

Progress through Community & Creativity



BUHL REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

From Community Forums to Health Challenge Action Teams

Working Together for Community Wellbeing



The mission of Buhl Regional Health Foundation (BRHF) is “to identify and address the diverse health care needs of the greater Sharon regional area. Among the Foundation’s primary services will be promotion of collaborative partnerships and programs, capacity building, and grants which will focus on and invest in all people impacted by health-related needs throughout their lives.”

The values that guide this mission are as follows:

- * Integrity
- * Embrace and drive change
- * Build open and honest relationships with communication
- * Serve and support our community
- * Welcoming innovative approaches to health and community well-being
- * Challenge assumptions
- * Meaningful Change

The strategic plan of BRHF includes three main goals:

1. Improve access to health care that addresses the physical and mental health needs of residents in the BRHF service area.
2. Strengthen the capacity of community non-profit agencies to improve community health and well-being.
3. Strengthen the capacity of BRHF to be the catalyst for improving community health and well-being.

Points of Interest:

- MISSION, VALUES & STRATEGIC GOALS
- HEALTH GRANTING
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOUNDATION
- 2016 FALL FORUM
- FIRST BRHF GRANTS AWARDED
- 2017 FALL FORUM
- 2018 HEALTH CHALLENGE ACTION TEAMS
- CAPACITY BUILDING PLANS

“Innovation is taking **2 things that already exist & putting them together in a **NEW** way.” —Tom Freston**

Buhl Regional Health Foundation: Grants for Health

So that our community’s health agency network may have a comprehensive understanding of our grant review process, the grant awarding principles are:

- * To engage in a supportive partnership with community providers to learn from each other to

improve the health and well-being of our community.

- * To be a catalyst for addressing issues that impact the health of the residents where they live, learn, work, and play.

- * To assist grant applicants to better understand the Foundation as a funding source.

- * To assist the Board of Directors in carrying out its fiduciary duties and stewardship responsibilities of Foundation funds.

Through the observation of these standards, the BRHF staff, Grants Committee, and Board of Directors completes the grant review cycle twice per year, in March and September. The next Grant Cycle begins December 18, 2017.

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“WE CAN’T
SOLVE
PROBLEMS BY
USING THE SAME
KIND OF
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USED WHEN WE
CREATED THEM.”
—ALBERT
EINSTEIN

BRHF Board & Staff Contributions to Development

In May of 2015, Russell Johnson from the North Penn Foundation met with staff and board members to discuss the role that foundations can play in the community as a convener and the opportunity to provide funds for health improvement. Those involved that year also consulted with Decision Associates who outlined the steps of developing

a mission, vision, values statement, and communications plan.

In June of 2016, Louis Baccharia, President of Phoenixville Foundation, conducted a retreat to assist board members in learning more about foundation operations, policies, and procedures. He also discussed programs his foundation was able to offer

its community.

In addition, contacts, meetings, and memberships with the following organizations have assisted in the development of BRHF: GrantMakers of Western Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative, Exponent Philanthropy, and Jackson-Clark Consulting.

Fall Health Forum 2016

On October 19, 2016 nearly 170 community leaders, representing 94 agencies and organizations from around the Buhl region participated in a first-of-its-kind Community Forum held at Penn State Shenango auditorium in Sharon, PA.

The event featured keynote speaker, Terie Dreussi-Smith, co-author of *Bridges Out of Poverty & Bridges to Health and Healthcare*. Other speakers and a panel of local

leaders shared presentations on the social determinants of health and the role of foundations in supporting broader community health. Attendees shared their thoughts regarding a vision for the region, what it will take to successfully work together in the future, as well as input about the best roles for Buhl Regional Health Foundation.

Participants provided feedback for next steps through shared values, community

assets, and challenges across a wide range of issues involving healthy residents, strong families, and thriving communities.

Looking to the future, this forum laid the ground work for eventual results of working action groups, collaboration, broader inclusion, solution planning, change, and results. For BRHF, It inspired the roles of convener, change-maker, educator, collaborative facilitator, and funder.



Forum 2016 Outcomes & Follow Up

Buhl Regional Health Foundation polled the agency leaders in attendance at the Forum. Their responses helped us to determine the effectiveness of the time and efforts of the community event.

More than 90% of poll respondents agreed on the positive productivity of the meeting in many ways. They

developed a better understanding of the social determinants of health & their effect on communities. A better understanding of the impacts of poverty on our communities was beneficial to their perspective. Also, they gained information to better connect to key groups in the region.

Requests and suggestions for BRHF included providing additional community research resources and statistics, a strong website, a service directory, evaluation of services available and service gaps, and workshopping with/for non-profits to encourage alliances and mergers.

From Community Forums to Health Challenge Action

BRHF Awards \$172,000 in Community Health Grants

Eight community non-profit agencies received grants Wednesday, November 1, totaling \$172,000 from Buhl Regional Health Foundation. The agencies will use the grants for health or health-related programs in the Foundation's service area.

Agencies, their programs, and grant awards are:

—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mahoning Valley awarded \$5,000.

—Buhl Community Recreation Center awarded \$75,000.

—Family Services of NW PA awarded \$10,000.

—Farrell Area School District awarded \$12,500.

—Mercer County Communities that Care awarded \$22,500.

—Mercer County Criminal Justice Advisory Board awarded \$17,000.

—Potential Development

awarded \$5,000.

—UPMC Horizon Community Health Foundation awarded \$25,000.



Fall Health Forum 2017

Using the ideas produced by last year's Fall Forum, Dr. Roger Firestien's presentation and workshop "Breakthrough Thinking: How to be Deliberately Creative," provided a new process for the attendees of this year's Fall Health Forum to learn and practice on November 16, 2017.

Six health challenges were identified as priorities for our community and they were explored by categorized

groups of our participants in this innovative way. These were:

Transportation: Helping people get the services they need

Communication Infrastructure: Connecting residents to resources

Mental Health Stigma: Communicating the importance of mental health care and making patients comfortable using it

Addiction and Prevention Pathway: Creating a network of support and treatment for patients as they battle drug use

Healthy Food Access and Education: Making sure all children have access to good food

Connecting Residents to Resources: Showing them what services are available to them



Forum 2017 Outcomes & Follow Up

Upon evaluation from attendees, BRHF found that the attendees gained new perspectives about local health challenges, connections with other agency leaders, and a new valuable resource in the creative thinking process. The participants felt strongly that it was a productive event that should continue to be held to

promote the mission of the Foundation.

The upbeat speaker, networking opportunities, new concept of creativity, and sharing of ideas were the elements of the Forum that people appreciated most.

Through the workshop, our community health organiza-

tion leaders cooperated to create ideas that may positively impact our identified health challenge priorities. Those interested in continuing the conversation to develop these ideas into actionable collaborative solutions will do so through our 2018 Action Team Meetings at BRHF.





Working Together for Community Wellbeing

BUHL REGIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

2018 Action Teams to Impact Health Challenges

“AN IDEA THAT IS DEVELOPED AND PUT INTO ACTION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN AN IDEA THAT EXISTS ONLY AS AN IDEA.” — EDWARD DE BONO

At BRHF, we need the ongoing insights of leaders from our local organizations so that we can better understand the health challenges and resources in our area. We have aligned the Action Teams this year to better focus on the specific health challenges that have been identified through work at the previous forum and the meetings of the Action Teams over the past year. The ideas that were created during this year’s

forum are the building blocks that we will develop and advance into strategies and programs that will help positively impact our region’s healthcare.

Driven by the creative thinking approaches learned at our Forum, we will address the 5 prioritized health challenges this year through our Action Teams with goals to perform a gap analysis of resources by category, identify focus issues, and work together to determine steps toward

cooperation and possible collaborations to improve the status of the health challenges in our area.

Monthly meetings will be held for each Action Team:

- ◆ Addiction
- ◆ Healthy Food
- ◆ Mental Health
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Communication & Connecting Resources



We’re on the Web!

www.buhlregionalhealthfoundation.org

Capacity Building from Foundation to Community

So that we may provide useful resources, information, and assistance to our local health organization network, BRHF has produced some effective literature and programs to share.

A **HISTORY BOOKLET** was designed to educate the public about the steps that brought BRHF to life. We launched our **WEBSITE** to give the public access to BRHF resources, news, and grant portal. Our **FACEBOOK PAGE** allows us a social media platform to promote announcements.

The **HEALTH RESOURCE DIRECTORY** is a tool for the local health network to use in their networking & collaborative endeavors. The **GRANT PORTAL** was built into the BRHF website and is the only way to access the streamlined grant application process. Using the Grant Policy and Procedure, BRHF produced the **GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES** booklet so that grant applicants can have a reference while preparing their applications.

Since the first Forum, we have been working with agency

representatives to bring **ACTION TEAMS** together and they have been realigned recently to sharpen their focus. Another exciting endeavor we will offer for 2018 will be our 6-8 week **GRANT WRITING SEMINAR** offered to grant seekers in our local non-profit health network.

Going forward, BRHF continues to seek opinions and suggestions from our community about how we may continue to provide pertinent capacity building opportunities.

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