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GDAHC partners with Macomb County Health Department and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital to receive four year, \$440,000 state grant

The four-year grant supports programming to reduce chronic disease

DETROIT (March 10, 2015) – The Greater Detroit Area Health Council (GDAHC) has been chosen as one of four organizations to receive a **\$440,000 four-year annual grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)**, to focus on reducing chronic disease.

The grant-funded program's goal is to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities related to obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. GDAHC is partnering with the Macomb County Health Department and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital and will collaborate with ACCESS, the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers, Michigan Business and Professional Association, the MSU Extension Center, Walgreens, and the YMCA. The work will take place in the communities of Eastpointe, Roseville and Warren, primarily.

"Health disparities have a direct correlation to the cost of health care in our communities," said **Kate Kohn-Parrott**, GDAHC president and CEO. "In partnership with the Macomb County Health Department and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, along with our other incredible partners, GDAHC seeks to provide individuals and families with the tools necessary to reduce obesity and diabetes. We as an organization are also looking forward to extending our reach into Macomb County with these new partners."

While strides have been made, chronic diseases affect nearly 4 million Michiganders and cause more than 50,000 deaths annually, according to MDCH. In addition to the quality of life impact, the financial burden related to chronic disease accounts for \$49.5 billion of an estimated \$66 billion in annual health care spending.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with GDAHC, Henry Ford Macomb Hospital and numerous community organizations to build the capacity of local public health and chronic disease prevention in Macomb County," said **William Ridella**, director/health officer for Macomb County Health Department. "Macomb County's population growth, diversity and areas of need provide a prime opportunity for innovative and collaborative approaches to improve the health and wellness of our residents and workforce."

"Henry Ford Macomb Hospital (HFMH) welcomes the opportunities this collaborative effort brings to enhance community-based efforts to help prevent and promote understanding of treatment of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension among Macomb County residents," said **Barbara Rossmann**, president and CEO of HFMH. "The Henry Ford Macomb Faith Community Nursing/Health Ministry and School Health Networks will leverage relationships to enhance and expand community benefit outreach activities. This grant provides an innovative and proven Centers for Disease Control (CDC) program and original, client centered teaching materials to aid clients in learning health related self-care, lifestyle changes and prevention strategies. Community health workers and their health teams will be given the assistance they need as they work toward measurable prevention and health improvement outcomes."

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GDAHC partners with Macomb County Health Department and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital to receive four year, \$440,000 state grant -continued-

“These funds provide an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and support local partners in addressing risk factors in our high burden communities,” MDCH Director **Nick Lyon** said. “With these additional resources, the selected community programs will go far to help make the healthy choice the easy choice for Michigan residents.”

In efforts to reduce chronic disease, study after study indicates that risk factors are minimized when obesity is addressed. In Michigan, 65 percent of adults are either overweight or obese. Compared to the 20 percent of healthy-weight adults, 56 percent of obese adults have comorbid diagnoses of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and high blood pressure.

The community can expect specifics about the programming delivered by GDAHC in the coming weeks. In addition to GDAHC, the Grand Rapids YMCA Association, ProMedica/Bixby Hospital, and the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan were chosen by the MDCH to participate in this grant funding program.

ABOUT THE GREATER DETROIT AREA HEALTH COUNCIL

The Greater Detroit Area Health Council (GDAHC) is the premier health care coalition leveraging multi-sector and multi-stakeholder collaboration to develop and evaluate innovative ways to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in southeast Michigan. As a health care leader that is recognized nationally and regionally, GDAHC represents everyone who gets care, gives care and pays for care. Dedicated to the cost-effective allocation, management and use of health care resources, the organization seeks to develop strong, strategic partnerships that increase access to and improve the value and manage the cost of health care. Visit www.gdahc.org to learn more.

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