

ISDH Long Term Care  
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## State Health Improvement Plan

### **STATE HEALTH OFFICIALS RELEASE PLAN TO IMPROVE HOOSIER HEALTH**

July 25, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS—A five-year plan outlining several priorities for improving the health of Hoosiers is now available and ready to be implemented, State Health Officials said today. The [Indiana State Health Improvement Plan](#) focuses on: assuring food safety, reducing healthcare associated infections, and reducing the burden of HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and Viral Hepatitis, as well as infant mortality, obesity, and tobacco use.

The six health priorities identified were determined to have the most significant influence on health and illness in Indiana. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention health priorities, "Winnable Battles," were used as a basis.

"The goals, objectives and activities contained in the Indiana State Health Improvement Plan are geared toward improving the lives of all Indiana residents over the next five years," said Indiana State Health Commissioner Gregory Larkin, M.D. "Successful implementation can only occur through collaboration among individuals, public, private, governmental, and nonprofit organizations. The Indiana State Department of Health is confident that with strong and committed partners, the Plan will move forward and be successful in achieving optimal health for all Hoosiers."

The Plan was developed by an Executive Committee led by Dr. Deborah McMahan, Health Officer for the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health and Dr. Richard B. Williams, Dean, College of Nursing, Health and Human Services, Indiana State University.

The Executive Committee had a broad-based, multi-sector representation from:

- o Local and State public health
- o Health professionals
- o Community and business leaders
- o Academia
- o Health facilities
- o State governmental agencies
- o Not-for-Profits

"The Plan focuses on several health priorities, as well as key system improvements that, when achieved,

will significantly impact health in Indiana," said Dr. McMahan. "It is the hope and intent of the State Executive Planning Committee that each and every public health system partner will identify activities in the Plan which will enable them to contribute to the improvement of health outcomes in Indiana. The State Health Improvement Plan is founded on the premise that together, Indiana Public Health System partners can make a difference."

The Indiana State Health Improvement Plan can be viewed at [www.statehealth.in.gov](http://www.statehealth.in.gov).

## Alzheimer's Public Input Sessions

In Spring 2011, Governor Daniels appointed the Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Senile Dementia and directed the Task Force to develop a state plan to address this growing public health challenge. More than 120,000 Hoosiers have Alzheimer's disease. For each individual with the disease, countless family members, friends, and other caregivers are personally or professionally involved in providing needed support.

The Task Force will be hosting two Alzheimer's Public Input Sessions to obtain input from people affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia in Indiana. The goal is to identify issues and concerns that can be included in the Indiana State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Senile Dementia.

Alzheimer's Public Input Sessions will be as follows: [Attached is an information flyer for each event]

- [Fort Wayne Alzheimer's Public Input Session](#); Tuesday, August 23, 2011
- [Indianapolis Alzheimer's Public Input Session](#); Wednesday, August 24, 2011

## Quit Now!

Employees in Indiana's long term care facilities can join the thousands of Hoosiers who are ready to quit smoking. Tobacco Prevention and Cessation at the State Health Department and INShape Indiana have launched the 2011 Quit Now Indiana Contest, where quitters have an opportunity to win \$2,500. Participants pledge to remain tobacco free throughout October in exchange for better health and a chance to win extra spending money.

To be eligible to win, contestants must be 18 years or older, a legal resident of Indiana, a current tobacco user and stay tobacco free from October 1 through October 31, 2011.

To register, or for more information, visit [www.INShapeIndiana.org](http://www.INShapeIndiana.org), [www.QuitNowIndiana.com](http://www.QuitNowIndiana.com), or call (317) 234-1787. Registration must be received by September 30. Employers (including long term health facilities) interested in promoting the contest on-site may request a free contest kit at [QuitNowIndiana.com](http://QuitNowIndiana.com).

A state priority in the Indiana State Health Improvement Plan is the reduction of tobacco use in Indiana. One of our ISDH staff recently had her first experience with a family member in a nursing home. She told me that the communication from the facility was good and she was pleased with the care provided for her family member. She was astonished however at the high rate of smoking among the facility staff. Reducing tobacco use is an important health promotion component. The ISDH encourages facilities to assist their staff in quitting tobacco use. QuitNowIndiana is designed to help provide the incentive needed to quit and improve the health of Hoosiers.

That is all for today.

Terry Whitson  
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Indiana State Department of Health