



Engaging Local Government to Improve Community Health

Presented by

Donyel Barber, Community Centered Health Coordinator-Gaston
Family Health Services

Vincent Wong, Director of Community Services-City of Gastonia

Community Centered Health

Gaston Family Health Services led a collaborative of community partners to build upon the foundation of Healthier Highland Coalition using the Community Centered Health (CCH) Model to reduce barriers to healthy living. Health Center and Medicaid data show that residents of Highland experience significant health disparities compared to other city and county residents. CCH uses a community-driven approaches to identify strategies and goals to make systems level change. Sometimes called “upstreamism,” this approach engages neighbors with stakeholders from multiple sectors to seek policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve conditions at the population level.



Determine which governmental official at which time

- Elected officials
- Department Directors
- Neighborhood Division leaders
- Outreach Department leader
- CDBG/HOME Funds Coordinator



It's not always business...



It's social too!



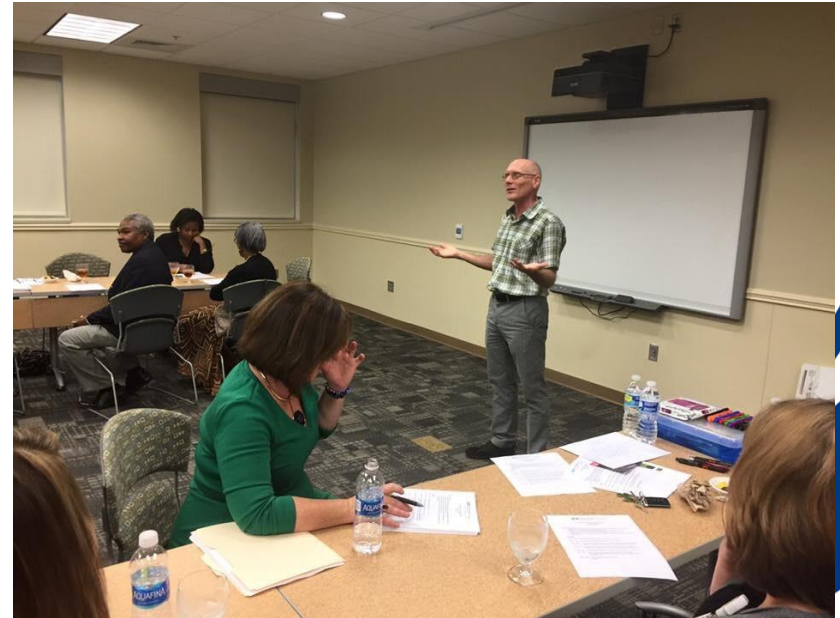
Not what they can do for you, but what can you do for them?

- Engage to establish trust
- Initiate respectful honest conversations
- Be truthful
- Seek opportunities to get involved
- Promote transparency
- Active and consistent participation



Let's Agree

- Together identify issues and concern
 - Agree there is a problem
- Gain an understanding of the problem
 - Stay engaged
- Create goals to include short, mid, and long term



Local governments need community input and help

- Public hearings
- Public workshops
- Public comment periods
- Determine how monies should be spent



Great things happen when government engages to improve community health!



City government housing investment



CITY OF GASTONIA

OPEN HOUSE

**Tuesday, March 13th
4-6 p.m.**

You are invited to join us in welcoming the newest homeowner to the Highland Community and enjoy an open house of the new construction houses the City of Gastonia Housing and Neighborhoods department has been working on.



HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS
City of Gastonia

108 W. BRADLEY STREET, GASTONIA





City government park and recreation investment



More park and recreation investments



Highland Community Teen Garden



Join the Highland Community to help create a vision for...

BIG DADDY'S

Bring your biggest and best ideas of what we can do with the property...it's time to dream about the future.

FRIENDSHIP CHRISTIAN CHURCH
221 BRADLEY AVENUE, GASTONIA

Tuesday, May 22nd 5:30-7:30
Dinner served from 5:30-6:00

For more information call 704-866-6752



City government & Highland Community Partnership



Questions and Answers

Thank You!

