Lincoln's Healthy Community Planning

The Town of Lincoln has initiated a Community Health Assessment to evaluate our existing health services. Funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and spearheaded by a group of town residents and employees, the project will analyze health-related programs and services in Lincoln, including services that provide for physical health, mental health, public health, and overall social needs.

A community health assessment defines "health" in the broadest of terms: as a measure of overall well-being, and as a by-product of a wide range of lifestyle and behavior-related choices and conditions. The assessment will help to determine if there are weaknesses in current health offerings provided by the Town or other sources, and it will identify changes that could benefit local residents and the community as a whole. At the conclusion of the needs assessment, the project steering committee expects to develop recommendations and an implementation plan to improve local health services. The project schedule calls for completion of the needs assessment, and a draft report detailing proposed service and program changes, by June 2010.

Consultants from Community Opportunities Group (the same consulting firm used for the comprehensive long-range planning process) are assisting the Town with this project. With their help, the assessment process will reach out to residents and businesses in order to seek ideas about Lincoln's quality of life and to encourage public participation in defining what "community health" means in Lincoln. This effort will include meetings with various town groups and several public forums to be held in the coming months.

Please be on the lookout for forum details. Widespread and diverse participation is a core priority to us and will be critical to the project's success.

The Community Health Assessment Steering Committee encourages residents to contact them with suggestions, questions, or feedback. Questions or comments may be directed to Anita Scheipers, Asst. Town Administrator, 781-259-2603. scheipersa@lincolntown.org.