

We've Come a Long Way in Building Community Capacity to Meet Public Health Challenges...

Beginning in 1997, Drs. Gloria Smith, Tom Bruce, Steve Uranga-McKane, Vincent Lafronza and Ms. Nancy Rawding began one of the most important dialogues in public health transformation in the 21st Century. These meetings gave rise to the formation of the premier collaboration among W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Turning Point: Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health received 525 letters of intent from communities throughout almost every state in the US. With these resources we established 41 demonstration communities across 14 states to embark on a courageous journey to break down the silos of local and state governments and to build lasting partnerships with sectors outside of public health and create strategic plans to strengthen and transform public health systems that would long support broad community engagement in the capacity of community partners to help solve contemporary public health challenges. Changing how governmental systems operate to practice community public health is always a daunting expedition. Over a decade later, the vestiges of these hard learned lessons remain in so many communities and states.



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Trajectory of Legacy Building Efforts

- In the mid 1990s, Barbara Sabol joins the WKKF team and provides critical direction and support to Turning Point's increasing collaboration challenges.
- Nebraska passed legislation and established new community health departments that today serve residents in all corners of the state.
- The Gila River Indian Community Health Department takes a leadership in role to represent Indian Country in a variety of national public health advisory efforts.
- NACCHO revises its bylaws to allow Tribal jurisdictions to become active, voting members of the national association.
- NACCHO Establishes national Health Equity Advisory committee to influence ph practice changes in health departments nationwide. New projects emerge to advance health equity practice innovations.
- Original Turning Point staff members Natalie Burke and Vincent Lafronza establish CommonHealth ACTION to spread Turning Point lessons broadly throughout communities and to build capacity of new partners to work with local and state public health agencies.
- CommonHealth ACTION works with Turning Point partners in Louisiana to support the return of community residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- Turning Point communities nationwide successfully compete for federal funding on STEPS to a healthier US, and various other demonstrations efforts.
- CommonHealth ACTION successfully competes for new funding from Kaiser Permanente, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, NACCHO, the National Indian Health Board.
- CommonHealth ACTION writes successful CDC proposal and NIH is awarded 1.5M CDC five-year cooperative agreement to engage Indian Country in national public health practice improvements.
- Turning Point partners from Belgrade, NC win decade old battle to secure funding support to serve area residents long forgotten by the Air Force base. A new community center proudly serves Belgrade residents, a community where even today some live without electricity. Belgrade community leaders have been able to bring in some new housing and are working with risk youth to improve the conditions necessary for successful transition into adulthood.
- CommonHealth ACTION works with NACCHO and California Newsreel to inform the development of Unnatural Causes documentary.
- CommonHealth ACTION works with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute to select PLACE MATTERS demonstration sites. As of December 2009, we have worked together to design and implement eleven national Design Labs engaging over 500 community leaders dedicated to improving the social determinants of health in their respective jurisdictions.
- CommonHealth ACTION continues to work directly with the sixteen PLACE MATTERS demonstration communities to provide technical assistance and leverage lessons learned in the trenches from Turning Point. Leveraging momentum from their work, two former Turning Point communities become PLACE MATTERS demonstration communities.
- CommonHealth ACTION continues to provide technical support, management, research, writing, and editing to the National Black Caucus of State Legislators for policy and news topics on its Web site and in its national magazine, The Legislator.
- The Consumer Health Foundation awards CommonHealth ACTION a grant to host youth justice retreat on the social determinants of health.
- The Consumer Health Foundation awards CommonHealth ACTION a grant to provide technical assistance for the development of a health equity strategic plan by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (Montgomery County, Maryland).
- With support from the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI is an outgrowth of Turning Point state partnerships), CommonHealth ACTION establishes the Institute for Public Health Innovation. This is the first public health institute in the US to incorporate social determinants of health inequity in its core mission.
- In December 2009, the Institute for Public Health Innovation is awarded a \$500,000 capacity grant from Kaiser Permanente to launch the institute.

Together, CommonHealth ACTION and the new public health institute are working to improve community public health practice within and beyond local government. It all began with an initial vision and critical investment from W.K. Kellogg Foundation staff, leaders in which we will always be indebted, and there is so much more to accomplish.