University of Massachusetts Medical School

From the SelectedWorks of Margot G Malachowski, MLS, AHIP

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Riding the Wave: Counting the Library as Community Benefits

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/margot_malachowski/27/
Riding the Wave: Counting the Library as Community Benefits

Lightning Presentation
October 29, 2013

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Baystate Health
Springfield, MA
Birthplace of Basketball
In April 2013, our Outreach Librarian was invited to serve on the Community Benefits Implementation Strategy Team for our city hospital. Nationwide, tax-exempt hospitals are required to complete a community health needs assessment and develop an implementation strategy. Current IRS requirements are pushing population health measures to the forefront, making this an exciting time for those of us working in community outreach.
The Team worked on reducing the 15 identified needs to **3-4 focal points** for our community benefits programs.
15 Health Needs

1. Lack of Affordable and Accessible Medical Care
2. Need for Care Coordination and Culturally Sensitive Care
3. Lack of Access to Dental Care
4. High Rates of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use
5. High Rates of Unsafe Sex, Teen Pregnancy and Chlamydia
6. Prevalent Infant Health Risk Factors
7. Pediatric Disability
8. Lack of Access to Mental Health Services and Poor Mental Health Status
9. High Rates of Diet and Exercise-Related Diseases and Mortality
10. High Rates of Asthma
11. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Disease Morbidity and Mortality
12. Poor Community Safety
13. Poor Built Environment and Environmental Quality
15. Low Educational Achievement
Teamwork

- Individual ranking
- Small group ranking
- Large group discussion
- Post-it voting
8 Health Needs

1. Need for Care Coordination and Culturally Sensitive Care
2. Lack of Access to Dental Care
3. High Rates of Unsafe Sex, Teen Pregnancy and Chlamydia
4. Prevalent Infant Health Risk Factors
5. Lack of Access to Mental Health Services and Poor Mental Health Status
6. High Rates of Diet and Exercise-Related Diseases and Mortality
7. Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Disease Morbidity and Mortality
8. Low Educational Achievement
Baystate Medical Center Alignment
Community Health Programs Alignment
4 Health Needs

1. Need for Care Coordination and Culturally Sensitive Care
2. Prevalent Infant Health Risk Factors
3. Lack of Access to Mental Health Services and Poor Mental Health Status
4. High Rates of Diet and Exercise-Related Diseases and Mortality
This...

- **Community** Health Education
- Continuing Ed that includes community
- Research on reducing health disparities
- Research on triaging patients, to be published
Not That...

- Classes run by **Marketing**
- Continuing Ed **restricted** to staff
- Study on expanding services (**market research**)
- Quality assurance study on medical errors, **not published**
Library Community Outreach

- **Staff time** at health fairs and community classes
- **Materials**, such as brochures and printouts
- Community use of **library space** for meetings
Coalition Building

- **Staff time** at interdisciplinary groups assisting families with special needs, spearheading social media initiatives

- **Staff time** at neighborhood groups addressing health disparities, providing support services for grant writing initiatives
What are YOU doing?
Get counted!!!
You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

Dr. Seuss, writer, poet, cartoonist
Springfield, MA