



# Healthy People 2020-National Association of County and City Health Officials Partnership

## Collaboration in Action

A look at how a local health department and local hospital in Bozeman, Montana are working together to apply community health assessment results to improve health in a rural and large area in the heart of the Rocky Mountains.

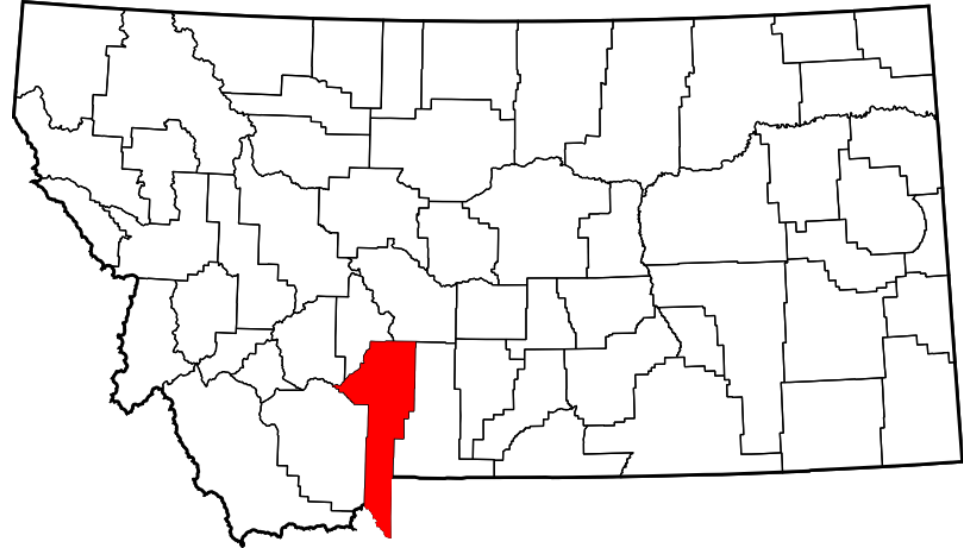


# Overview of Case Example

- **What's Happening in Bozeman, MT**
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# What's happening in Bozeman, Montana?

Gallatin City-County Health Department (GCCHD) and Bozeman Deaconess Hospital (BDH) are not new partners. They have a history of working together on community health and health care initiatives that serve those that live, learn, work and play in this growing and diverse community set in a Rocky Mountain valley.



# What's happening in Bozeman, Montana?

In late 2010, the health department began its plans to apply for the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB's) national, voluntary public health department accreditation program and knew that to do so they would need to complete a community health assessment and community health improvement plan, to satisfy two of three PHAB prerequisites. Sarah Acker, Accreditation Coordinator and Quality Assurance Specialist at GCCHD, recalled hearing that the hospital would also need to complete a community health (needs) assessment. "I think I called the hospital in a mild panic and said, 'if you're going to be doing an assessment, we want to do it with you,'" explained Acker.

# Meet the interviewees!

(Click on one of the speaker icons to hear from Sarah or Donna)

**Sarah Acker, Accreditation**  
*Coordinator and Quality Assurance Specialist, Gallatin City-County Health Department, MT*



Describes the start of co-leadership

**Donna Cruz-Huffmaster, Planning and Business Development Manager,**  
*Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, MT*



Describes the benefits of co-leadership

# Working in Rural Communities

“Each community identifies so different than the next. They have their own individual culture and their economies are very varied...the different demographics and geography made it a little more challenging. I think that the ‘smallness’ of each community, even though they’re separate from each other, is their strength”.

~Sarah Acker, LHD representative

“They were good at rallying and getting folks into some of the Study Circles we’ve done. You get an influencer in that community and that influencer can easily drum up support from key persons. That was a strength I see in many of these rural areas.”

~Donna Cruz-Huffmaster, hospital representative

# Leadership Support

Cruz-Huffmaster explained that their partnership was successful in ensuring that the CHA and CHIP covered the entire area and that this was due in part to several key attributes of their work: “I can’t say enough about the leadership of the three different organizations. They were very collaborative, very open and laid-back and thinking about the best way to do this together”.

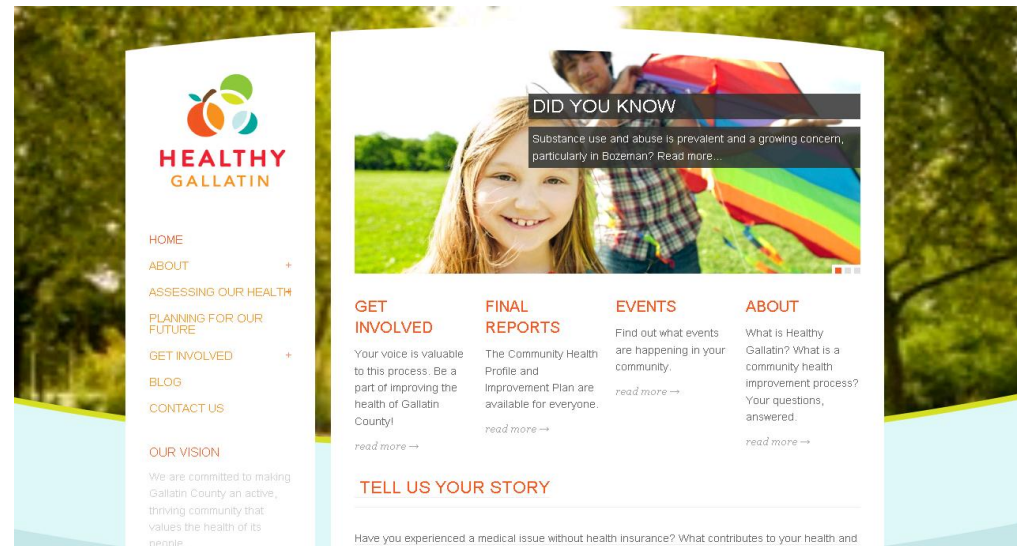


Cruz-Huffmaster describes the importance of leadership support

# Communication

“Open communication has also been key to the success of our collaboration. Both of our organizations were able to get what we needed out of the process. We both acknowledge that working together and sharing resources was much more effective than taking on these processes alone.

~Sarah Acker, LHD representative





# Using Healthy People 2020

Using Healthy People 2020 indicators in their CHA helped them compare their local data to national benchmarks and helped assure alignment of their local health improvement goals and objectives with those of Montana's when possible.

# CHIP Collaboration

“I see strength in the health department leading. The health department is driving it forward while the hospital is supporting it.”

~Donna Cruz-Huffmaster, hospital representative



Cruz-Huffmaster describes benefits of collaboration

# Many thanks!

Learn more about their work at:

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/healthy-people/stories-from-the-field.cfm>