

Mecklenburg County Health Policy Recommendations

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Outline

- County policies to improve health
- Other policy opportunities



County Actions to Improve Health

“Health in All Policies” approach in all County business

- Evidence-based strategy adopted by numerous local governments (Richmond, VA, Ingham County, MI)
- An approach to public policies and programs across all sectors to consider health implications of decisions
- Promotes a *shared responsibility* for improving population health and increasing health equity



County Actions to Improve Health

Policy to ensure all events held by the County or on County property support healthy choices:

- Provide drinking water
- Promote active transportation options to the event
- Tobacco-free
- Space dedicated for breastfeeding



County Actions to Improve Health

Partnership with Public Health & Social Services to include a standard for **smoke-free foster homes & cars**

- Protect children from the harmful dangers of 2nd and 3rd hand smoke
- Foster children suffer a disproportionate number of chronic health conditions
- Implemented by 20+ states and counties with no negative impact

County Actions to Improve Health

Policy to support contracted businesses that protect their employees from the harmful dangers of tobacco use and exposure

- Internal policy
- Leading by example



County Actions to Improve Health

A local government may adopt and enforce ordinances, board of health rules, and policies restricting or prohibiting smoking that are more restrictive than state law and that apply to:

- Worksites
 - Local Government Buildings
 - Enclosed Public Places
- Local Government Vehicles
- Local Government Grounds (including parks)

County Actions to Improve Health

Board of Health Rule for Smoke-Free Public Places

- Protects employees and the public
- All businesses in the County, City, and towns that allow the public indoors
- 2015 Mecklenburg County Business Survey demonstrates strong support for smoke-free worksites
- Adopted in Durham County & Orange County



Support for Health Policy Initiatives

Board of Health Resolution to ask the NC General Assembly to grant local government authority around tobacco products

- Current preemptive laws
- Price, age of purchase, and marketing of tobacco
- Reduce targeted marketing to youth and minority populations
- Chatham, Cumberland, Durham, Orange & Pitt Counties



Support for Health Policy Initiatives

Support the municipalities in implementing Healthy Food Zones

- Minimize youth access to fast food restaurants near schools
- Reduce childhood obesity
- Compliment the *Health Department's Healthy Corner Store Project*
- Incentivize urban farming and grocery stores in food priority areas



Support for Health Policy Initiatives

Encourage the City and towns to plan for and implement “Healthy Transportation” choices



- Walking, bicycling and public transit infrastructure
- Off-road transportation network (Greenways & DIRTways)
- Health equity considerations



Support for Health Policy Initiatives

“Healthy Transportation” incentives

- Increase physical activity (walking and bicycling)
- Improve air quality
- Encourage use of public transit and commuting
- Illinois, Oregon, Washington & New York City examples

