



On September 13, 2011, the RHC hosted a Summit with 551 people in attendance. The following Breakout Sessions were held:

- Preparing for Health Care Reform in the St. Louis Region
- Improving Community/University Relations—Building on Recent Successes
- Transforming Behavioral Health Services—Continuing the Progress
- Working Together to Improve Access for All

Comment cards were provided at the Summit. A summary of comments made follows:

The majority of the comments from individuals asked that the St. Louis Region/RHC consider focusing resources on particular topics that they feel have not been adequately addressed to date. Those topics are:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Food deserts/lack of opportunities for safe exercise
- Heroin epidemic
- HIV/AIDS

A couple of people made suggestions about the RHC process:

- Invite small business representatives to the discussion of health insurance reform
- More coordination with Metro East

Some had suggestions for specific organizations. For example:

- Educational and health care entities should increase collaboration to address low health education and health literacy, especially in the St. Louis Public School system.
- Community Health Centers should incorporate “Natural Family Planning” into Maternal and Child Health programs.
- Community Health Centers should focus on documentation and co-pay requirements and other issues that impede access.

**Several comments were based on lack of progress to date on the issues of the RHC initiative
“Reducing Barriers for New Americans:”**

- Questions about programs and/or initiatives to help new immigrants access health care services
- Interest in coordinating with existing efforts/organizations and community providers to address issues of access for new Americans

****This is an especially worthy topic given that the RHC Score Card reported only 27% of its recommendations have been implemented in this category.****

There were some specific questions raised during the *Improving Community/University Relations—Building on Recent Successes* breakout session that could not be addressed due to time constraints.

Questions for Dr. Wilkins:

- “The panelists discussed the disconnect between intended and perceived communication between university staff and community. Are there plans to conduct training for both groups to address this issue? Groups that conduct community engagement trainings like UMSL Outreach and Extension might be a good resource.”
- “You mentioned wanting to call community organizations to listen to their needs, and I’d suggest kicking it up a notch and hosting community organization information sessions/brown bag lunches on Washington University and/or Saint Louis University campuses and assisting in promoting the events to university faculty. Gateway Greening is actually in communication with the Institute for Public Service regarding hosting this kind of “Gateway Greening 101” this fall. So often, I’ve attended faculty/community “meet and greet” events that are one-sided in favor of university needs, and this would be a great opportunity to start balancing the equation.”

Question for Dr. Slavin:

- “Saint Louis University does an excellent job of promoting volunteerism. Are there any programs that can be replicated in partnership with Washington University that would help with coordination within the universities? As a Community Based Organization, we may have established a relationship with one department without having the opportunity to work with other departments that would be just as important for mission success.”

****The RHC is in touch with Drs. Wilkins and Slavin to answer these questions. They will be posted as soon as possible.****

A few people made suggestions regarding logistical improvements that could have been made during the event:

- A schedule that allowed participants to attend more than one breakout session
- More interactive breakout sessions
- Better timing of the keynote address and lunch service