

Welcome to *Progress in Partnerships*. An appropriate title inasmuch as the Partnership which has been formed is making progress.

The initial progress can be attributed to Carroll County General Hospital and the Carroll County Health Department and for pooling their resources and vision to form the *Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County Community*. The present progress is the result of the forty community volunteers who have contributed their time and have committed to serving on the Steering Committee for this Partnership. The future progress will result from the participation of many more Carroll Countians in the discussion, planning and implementation of recommendations which emerge from the health assessment now underway.

The health assessment has been mailed to over 1200 Carroll County households and the initial response has been good. This data, combined with existing data and information gathered from health providers and focus groups of consumers will give Carroll Countians the best available snapshot of current health status. The progress we can make will be to create an action plan from the data and to create a structure where the community can provide input to form a healthier Carroll County.

I would like to thank all the members of the Steering Committee for their past participation and the Hospital and Health Department staff members for their contributions. Additionally, I would like to invite anyone who has comments or suggestions to forward them to the Committee and to participate in upcoming work groups which will be formed to address certain topics identified in the assessment.

Arthur Riley, Chair
Steering Committee

Where did the Partnership begin?

In the advent of health care reform and managed care, health care providers must focus on prevention rather than illness. With that principle in mind, Carroll County General Hospital and the Carroll County Health Department decided to work together to identify and meet the community's health needs. An Implementation Team reviewed other counties' initiatives and then developed Carroll's own: the *Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County Community*. The name reflects the necessary participation of all facets of the community.

The Partnership's process has three phases: 1) *to determine the community's current health status*; 2) *to identify unmet health care needs*; and 3) *to encourage allocation of available resources to meet these needs*.

The first phase, assessing Carroll County's community health, was underway when the Hospital joined the Atlantic Health Alliance. The Alliance was interested in obtaining the same information for all nine member hospitals, including Carroll County General. The Alliance's collaboration gave the Partnership access to York, Pennsylvania consulting firm, Holleran Associates.

Holleran has been assisting with the Community Health Assessment phase in both the distribution and analysis of a written survey sent to 1200 Carroll County citizens. This phase will be followed by setting health priorities and forming an action plan.

Through the *Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County Community*, many community groups, health care providers and County agencies will continue to cooperate to improve the well-being of Carroll County's citizens.

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NEXT ISSUE INCLUDES UPDATES ON SECONDARY DATA, SURVEY RESULTS AND FOCUS GROUPS