



Community Health Assessment 2008-2009

Article 1

The North Eastman Health Association Inc. is excited to announce that our third Community Health Assessment (CHA) is underway. What is a CHA, why is the CHA process necessary, and how is the information for it collected?

This article is the first in a series of 3 articles that will begin to answer these questions, starting with

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT?

Words such as ...mandated...multi-stepped process.....identify health status...direct decision making...improve quality of life are all words that you may hear used when talking about the CHA process. The CHA is a process mandated by Manitoba Health and each of the 12 RHAs in Manitoba is required to complete a CHA every five years. Upon completion of the assessment process, Manitoba Health also requires that a summary of the CHA findings be submitted in the form of a Community Assessment document.

So what exactly is a Community Health Assessment? In technical terms there exists many definitions of what a CHA is, but in simple terms the CHA is exactly what it says it is – an assessment of the health of the community. An 18 month long multi-stepped process, the CHA provides an understanding of the overall health status of people in the region and provides direction for accountable and responsive future health planning. It provides the basis for discussion and action in addressing local health needs. By using the CHA to determine health needs and priorities it also assists in providing the information/rationale to acquire resources to plan and implement programs that are designed specifically to meet the unique needs of individual communities. The ultimate goal of the CHA is in providing information that can be used to improve the health status and quality of life of community residents.

To learn more about why the CHA is done, past successes, and how the process occurs, stay tuned for more articles that will address these topics in more detail. Until then the staff of NEHA wish you health and happiness.

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