Collaborative Model for Community Health Action

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• Key Concepts
• Description of the Model
• Genesis of the Model
  – Rural Residents’ Contributions
    • Focus Groups
    • Workshops
    • Pilot testing
  – Theoretical Contributions
    • Centre for Health Promotion Model for Quality of Life
    • Revised Community Resiliency Model
    • Community-as-Partner Model
• Utility of the Model
• Access to the Model
Community Health Action Model

- Unique in its ability to merge the community development process with a compatible community assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation framework.

- Community takes ownership, gives direction, and assumes responsibility for activities and outcomes.

- Doing the right things in the right way.
Key Concepts

- **Community** can only exist when a group of people whether defined by geography or affinity, engages in social interaction, builds ties, exhibits awareness of identity as a group, and holds direct access to collective decision making. (Hancock, Labonte & Edwards, 1999)

- **Community health** is the ability of a community to generate and effectively use assets and resources to support the well-being and quality of life of the residents of the community as a whole, in the face of challenges and barriers within the context of their environment. (Ryan Nicholls & Racher, 2004)
• **Community development** and **community health promotion** are synonymous; a philosophy, a process, a project and an outcome. (English, 2000)

• **Community resiliency** is the ability of a community to respond to adversity and in so doing to reach a higher level of functioning (Kulig, 2000) or to extend community capacity.

• When community members participate in gathering information about their community they undertake **participatory action research**, linking scientific inquiry with community development and change, blending research with education and political action.  
  (Dickson, 2000)
Community Health Action Model

Population ~ Health
Social Supports ~ Community Processes
Recreation, Heritage & Arts ~ Safety & Security
Community Infrastructure ~ Environment
Economics ~ Education

Interactions as a Collective Unit
Community Health Action Model

- Social:
  - Population - Health
  - Social Supports - Community Processes
  - Recreation, Heritage & Arts - Safety & Security
  - Community Infrastructure - Environment
  - Economics - Education

- Economic

- Physical

- Becoming
  - Community Action

- Belonging
  - Expression of a Sense of Community

- Being
  - Interactions as a Collective Unit
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- **SOCIAL**
  - Population ~ Health
  - Social Supports ~ Community Processes
  - Recreation, Heritage & Arts ~ Safety & Security
  - Community Infrastructure ~ Environment
  - Economics ~ Education

- **PHYSICAL**
  - BECOMING
    - Community Action
  - BEARING
    - Expression of a Sense of Community
  - BEING
    - Interactions as a Collective Unit

**COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

**STRESSORS**

**EVALUATION**
**IMPLEMENTATION**
**PLANNING**
**ASSESSMENT**
Community Health Action Model
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- Population ~ Health
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Stressors

- Evaluation
- Implementation
- Planning
- Assessment

Becoming Community Action

Belonging Expression of a Sense of Community

Being Interactions as a Collective Unit
Genesis of the Model

• Rural Residents’ Contributions
  - Focus groups
  - Workshop
  - Pilot testing with rural communities
  - Pilot testing in northern Manitoba

• Theoretical Contributions from Literature
  - Centre for Health Promotion Model for Quality of Life
  - Revised Community Resiliency Model
  - Community-as-Partner Model
Utility of the Model

As community members:

- pulls you to think not only about what you are doing but also about how you are going about it; doing the right things the right way
- pulls you to strategize and determine a process and set goals specific to your community
- pulls you to place a particular issue, concern or project in the larger community context
- pulls you to consider who needs to be involved, who is at the table and who needs to be invited
- pulls you to create a plan, set a timeline, carry out the plan and evaluate the outcomes
- pulls you to keep community health and well-being at the centre of the dialogue, goal setting, and actions; creative reflection on what is and what might be
Utility of the Model

As researchers:

• pushes you to think not only about what you are doing but also about how you are going about it; doing the right things the right way
• pushes you to keep community at the centre of dialogue, goal setting, and actions
• pushes you to situate components or activities within a larger community context and framework
• pushes creative reflection to be proactive rather than reactive in community health promotion activities
• pushes you to integrate assessment of impact in the three spheres of research, practice and policy
Guide -
• Annis, R. C., Racher, F., & Beattie, M. (Eds.). *Rural community health and well-being: A guide to action.* Brandon MB: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Newsletter -
• RDI Rural Report, Special Health Edition, Fall 2005

Available at -
• http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi