



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Human Services

[Lechelle Wardell](#), Program Consultant, 919-212-7858

[Elizabeth Brandt](#), Communications Specialist, 919-623-4763

Communications Office After Hours

919-737-WAKE

wakegov.com/news

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Residents Encouraged to Help Set Priorities for Improving Wake County's Health, Well-being

Wake County residents are urged to attend a meeting next week to help set the top health priorities for their local communities over the next three years.

On Tuesday, March 8, residents will review the results of public outreach efforts conducted last year through the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Then, citizens will prioritize the findings to reflect what they consider to be the greatest needs in their communities.

"The goal of the Community Health Needs Assessment is to help make Wake County a better place to live, work and play through healthy living," said Wake County Board of Commissioners Chairman James West, who also serves as co-chair of the steering committee leading this effort. "We cannot effect positive change without the valuable input of our citizens. We need every resident to take an active role in this process and be a positive catalyst for change in their own cities and towns."

Meetings will take place simultaneously at 6 p.m. at five different locations across the county:

- NC State University, Talley Student Center
2610 Cates Ave., Raleigh
(Spanish language translation services will be available at this location.)
- Northern Wake County – New Bethel Baptist Church
605 E. Young St., Rolesville
- Southern Wake County – Fuquay Varina Baptist Church
301 N. Woodrow St., Fuquay-Varina
- Eastern Wake County – Eastern Regional Center
1002 Dogwood Drive, Zebulon

- Western Wake County – United Way of the Greater Triangle
2400 Perimeter Park Drive, Morrisville

This event is free and open to the public. A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to register at wakegov.com/wellbeing.

"The Community Health Needs Assessment process is driven by the people of Wake County, for the people of Wake County," said Donald Gintzig, president and CEO of WakeMed Health & Hospitals and co-chair of the CHNA steering committee. "The community already provided excellent input during the research phase. It is vital that Wake County residents join us in taking the next step of prioritizing the issues facing our area. We are offering five simultaneous meetings across our county to make it easier for all residents to participate."

The CHNA is a multi-phase process used to identify the issues affecting the health and well-being of Wake County, determine the resources needed to address these issues and develop a plan of action. The county, as well as area hospitals, are required by the Affordable Care Act to complete this process every three to four years.

Phase one (survey) occurred from October to December 2015. During that time, researchers gathered input from the public in several ways, including telephone surveys, an online survey, focus groups and in-person interviews.

Phase two (analysis) involved analyzing the results collected in Phase One as well as examining statistical data. Research identified physical, behavioral, mental, economic and environmental health, as well as safety and life-long learning, as important issues facing Wake County.

Phase three (public feedback) will culminate with the March 8 meetings. During the forums, facilitators will share the results of the public outreach efforts in phase one with residents. Then, the participants will move into breakout groups and narrow the results down to the three most important issues they feel should be addressed over the next three years.

Phase four (roadmap) will kick off next, as the CHNA steering committee will again turn to the community to take the issues prioritized at each of the meetings and use that information to create an action plan. It will serve as a roadmap, guiding the organizations involved in the CHNA process through the steps they must take to make improvements and ultimately generate positive change in our community. Wake County citizens will again be asked to participate in this process in August.

The CHNA is a collaborative effort among Wake County Human Services; WakeMed Health & Hospitals, Duke Raleigh Hospital and UNC Rex Healthcare; Advance Community Health (formerly known as Wake Health Services); United Way of the Greater Triangle; and Wake County Medical Society Community Health Foundation.

Overseeing the CHNA process is a steering committee comprising more than 60 community partners including local government, hospitals, schools, faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit our website, wakegov.com/wellbeing. When sharing information about the CHNA on social media, the partners will use this hashtag: #WakeWellbeing.

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