WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DHHS?

In the Health Promotion Unit, several program areas are growing a focus on social determinants of health, addressing equity, and training for cultural and linguistic, and health literacy, standards. These include the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, the Ryan White Program, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. For more information, contact Gwen Hurst at Gwen.Hurst@nebraska.gov.

In the Division of Public Health, Grants Management Community of Practice group, draft guidelines are being considered for including the social determinants of health throughout all phases of contracting / sub-awarding processes. For more information contact Gwen Hurst at Gwen.Hurst@nebraska.gov.

In the Women’s Health Initiative, the Women’s Health Advisory Council has a workgroup dedicated to Health Equity. For more information contact Tina Goodwin at Tina.Goodwin@nebraska.gov.

In the Division of Public Health Strategic Plan, Equity has been named as one of the plan priorities for 2017 – 2021. Groups are forming now to strategize and develop action plans for the Equity. Also in the Division of Public Health, the State Health Improvement Plan for 2017-2021 also has launched, also with a priority to address Health Equity. These two activities engage many stakeholders from across the Division and, for the State Health Improvement Plan, partners from across the state and many organizations and groups. For more information on these two key initiatives, contact Maya Chilese at Maya.Chilese@nebraska.gov or email DHHS.SHIP@nebraska.gov for more information.
In the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska is participating in a National Core Indicators project survey to assess the quality of life of adults receiving services from the Division. For more information contact Pam Hovis at Pam.Hovis@nebraska.gov.

In Lifespan Health Services, the Maternal Child Health Block Grant priorities and action plan for 2015-2020 include a focus on improving population health outcomes by addressing social and structural determinants of health that result in unequal consequences of ill-health. In order to grow a larger systems perspective on health and human services organizations address unequal outcomes, the Health Equity Collective Impact group has been convened. By looking at our equity work across the department through a collective impact lens, the goal is to better identify gaps, redundancies, places where shared work is reinforcing, and to identify performance measures for making progress on achieving equity. For more information, contact Kathy Karsting at Kathy.Karsting@nebraska.gov.

Also in Lifespan Health Services, the Infant Mortality CoIIN Social Determinants of Health state team, is working on learning more about the use of maps to engage communities in discussions about equity, the use of organizational assessment tools to improve capacity for equity, and the advancement of Health Equity in all Policies. “CoIIN” stands for Collaboration and Innovation Implementation Network, a national learning and innovation network design for states applied not only to improving infant mortality, but also child injury prevention and adolescent health. For more information contact Mai Dang at Mai.Dang@nebraska.gov.