings of major contractors should become more inclusive of the service delivery system and be named the Minneapolis Health and Human Services Leadership Group.

# Official oversight of Urban Health Agenda

- Priorities identified by Health and Human Services Leadership Group and other community voices.
- Priorities presented to city and county PHACs, who will jointly develop recommendations.
- The resulting Urban health Agenda will be presented to elected officials for approval.

# Summary of process to establish Urban Health Agenda

