



**Public Health**  
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Frederick County Health Department

Unnatural Causes Event  
Frederick County Health Department

The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) has partnered with NACCHO's Health Equity Campaign in recognizing the importance of tackling health inequities. On April 16, 2008, a panel from the FCHD convened our first event utilizing the Unnatural Causes Documentary Series. The Panel of 14 was comprised of FCHD Division Directors and members of the Health Department's "Your Center for Health and Wellness" committee.

Each participant received a folder, which included an agenda, answer sheet for the Health Equity Quiz and resource information about Unnatural Causes and Health Equity. The episode chosen for the event was "In Sickness and Wealth." This episode was chosen because it presented an overview of the issue of health inequity. Episode One: "In Sickness and Wealth" was viewed and followed by a discussion of thoughts about the documentary and next steps for the FCHD to further address health inequity within our own organization and in the community.

An evaluation form was collected after the event. The overall results were very positive. Many of the responders wrote that they want to find ways to partner with other local groups to share the information presented at the event. Many responders also wrote about the importance of how having control over one's own life affects individuals' health outcomes. There was an overall request to see further episodes of the documentary.

We closed the event by discussion of next steps:

1. Provide a viewing of the documentary to the entire FCHD. Reach out to local agencies such as Citizen Services, City Housing to partner with them to address health inequities
2. Determine who the local stakeholders are in addressing health inequities and work with them.
3. Schedule viewings of Unnatural Causes for local agencies and stakeholders.
4. Schedule a viewing for the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners.
5. Listen to how the community defines health versus how public health defines health



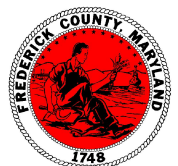
The methods that will be used to work on the next steps are

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1. Each Division will air episodes of the documentary during staff meetings.
2. Our Strategic Planning will incorporate next steps 2-5.