

Carroll County Times

Health partnership celebrates 10 years

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By Erica Kritt, Times Staff Writer

Leaders of the Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County celebrated 10 years Wednesday, then set goals including expanding efforts into the southern, northern and western parts of the county during the next decade.

Barb Rodgers, director of community health improvement, said at the group's annual We're On Our Way meeting that looking ahead, the Partnership will be challenged with improving all health indicators in the county, spending the community's and the Partnership's money wisely, and covering more areas in Carroll.

Rodgers said the Partnership has tended to work mostly in Westminster.

The group, which is a collaboration between the Carroll County Health Department and Carroll Hospital Center, seeks to help solve some of the county's greater health and health-care issues.

At Wednesday's meeting, Tricia Supik, the executive director and CEO of the Partnership, and other members of the nonprofit spoke about the achievements that have been reached in the last decade and the goals that are set for the coming decade.

Among the work that people with the Partnership have accomplished is aiding in the development of Access Carroll, a facility that provides health care to uninsured, low-income residents in the county and helping with the establishment of Seniors Keep in Touch, a nonprofit that provides outreach to elderly residents who are isolated in their homes.

In the past year, the Partnership has had three programs at Gerstell Academy in Finksburg reaching an estimated 500 people with each event.

Rodgers said this has been a great venue to get information out to the public.

"It goes from a big picture to an individual," she said.

At Wednesday's meeting, the organization unveiled its new Web site, which was designed to give the community a better look at the data and displayed their new logo.

The Partnership also gave an overview of the health initiatives that Carroll is doing well with and those that aren't going as good.

"Smoking is still an issue in our community," Supik said. "Obesity — we have a lot of work to do there."

Supik said that as the Partnership evolves, it will continue to work to improve the health of Carroll's residents.

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On the Net

Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County: www.healthycarroll.org