



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Creating Healthy Rural Communities

Grantee: Juneau County Health Department

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Academic Partner: Barbara Duerst, RN,MS; Faculty Associate; Department of Population Health Sciences

Program: Development

Grant Duration: 03-01-2008 to 08-31-2009 (18 months)

Expenditures: \$53,591 (90%)

Use of Funds: Coalition development and Needs Assessment

► **Description:** : Between 2004 and 2008, Juneau County finished in the bottom five of Wisconsin counties in the state's annual County Health Rankings. This project aimed to improve the ranking by improving health within the county. Specifically, it aimed to:

- Increase understanding of Juneau County's health needs and identify programs and policies for promoting health and eliminating disparities
- Assess the resources already available within the county
- Develop a five-year Community Health Improvement plan.

► **Results:** This project met each of its goals. Working closely with UWSMPH faculty, a committee of 32 local stakeholders convened to assess data and examine existing resources. Project assistants from the Master of Public Health Program (a WPP-funded initiative) prepared research briefs related to health literacy, education, parenting data, and social marketing.

Using this information, the steering committee identified three key priorities – parenting, health literacy, and access to resources for mental, dental, and physical health – and formulated strategies to implement improvements during the next five years.

► **Met Objectives:** Project complete

► **Baseline Progress on State Health Plan Objectives:** The project addressed the priority, access to primary and preventive health services. Specific objectives were not measured.

► **Academic Partner Role:** Consultation and supervision of the MPH students that worked on the project.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$19,860

► **Dissemination:** As part of the effort, a series of documents were produced, including a needs assessment brochure, a needs assessment report, and a template for other local health departments. The work of the committee was publicized through media releases, public displays, public meetings, and local newsletters.

Juneau County's story was featured prominently when the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and UW Population Health Institute released county-by-county health rankings for the entire nation.

► **Sustained:** Federal grant funding of \$1.5 million has been secured to open a dental health clinic in Juneau and Adams Counties to expand services in partnership with the Mauston Dental Center Family Health La Clinica. In addition, the Juneau County Health Department is pursuing grant funding to improve parenting programs. A community garden was piloted in 2009.