



Taking Action: Changing the Nature of Public Conversations about Health

A recurrent theme in the discussions of the Healthy Minnesota Partnership is the need to change the nature of public conversations about health. Public conversations take place in the policy arena, in media stories, in group discussions, and in informal conversations among friends and strangers. In most of these conversations, health care is the dominant narrative, because people connect the idea of health to their access to or experiences of health care.

The Narratives Strategy Team of the Partnership is developing ways to engage people in conversations about health that focus on the factors that create health. You can help the team by trying out some questions that may engage people in a different kind of conversation about health.

You do not have to ask every question; use this list as a guide. The Narratives Strategy Team welcomes your thoughts after you hold these conversations. If you can, visit <http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthymnpartnership/hm2020/> and fill in a brief feedback form. There is a link from the right hand column of that page. The team will use all comments to inform the development of tools to change the nature of public conversations about health and increase the consideration of health in all policies.

Thank you!!

Your health and the health of your community:

1. What do you need to be healthy or to have a sense of well-being?
Before asking questions about community, discuss with participants: What are the communities that you feel part of?
2. What makes your communities healthy or contributes to the well-being of your communities?
3. How would you like the health or well-being of your communities to be different?
4. What role do your communities – as you define it – play in your personal health and well-being?
5. Tell me a story about when you (your family, your community) were healthy and had a sense of well-being.

Creating the opportunity to be healthy:

6. What are the kinds of opportunities that create health and well-being?
7. Is there a community responsibility for making sure all people have the opportunity to be healthy and to have a sense of well-being? If so, what is it? If not, why not?
8. Do you think your health is affected when others have less opportunity to be healthy or to have a sense of well-being? Why or why not?

Personal and organizational roles in creating healthy communities:

9. What do you think your role is in creating health or contributing to the well-being of your community?
10. What role does [the organization you represent, if appropriate] have? What is the same/different about these individual and organizational roles?
11. What do you think our public and private institutions *should* be doing to increase the health and well-being of all people in Minnesota?