



NEWS



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McLean County Health Department Chosen for the 2016 Behavioral Health Training and Technical Assistance for State, Tribal, and Local Health Officials Program

Health department one of 32 agencies chosen from throughout the country

BLOOMINGTON – How does the public health system work with the behavioral health treatment system to create a more healthy and vibrant community? What is needed to improve the mental health and substance use treatment system in the community and what is the role of the public health authority? Beginning January 27th, the McLean County Health Department will be part of a national conversation with other State, Tribal, and Local Health Officials to work toward answers to just such questions.

The McLean County Health Department has been selected to participate in the National Council for Behavioral Health's *Behavioral Health Training and Technical Assistance for State, Tribal, and Local Health Officials Program*. The program, which is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support, is a six-month initiative aimed at providing enhanced education and training related to the current trends and landscape of behavioral health. Each of the 32 program participants will have direct access to behavioral health training and technical assistance in order to support and improve capacity in those areas.

Says Walt Howe, director of the McLean County Health Department, "We see this as a great opportunity to more clearly define the population-based goal of prevention of mental illness and substance abuse together with the promotion of the public health approach, as a means of addressing mental health in our community. Public Health addresses the health of communities and populations as opposed to concentrating on select individuals or select illnesses. Public health uses prevention, health promotion, and an emphasis on wellness, to address the health of a community."

CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS) plays a vital role in helping health agencies work to enhance their capacity and improve their performance to strengthen the public health system on all levels. OSTLTS is CDC's primary connection to health officials and leaders of state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) public health agencies, as well as other government leaders who work with health departments.

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The National Council for Behavioral Health is the unifying voice of America's mental health and addictions treatment organizations. Together with 2,500 member organizations, the National Council is committed to all Americans having access to comprehensive, high-quality care that affords every opportunity for recovery.

For more information about programs and services offered by the McLean County Health Department, please call 309-888-5450 or visit our website at <http://health.mcleancountyil.gov>. The McLean County Health Department is dedicated to the prevention and control of disease through health promotion, early intervention and health protection within our county. Follow us on Twitter (@McLeanHealth) and "Like" us on Facebook (Facebook.com/McLeanHealth), for information about public health affecting you.

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