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Delaware County seeks public input on Health Study
Council requests public input on the scope of a public health study of Delaware County

Delaware County will be seeking a proposal from an accredited institution of higher learning to conduct a study of the health and public health needs of residents and the public health services available to residents of the county.

Before the proposal is released, Delaware County is seeking the input of residents in order to ascertain the public's perspective regarding health and public health issues and what the scope of the study should include. The public is invited to review the proposal and submit comment online or by mail for 45 days.

In 2009 Delaware County Council engaged the Bloomberg School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University to develop a Profile of Health and Public Health Services for Delaware County. The report identified recommendations to enhance and strengthen public health service delivery to county residents.

"There have been changes since the first study was conducted in 2009," said Delaware County Council Chairman John McBlain. "Council is committed to ensuring the best possible health services and safety practices for our residents and will revisit and examine current public health issues in a thorough, effective and responsible manner."

After review of the public's comment on the proposal, Delaware County Council will seek a proposal from an accredited institution of higher learning to undertake a study of the delivery of health and public health services in Delaware County. The final study will be utilized by County Council to implement an effective structure for the delivery of public health services in the county as well as the policies that would optimize health outcomes for residents.

The current proposal states that the study should include an outline of the current health programs and public health service structure as well as an evaluation of the extent to which the current array and organization of such services meets the existing and projected needs of the residents. The study should describe the health and public health needs in the county, including unserved and underserved populations, by utilizing available Delaware County specific data pertaining to recognized community health status indicators such as, but not limited to: infant mortality rates, childhood immunizations coverage, rates of infectious disease of public health significance, incidence and risk factors of chronic illness, drug, alcohol and tobacco related deaths with a focus upon the opioid epidemic, health insurance coverage, accessibility to health care, environmental health risks, and emergency response and

preparedness, to include all first responders. The study should include the bio-statistical and epidemiologic data pertaining to mortality that is collected by the county's Medical Examiner's office. The existing constellation of public health services provided by the County, municipal governments and community health organizations in the county should be incorporated into this study as well. The county anticipates that the study will take full consideration of the social determinants of health including, but not limited to, violence and trauma. The study should also give particular attention to the diversity in the county by addressing cultural issues and health literacy that may affect access to health and public health care as well as the delivery of that care.

The County is interested in knowing the public's perspective regarding health and public health and anticipates that targeted interviews with key constituents including government and community leaders, healthcare community leaders, health advocacy groups, and faith-based groups should occur. There is as well interest in similar perceptions on these topics from those currently involved in the delivery of health and public health services across the county. The county is specifically interested in acquiring input from a broad representation of its diverse population including the wide array of cultural, social and economic differences.

The Request for Proposals can be found here:
(need website link)

Residents can submit comments online:
<http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/cm/healthstudyfeedbackform.html>

Or mail to:
Public Comment on Health Study Proposal
C/O Marianne Grace, Executive Director of Delaware County
201 W. Front St. Media, PA 19063

The deadline to submit comment is July 30, 2018.