

Community Health Needs Assessment
September 8, 2017
Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Meeting to determine potential collaboration between Recharge the Range Health Assessment Committee and Iron Range Youth in Action.

Lorrie Janatopoulos explained the purpose of the meeting and the history to date of Recharge the Range. Jim Gangl described the process that the Health Assessment committee had gone through up until this point in time. That process began as a way to collaborate on the multiple assessments that health organizations and other agencies, such as Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA), engage in. For this collaborative assessment, the group is focusing on Greater St. Louis County and it has been determined to do a deeper dive into the areas of mental health, obesity and substance abuse. While going deeper into each of these three areas it was also determined to focus on the social and economic determinants of health. The real purpose of "going deeper" is to try to understand the "why" of these seemingly intransigent problems rather than only the what. The Health Assessment Working Committee had also decided that it would be a good idea to try to intentionally connect with specific populations for this assessment like youth. Given that, the Working Committee believed that there might be a potential collaboration with Youth in Action.

Youth in Action representatives explained their process. They hold an annual conference each year with about 400 high school students (9th-12th grades) in attendance representing 14-15 schools from around the area. The next conference is to be held on February 12. The conference is planned and implemented by the students including the breakout presentations. The Health Assessment Committee topics are ones that have been discussed in some iteration previously on many occasions and remain areas of interest for the young people. It is likely that one or more of these topics will come up as presentations for the 2018 conference.

Following detailed discussion and questions regarding the process for the conference itself, it was decided that the best way to collaborate would be if Health Assessment Committee representatives planned to meet with the approximately 60 students from all participating schools who prepare the conference venue the evening before the conference itself. In this way, The Committee could hold a discussion/focus group/world cafe with these students around the focus topics. It was also decided that incentives for student participation and pizza (or some other food) would be great. Youth in Action staff were certain that the students would be honest and enjoy this opportunity. It was also decided that it would be a good idea for some of the Committee members to attend the conference itself and listen in.

Another opportunity might be to somehow be involved in Mesabi East's Cardboard Box City being held in November. Students (approximately 30 young people) organize this event to raise awareness around homelessness. It was thought that this might be a way to have a conversation that highlights young peoples' thoughts and ideas about poverty, homelessness,

health, and hunger in the Mesabi East School District. Nothing specific, however, was determined as of yet.

Next steps include:

1. Sending out notes from our conversation for review.
2. Bringing the information we learned from our meeting to the Health Assessment Working Group for confirmation (Doodle sent out)
3. Develop a framework for the conversation with the 60 students.
4. Health Assessment team and Youth in Action Team meet again to finalize plan and logistics.

Next Meeting:

October 19, 2017

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

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