

## **MID-MISSISSIPPI DELTA TEAM REPORT – DL7**

### **COAHOMA COUNTY PLACE MATTERS TEAM 2007**

The Coahoma County team will be connecting with and establishing a collaborative around childhood obesity. One of its goals is to match program areas in the state and at local level to maximize resources to support and assist the local school districts to implement the Healthy School Program. There have been a series of meeting with the Mid Mississippi Delta Team to discuss and explore programs around the state that could be implemented at the local level. Our last meeting was held by video conference where we heard a presentation about the CATCH program. Ten team members participated in that conference.

The Coahoma Team has already screened over 300 children. This screening included blood pressure, height, weight and body mass. Health Education session are being schedule through the Parent Centers to heighten the awareness of parents regarding health issues such as obesity, nutritional deficiencies that impair IQ, early on-set of diabetes, etc. During the 2007 session, momentous progress was made when the Mississippi legislature and the Governor demonstrated their overwhelming commitment to the future of Mississippi children with the passage of SB 2369 that created the Mississippi Healthy Student Act.

Listed below are goals that we feel addresses some upstream issues here in Coahoma County:

1. To introduce to local school districts and community Safe-Routes-to School Program.
2. Incorporate activity living issues into land use (vacant lots for gardens, mini parks, etc.) to help beautify the area and get people outside for positive and healthy activities.
3. Identify and match state agencies and organizations with similar goals and objectives in order to maximize resources to support school districts Healthy School Programs.
4. Identify upstream factors that impact negatively upon the place and its people and develop upstream strategies to create healthier living environment for children and their families.

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### **SUNFLOWER COUNTY PLACE MATTERS TEAM 2007**

The Sunflower County team has established a collaborative program focused on childhood obesity with the Indianola Separate School District (Lower Carver Elementary and Lockard Elementary). The goal is to raise awareness as well as reduce incidence of obesity initially at the two elementary schools noted. The team has implemented phase one of the program at Lower Carver by hosting a health fair for students and their parents. The team partnered with: school, PTO, Delta State School of Nutrition, CATCH program, Health District III and the Immani Center. The health fair consisted of screenings, for BMI, Blood Pressure, Blood Glucose, and Blood Cholesterol. Health Education and health promotion activities consisted of three guest speakers and five Demonstration booths. Approximately 150 individuals braved inclement weather, including 60 students to participate in this initial activity. Plans were made to have an annual health fair at in subsequent years.

The team is working with local government to explore and implement potential incentives and policies to build sidewalks/bike paths, walking trails and playgrounds in new housing developments.

The Mid Mississippi Delta Team has explored other programs state that could be implemented at the local level. The last meeting was held by video conference where the CATCH program from Mississippi State University was presented. Ten participants were involved in the conference.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY PLACE MATTERS TEAM 2007**

The Washington County team has established a collaborative program focused on childhood obesity with the Hollandale School District, Washington County Health Department/Hollandale Clinic, YMCA, Delta NIRI, Early Head Start Program and Delta Health Partners. A HYPE program has been developed and implemented in Hollandale and Metcalfe. The goal of these two programs is to raise awareness as well as reduce incidence of obesity in the two communities noted. The HYPE program included a health fair for approximately 100 participants. Screenings included BMI, Blood Pressure, and dental screening exam. Health/Nutrition Education and health promotion activities consisted of guest speakers and demonstrations to raise health awareness and self-esteem. Plans were made to expand the HYPE program in 2008.

The Mid Mississippi Delta Team has explored other programs state that could be implemented at the local level. The last meeting was held by video conference where the CATCH program from Mississippi State University was presented. Ten participants were involved in the conference.