



Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Active Transportation Forum

Health in All Policies

March 23, 2016



Moving Toward Shared Responsibility for Population Health

“If there is one thing that we’ve learned about catalyzing changes that prevent illness in the first place, it’s that passage of a single policy can be like lighting a match – illuminating the way towards strategies with greater impact and igniting the energy of leaders.”

Larry Cohen and Juliet Sims
(Prevention Institute 2015)



What is Health in All Policies?

- Response to complex, inextricably linked issues
 - Chronic diseases
 - Health inequities
 - Cost of health care
 - Threats to natural resources
- Engagement of governmental partners and stakeholders
 - Improve health
 - Promote economic stability
 - Increase transportation access and mobility
 - Sustainability

What is Health in All Policies?



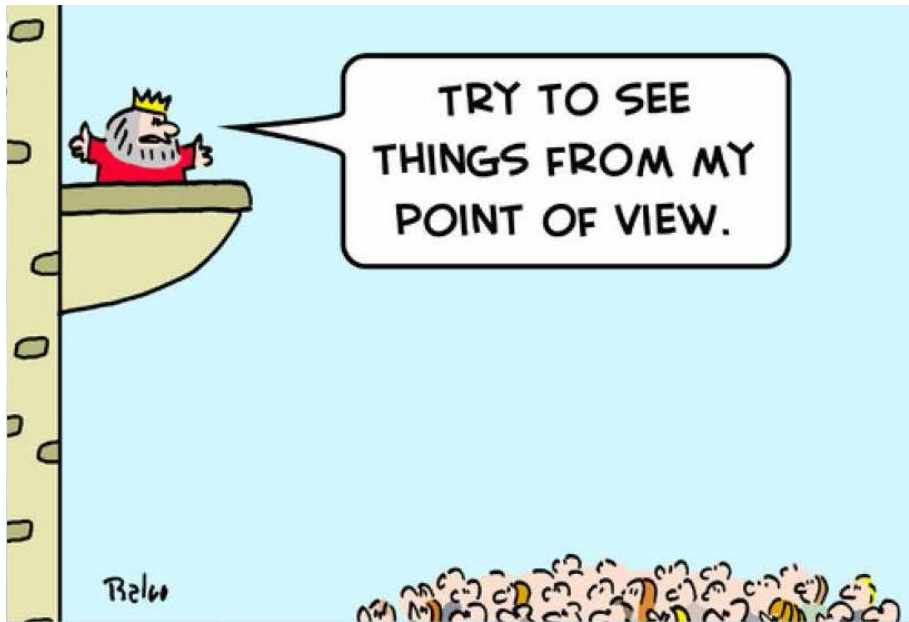


Key Elements of Health in All Policies

- Health, equity, and sustainability
- Co-benefits
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Change in procedural process
- Engagement of community/stakeholders



Key Elements of Health in All Policies





Examples of Health in All Policies

- **Regional Transportation Planning**
Assoc. of Gov'ts. established Public Health Subcommittee; implementation of plan included forum for public health issues affecting regional planning, providing strategic and policy direction of the Assoc. on public health issues
- **Employee Policies**
Encourage healthy behaviors through benefit policies (e.g., transit subsidies to encourage use of public transportation)
- **Subdivision and Land Use Ordinances**
Reference physical activity; require sidewalks; minimize waivers
- **Adopt Complete Streets Policy**
Use health data for basis of policy



What can you do?

- Is your agency going through a strategic planning process in which health should be considered?
- Are there interagency initiatives that have potential health implications (e.g., updating of/inclusion of health-related goals in comprehensive plans)?
- Is there an ongoing process for which health metrics or data could be influential (e.g., Safe Routes to Schools)?



What can you do?

- If considering a Complete Streets resolution, include language re: potential to improve health
 - Incomplete streets restrict physical activity
 - Complete streets mean 8 yr. old and 80 yr. old can navigate the community as easily and safely as everyone else
- What single-agency initiatives would benefit from partnering with other agencies (e.g., grant applications)?



Framework for Health in All Policies





Summary of Recommendations

- 1) Adopt a “**Health in All Policies philosophy**” by incorporating health in plans and policies resulting in an increase in physical activity and reduction of chronic disease.
- 2) **Collaborate across sectors** – education, health, municipal planning, transportation and others – in the development of land use and transportation plans and policies.
- 3) **Support active transportation**, including ease of pedestrian and bicycle movement; require sidewalks; and implement a walkable grid in all new communities.
- 4) **Integrate health-related priorities**, as identified in **community health needs assessments** – specific to your community, into your **comprehensive and transportation plans**. Include measurable objectives so that progress can be measured.



Questions?

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