

Purpose Statement from Retreat

Preamble:

The role of the Kansas City (MO) Health Commission, created by City Council ordinance and appointed by the Mayor, is to serve as an independent health policy voice to advocate on behalf of all KCMO for improvement of community health with a reminder that health is more than the absence of disease. A major focus is advocacy on behalf of the underserved who suffer from health inequities due to economics, race, lack of health care access, limited behavioral health services, or lack of access to other needed services which adversely affect health and wellness.

The Health Commission works by emphasizing collaboration among all city, regional, state, and federal health resources. This includes public health agencies, health care providers, behavioral health providers and human service agencies (both public and private). This approach requires communicating with and seeking joint advocacy with other public health, health care, behavioral health and human service interests in the region

Action Strategies for 2008-2011

The overall action strategies below include both the substance of the work to be accomplished by the Health Commission and guidance on how the Health Commission will approach this work:

1. Increasing awareness of the connection between the health of the community and overriding issues such as crime, violence, housing, and other social determinants of health.
2. Fostering preventive services, management of health conditions and accessible quality care to all residents of KC with a focus on reducing minority and economic disparities.
3. Assuring transparency and accountability of health levy funding to benefit the recipients of health care services and public health services funded by the health levy.
4. Convening and inviting grass roots input and participation in all Health Commission deliberations.

The strategies above are designed to implement and update a CHIP, which monitors and assesses KC priority health issues as defined by the community (lay & professionals).