



November 2018

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- THRIVE ALLEN COUNTY RECOGNIZED
- SPOTLIGHT ON LINCOLN
- ROSS DANIELS JOINS PUBLIC HEALTH LAW CENTER

UPCOMING DATES:

- DECEMBER 10 - HCI COMMUNITY LEARNING WEBINAR, 2:00 PM
- DECEMBER 11 - RWJF WEBINAR, 2:00 PM
- FEBRUARY 1 - QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT DUE

Featured Resource Links

- Asset-based, Resident-led Neighbourhood Development Research
- Unlocking Potential: Engaging Young People in Community Change Webinar
- Social Determinants As Service Line The Focus of the October 2018 Issue of OPEN MINDS Management Newsletter
- Evergreen Neighborhood Eyes Healthier, Brighter Future Feature Story
- 2018 Heartland Conference on Health Equity and Patient Centered Care Registration
- BUILD Health Challenge Funding Opportunity Application

New Faces



Ross Daniels joined the Public Health Law Center (PHLC) in October. Ross will be working alongside Natasha Frost and Mary Marrow who already serve as advisors to HCI:HE from PHLC. He will bring experience as a rural planner and policy analyst.

"My background in rural planning/public health work is broad—spanning projects rooted in transit, transportation, food systems and greenspace—and I am excited to bring the skills I have developed to the table here."

In 2017, Allen County was recognized for their community-led work on collective health with a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize.

Just this month, Lisse Regehr, Deputy Director of Outreach and Advocacy for Thrive Allen County presented during a RWJF webinar to highlight how the nonprofit coalition created opportunities for residents to engage collectively around health conditions in LaHarpe, KS. Additionally, Damaris Kunkler, HCI:HE Community Liaison and Project Director in Allen County spoke directly to this project work during a Q&A after the webinar: "I am very proud of our partners across the state, because HCI:HE communities tuned in and stayed for the Q&A and also offered examples of the work they are doing in their communities. Kansas really represented!" There were 178 registrants across the country that participated in the webinar.

The success that can be seen thus far in Allen County is the authentic engagement of Allen County's best asset - its people. Here are the tips that they offer for partnering with residents: build up the trust bank, meet people where they are and treat them with respect, and ask the right questions: who would be affected?, who has the influence on the issue you're trying to address?, and who is or could be a champion on this issue? To watch the webinar, [click here](#).

Allen County Recognized



Lincoln Neighborhood in Reno County



Real change is happening in Reno County and Jackson Swearer is seeing it in resident-led efforts. After receiving unexpected news of policy changes occurring in the school district, Courtney Postier, the treasurer of the PTO took it upon herself to initiate conversation and voice concerns at a school board meeting. The PTO serves as an informal fiscal agent between the Lincoln neighborhood community group, which has been selected as the focus population, and the school. Postier was able to use the skills she developed in a leadership training for the community group to advocate for them. This is just the beginning of what Swearer hopes will be opportunities for community members to work with policy makers at the local and state level.

Reno settled on the neighborhood around Lincoln Elementary School as their focus population around the time that a community group was beginning to form and saw an opportunity to build on the momentum being brought to the table. Lincoln serves as an anchor of the community as most members of multi-generational families have attended the school. In fact, prospects for their joby project have all been focused on the school, including sidewalks and street safety as well as an initial idea for a playground that served as a learning opportunity. The community group had identified a more accessible playground as their project, only to discover that the stakeholders involved weren't engaged with the idea. Swearer states that group felt a sense of loss around the issue, but were able to use the leadership competencies from trainings to process those emotions.

Leadership training has been a resounding theme for Swearer since the beginning of this process. When asked about his personal growth through this initiative as a community liaison, he states that the chance to engage with the KLC principles and to receive and facilitate additional trainings for the community has been especially impactful. As a Hutchinson native, he has been watching neighborhood efforts and believes "Health equity is a particularly good lens to look at helping those that don't have the same advantages."