

**Franklin County, North Carolina**

**An Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis:  
Findings and Next Steps of Action**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Between October 2006 and April 2007, a team of six students from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, conducted an Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis (AOCD) of Franklin County, North Carolina. The purpose of this AOCD was to learn about the strengths, challenges, and needs of the community, to assist the community in identifying priorities, and to bring the community together to openly discuss and work towards action steps that address the identified issues. The AOCD was conducted with the help of preceptors Cynthia Gary and Becky Leonard at the Franklin County Health Department.

The AOCD process began with the team becoming acquainted with Franklin County by reviewing available data on the area, attending events, and meeting residents and employees. The team proceeded to conduct 39 interviews with community members and service providers, as well as one focus group of six youth. The team analyzed this data and created a list of the 14 issues that were most often mentioned as priorities to the people of Franklin County. Each issue was summarized in a theme statement that represented the team's understanding of popular sentiment.

With the help of a Forum Planning Committee (FPC) that consisted of nine service providers and community members, the team planned a community forum. The FPC narrowed the greater list of 14 themes to 5, based on importance and changeability. The themes selected were:

**Youth Recreation and Entertainment:** There is a desire for additional public facilities in Franklin County to provide recreation and/or entertainment activities for youth.

**Economic Development:** There is a need to support new and current businesses in Franklin County to enhance local economy and create new job opportunities.

**Physical Activity:** A lack of physical activity options is contributing to increasing rates of obesity in Franklin County.

**Mental Health:** There is an impression that the needs of people with mental health concerns are not being met, either because of a lack of services, lack of awareness of services available, or stigma attached to seeking help for mental health.

**Transportation:** There is a need for inexpensive transportation options to increase access to services and resources for some residents of Franklin County.

The community forum took place on April 24, 2007. At the forum, small group discussions led to the creation of action steps for four of the five themes (the discussion on transportation was dissolved for lack of attendees). Forum attendees then volunteered to oversee the execution of each action step, listed below.

#### Youth Recreation and Entertainment:

- Talk to the board of the Boys & Girls Club about hosting fundraising events for youth participation in recreation.
- Talk to county political leaders about funding/tax allocation for more recreation facilities and options for youth.
- Talk to the Franklin County Schools superintendent about a sports uniform recycling program.
- Contact church leaders about scholarships for youth participation in recreation activities.
- Communicate with 4-H, Parks and Recreation, and The Franklin Times about the need to increase recreation facilities and activity options in Franklin County. Ask for support from these organizations in creating new options and increasing county-wide communication about recreation and entertainment options for youth.

#### Economic Development:

- Establish a study committee to look at educational opportunities that match current local job opportunities.
- Support the application for the 21st Century grant for Franklin County Schools.
- Encourage continued support for economic development by increasing awareness of activities and initiatives among community members and county commissioners.
- Build collaboration between agencies (such as the Health Department, Planning, etc.) to work on a one-stop permitting process.

#### Physical Activity:

- Talk to The Franklin Times about publishing a regular health column written by representatives of community organizations.
- Encourage physical activity competitions among various places of employment, community groups, schools, and other organizations in the county.

#### Mental Health:

- Plan a meeting to organize the formation of a mental health advocacy group that will work to increase the number of mental health providers in Franklin County through recruitment and education.

The team hopes that the engagement and motivation displayed by the people of Franklin County at the forum will result in continuing momentum to meet and build upon these action steps. \* In addition, the team would like to make the following recommendations as actions that may help build upon the county's strengths while addressing some of its needs:

- Expand inter-agency communication. Many service providers were not aware of other programs and resources in the county. One positive step in this direction is an inter-agency lunch that takes place the last Wednesday of each month.
- Provide additional activity options for youth other than sports. Involve youth in the planning of facilities or programs that affect youth.
- Continue to support economic growth and increased job opportunities while respecting the pace and tranquility that residents appreciate.
- Begin to recognize and address nutrition as a contributor to obesity.
- Improve communication between decision-makers and the community, to better inform leaders of the county's needs and the public of the activities and decisions made by their government.
- Conduct greater in-depth analysis of the needs and implications of the growing Latino population. Work towards greater service provision in Spanish.

The purpose of this document is to serve as a resource to Franklin County by describing the Franklin County AOCD process, discussing the findings, and presenting the next steps of action developed by the Franklin County community.

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\* Anyone interested in assisting with the execution of these action steps should contact Cynthia Gary, Lead Health Educator at the Franklin County Health Department.. Ms. Gary can be reached by email at [cynthia.gary@ncmail.net](mailto:cynthia.gary@ncmail.net) or by telephone at (919) 496-2533 ext. 2372.



## **INTRODUCTION**

In the fall of 2006, six students from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill commenced an Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis (AOCD) of Franklin County, North Carolina. The purpose of this AOCD was to learn about the strengths, challenges, and needs of the community, to assist the community in identifying priorities, and to bring the community together to discuss and work towards action steps that address the identified issues. The student team was led by two preceptors at the Franklin County Health Department, Cynthia Gary and Becky Leonard, who served as liaisons to the people of Franklin County and helped facilitate the team's efforts to gain *entrée*, or become known and trusted by members of the community.

The AOCD process involves collecting and analyzing multiple perspectives in order to understand the strengths and needs of a community<sup>1</sup>. The Franklin County AOCD team achieved this by using three types of data. Initially, we gathered and reviewed secondary data about the county from existing sources, such as the U.S. Census and local government websites. We also created field notes by recording our observations from attending community meetings and events. Later in the process we collected primary data through key informant interviews with community members (residents of Franklin County) and service providers (employees of agencies that serve residents of Franklin County). In doing so, we sought perspectives from people of various ages, races, and geographic locales, aiming to reflect the demographics of the county. We conducted a total of 39 individual interviews, and spoke with six youth in a focus group. After analyzing the interview data, we presented a summary of our findings to the community in a forum held on April 24, 2007 in Louisburg, North Carolina. Attendees discussed

the findings in small groups, developed action steps to address the most pressing needs of the community, and volunteered to oversee the execution of these steps.

The organization of this document is intended to serve the community. We begin by describing Franklin County based on secondary data sources. We then present the key findings from our analysis of primary data (interviews, focus groups, and field notes). In order to distinguish different views of the issues prioritized in Franklin County, the analysis of three perspectives (those of community members, service providers, and team members) are presented separately. This is followed by summaries of the small discussion groups that led to the creation of the action steps for each of the prioritized issues. We then describe our methodology, detailing how data were collected and analyzed, and how this led to the culminating community forum. We also discuss the strengths and weaknesses of our methods and process. Finally, we present conclusions, including recommendations from the student team.

## **SECTION I: COMMUNITY PROFILE**

The following sections provide an introduction to Franklin County based on secondary data. For a list of key resources used for this profile, see Appendix C.

### **Geography**

Franklin County is located in the northeastern Piedmont region of North Carolina. It is bordered on the north by Granville, Vance and Warren Counties, on the east by Nash County, and on the south by Wake County. The land area is 492 square miles<sup>2</sup>. The population density is 96.1 per square mile, as compared to 165.2 per square mile for the state overall<sup>2</sup>.

Franklin County is made up of five municipalities (listed here in order of decreasing population size): Louisburg (the county seat), Franklinton, Youngsville, Bunn, and Centerville (see Appendix C for a regional map). Lake Royale, a gated community/private resort located to

the east of Bunn, is another population center in the county, but not an official municipality. Other townships include Cedar Rock, Cypress Creek, Gold Mine, Harris, Hayesville, and Sandy Creek. Franklin is primarily a rural county, with most residents (87.4%) living outside of the five major townships<sup>3</sup>. Major highways in Franklin County include U.S. 401 and U.S. 1, which run north and south, connecting Franklinton and Louisburg to the larger metropolitan areas of Wake Forest and Raleigh.

## **History**

When Europeans first came to settle in present-day Franklin County in the 1740s, there were two Native American tribes in the area: the Shoccore Indians and the more-itinerant Tuscarora Indians, who were known to travel in the area<sup>4</sup>. After a series of land subdivisions, the county was officially formed in 1779 when the North Carolina General Assembly voted to divide Bute County (which had previously been part of Granville County), into Franklin and Warren counties. The name of the county was given in honor of Benjamin Franklin<sup>5-8</sup>.

## **Demographics**

The 2005 population of Franklin County was estimated at 54,429, an increase of 15.2% from the population reported in the 2000 Census<sup>9</sup>. An annual growth rate of 2.2% (as compared to the state's 0.8%) made Franklin the ninth fastest-growing county in North Carolina in 2005<sup>10</sup>. Much of the growth has resulted from an influx of residents from nearby metropolitan areas. Of the over 10,000 people who moved into Franklin County between 1995 and 2000, over a third (34.7%) came from Wake County<sup>11</sup>. Growth has been concentrated in the southwestern part of the county<sup>6</sup>.

According to 2005 Census estimates, Whites in Franklin County make up the majority of the population (70.7%), followed by African Americans (27.9%)<sup>9</sup>. Latinos were estimated to

comprise 6.6% of the population in 2005, up from 4.4% in 2000<sup>3,9</sup>. Latinos are the fastest growing of all racial or ethnic groups in the County. The number of Latinos in Franklin County grew from 330 in 1980 to 2100 in 2000—an increase of over 500%<sup>12</sup>.

The age distribution of residents of Franklin County in 2005 was as follows: 24% under age 18, 65% aged 19-64, and 11% aged 65 or older<sup>9</sup>. Data from the 2000 Census show that the age and racial/ethnic profiles of Franklin County residents varies by township<sup>3</sup>, as shown in Table 1. In general, the southern townships tend to be younger than those in the northern part of the county.

**Table 1. 2000 Franklin County Demographics by Township<sup>3</sup>.**

	County Overall	Louisburg	Franklinton	Youngsville	Bunn	Centerville
Total population	47260	3111	1745	651	357	99
% of county population	-	6.6%	3.7%	1.3%	<1%	<1%
Median age	35.8	39.7	36.8	35.8	40.2	44.8
% Over Age 65	11.0%	24.1%	17.2%	12.6%	15.1%	23.2%
% White	66%	50.8%	57.1%	71.0%	63.9%	92.9%
% Black or African American	30%	46.7%	40.9%	25.2%	30.0%	7.1%
% Other Races*	4%	2.5%	2%	3.8%	6.1%	0%
% Hispanic or Latino (any race)	4.4	3.0%	2.0%	3.1%	3.1%	0.0%

\*This combines all other race categories used by the Census: American Indian and Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Other Race.

### **Economy and Industry**

In 2005, while Franklin County had a lower unemployment rate (4.6%) than the state overall (5.2%), average earnings of employed residents were lower<sup>9</sup>. The per capita income in the County was \$25,191 compared to \$29,322 for the rest of the state<sup>9</sup>. As with other demographic characteristics, Census 2000 data indicate that income levels vary within the county by township<sup>3</sup>. As is shown in Table 2, Youngsville has the highest median earnings and lowest poverty rate in the county.

**Table 2. 2000 Franklin County Economic Indicators by Township<sup>3</sup>.**

	<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>Median Personal Income</b>	<b>Families below poverty level</b>
Louisburg	41,563	17,918	15.2%
Franklinton	34,412	14,373	14.8%
Youngsville	46,750	19,683	2.2%
Bunn	45,804	13,711	8.4%
Centerville	31,250	16,849	10.0%
County Overall	44,540	17,562	10.0%
State of N.C.	46,335	20,307	9.0%

In 2004, 25.3% of the people in Franklin County worked in professional occupations, 23.7% in sales, 20.7% in production, 15.9% in construction and maintenance, 13% in service occupations, and 0.8% in farming, fishing and forestry<sup>13</sup>. Government positions accounted for 20.9% of jobs, and private industry for 79.1%<sup>14</sup>.

Local industries include wood products, enzymes, telecommunications, software development, and plastics recycling<sup>5</sup>. In manufacturing, the largest employer is Flextronics International in Youngsville, followed by Novozymes in Franklinton. The top non-manufacturing employer (and largest employer overall) in the county is Franklin County Schools<sup>14</sup>. According to the 2000 Census data, almost 65% of Franklin County residents travel outside of the county for work<sup>3</sup>.

Although the number of farms in Franklin County has declined over the past 20 years, from 666 to 574, agriculture continues to play an important role in the county's economy<sup>15</sup>. Most farms in the county (94.4%) are family-owned<sup>15</sup>. Top crops based on total acreage include soybeans, hay, wheat and tobacco<sup>15</sup>.

### **Education**

Franklin County is home to Louisburg College, which was founded in 1787, making it the oldest junior college in the United States<sup>7</sup>. Also in the County is a satellite campus of Vance-Granville Community College, opened in 1998.

The public school system of Franklin County includes eight elementary schools, three middle schools, and three high schools. Enrollment in the 2006-07 school year was 8,247 students and, as does the population of the county, continues to grow each year<sup>16</sup>.

In 2000, 73.6% of Franklin County residents (over the age of 18) had high school diplomas, and 13.2% had bachelor's degrees or higher. State averages for the same year were 78.1% with high school diplomas and 22.5% with bachelor's degrees<sup>14</sup>. The dropout rate in Franklin County is 6.1%, as compared to 4.8% in the whole of North Carolina<sup>13</sup>.

## **Health**

Franklin Regional Medical Center (FRMC), the largest healthcare facility and only hospital in Franklin County, is located in Louisburg. FRMC is an 85-bed acute care medical/surgical hospital that was built in 1951 by the county, and is currently owned by Health Management Associates<sup>17</sup>. In February 2007, FRMC announced plans to relocate from Louisburg to the southern part of the county. The certificate of need application filed by FRMC cited lack of space at its current location of eight acres and financial hardships associated with maintaining an older building as reasons for the move<sup>18</sup>.

The Franklin County Health Department, also located in Louisburg, is another important medical provider in the county. Services include maternal and child health, women's health, dental health, immunizations, communicable disease, home health, and an STD clinic. The Health Department also leads Frankly Healthy, a program of North Carolina's 2010 Health Objectives named Healthy Carolinians. Frankly Healthy is a community partnership whose initiatives include ongoing health promotion programs at churches, worksites and other community-based organizations, as well as coordinating events, such as health expos, throughout the year.

The “State of the County Health Report,” published by the Health Department in December 2006, established four major health priorities for Franklin County: overweight and obesity, chronic disease, youth health, and access to care<sup>19</sup>. Following are data demonstrating the importance of these priorities.

Results from the 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) indicate that Franklin, along with Nash and Wilson counties, has the highest rate of overweight and obesity in North Carolina. 73.8% of adults in the three county area are overweight or obese, while the state average is 62.9%<sup>19,20</sup>. The same survey found that most residents of Franklin County are not meeting current recommendations for daily physical activity or nutrition; only 39% are engaging in moderate activity for 30 or more minutes per day, at least five days per week, and only 18% are eating five or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day<sup>19</sup>.

Chronic disease is also an important problem in Franklin County. Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death in the county, accounting for almost 50% of all deaths<sup>21</sup>. Diabetes, another obesity-related chronic disease that is one of the top ten causes of death in Franklin County, is on the rise<sup>21</sup>.

In terms of health care access, 17% of Franklin County residents have inadequate health insurance coverage<sup>21</sup>. The Franklin County Volunteers in Medicine Free Clinic in Louisburg is a resource for the uninsured, primarily serving patients with chronic illness. The clinic operates a few nights per month by appointment only. Walk-ins are not accepted due to the high number of appointments already scheduled.

### **Services and Resources**

Most county-based services in Franklin County are located in the county seat, Louisburg. They include North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Franklin County Health Department,

Franklin County Social Services, Franklin County Department of Aging (with senior centers in Louisburg and Franklinton), Franklin County Library, Franklin County Emergency Services and Franklin County Parks and Recreation<sup>22</sup>.

Other non-profit organizations and agencies that provide services to residents of Franklin County include: Safe Space, Inc. (services for victims of domestic violence), Jessica's Hope Chest (services and resources for critically ill children and their families), United Way, and the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic (described previously).

As with most rural counties in North Carolina, Franklin County does not have its own public transportation system. The Kerr Area Rural Transit System (KARTS) is a fee-based passenger van service, run out of Vance County, which also serves Franklin County. The service operates on weekdays on an appointment-based schedule<sup>23</sup>.

### **Culture and Recreation**

The Franklin County Arts Council is active in sponsoring cultural events in the county, such as the annual International Whistlers Convention. Louisburg College also plays a central role in the cultural life of the county, through its annual concert series, theater productions, and art exhibits<sup>7</sup>. Annual festivals in the county include the Tar River Festival and the Independence Day celebration, as well as a number of local festivals in individual municipalities.

The Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department maintains two public parks in the county (Franklinton and Moose Lodge), and organizes sports teams for both youth and adults. Locally-run sports leagues provide additional options for youth in Youngsville, Franklinton and Bunn. The senior centers in Louisburg and Franklinton offer several organized recreation opportunities for seniors. Additionally, the Louisburg Senior Center provides access to its fitness equipment for all adults in the county. In 2005, a bike path was paved along N.C. 39, offering a



new recreation option for county residents. Most other recreational opportunities in the county are privately-run, including two fitness facilities (one in Louisburg and Franklinton), and several golf courses and country clubs.

Apart from sports leagues, recreational opportunities for youth include the newly-opened Boys & Girls Club, located in Louisburg. The 4-H program, run through the Franklin County Cooperative Extension office, also has an active presence in the community, and offers a wide range of programming, including clubs, special interest programs, summer camps, school enrichment and after-school child care.

Churches play a central role in culture and recreation in Franklin County. With over 100 churches in the county, church-sponsored events occur almost daily and are announced in a special section of The Franklin Times.

## **SECTION II: FINDINGS**

Following are findings based upon analysis of interviews with 39 community members and service providers and one focus group of six youth. As an integral part of the AOCD process, the purpose of the interviews and focus groups was to identify strengths, challenges, and needs of Franklin County, with the ultimate goals of assisting the community in identifying priorities and bringing people together to work towards action steps around these priorities. We first present an overview of the overarching strengths and challenges identified through the interviews. Then, we introduce five themes, or summary statements that represent popular sentiments about issues facing Franklin County. These were selected from a longer list of 14 themes (see Appendix B) as the five most important and/or changeable priorities to be discussed at the community forum. For each theme, we present separately the perspectives of community members, service providers, and the student team. Finally, we describe how discussions at the

community forum led to the development of action steps for four of five themes. (Details on methods used to collect and analyze interview data and prioritize themes are provided in Section III).

### **Community Strengths**

The rapid residential growth occurring in Franklin County demonstrates what residents stated: that it is a desirable place to live. Newcomers and lifelong residents of Franklin County alike appreciate its slow pace and placidity while valuing its proximity to the Raleigh metropolitan area. They enjoy living in a close-knit community where people are friendly and know one another, and describe Franklin County as a traditional rural southern community. Many long-time residents expressed hope that these elements of the county's identity will be maintained as the county continues to grow. Despite these sentiments, many residents view the new energy and ideas that have accompanied the population growth as beneficial to the county.

Another positive aspect of Franklin County is the supportive nature of the residents. Team members heard and observed that community members take care of one another. In evidence of this are the county's volunteer fire and rescue squads. Many people also mentioned fundraising events, such as the annual Relay for Life, which bring together community members from all over the county to support a cause. The faith community also plays a key role in building community and bringing residents together. Churches serve many important functions from leading active youth groups to promoting charity and volunteerism.

Finally, there is a clear spirit of collaboration among community organizations and agencies. A recent success is the opening of the Boys & Girls Club in Louisburg, a service that meets an identified need in the community. This project demonstrates the ability of Franklin

County community organizations to work together to achieve collective goals. It also shows the community's commitment to the youth of Franklin County.

### **Overview of Challenges**

In addition to the many strengths of Franklin County that surfaced during interviews, interviewees also brought up a number of challenges. While many people spoke of positive aspects of Franklin County's recent population growth, there was also acknowledgment of the challenges that have come along with it, such as crowded schools. Additionally, the fact that the growth has been concentrated in the southern part of the county seems to be fostering a chasm; interviewees spoke repeatedly of the divide between the older, more rural and agricultural northern part of the county, and the affluent, quickly-developing bedroom communities of the southern region. In addition to implications this has for the character of the county, the north-south divide raises other important issues, such as where county resources should be located and how money should be spent. One example of this is the planned move of Franklin County Regional Hospital from Louisburg to the southern part of the county, referenced earlier in the secondary data section. While many people recognize that the hospital is a for-profit business and is in need of renovation and expansion, those in the northern part of the county are worried that the move will cause other resources, such as private practice health specialists, to leave along with the hospital.

Finally, while residents appreciate the rural feel of Franklin County, they also feel the burden of having fewer resources than more populous counties, such as jobs, shopping options, recreation facilities, and public transportation.

Analysis of interviews and focus groups allowed the team to develop a list of 14 theme statements that reflect the challenges deemed most important by interviewees (see Appendix B).

With input from the forum planning committee, the list was then narrowed down to the following five topics for discussion at the community forum: Youth Recreation and Entertainment, Economic Development, Physical Activity, Mental Health, and Transportation. Following is an analysis of community member, service provider, and team perspectives on the themes related to these five topics.

### **Youth Recreation and Entertainment**

**There is a desire for additional public facilities in Franklin County to provide recreation and/or entertainment activities for youth.**

#### *Community Member Perspective*

*"We need a place for these kids to hang out and not get in trouble. You can't expect the kids to sit on couches at home in front of their moms and dads...we need safe places."*

Many community members cited the need for additional recreation and entertainment facilities for youth, such as a public swimming pool, movie theaters, and a teen center, to add positive elements to the lives of youth. Some pointed to The Factory, a youth entertainment center in Wake County, as a successful example of such a facility. One community member noted that while there are plenty of athletics available in Franklin County, there are fewer options for youth to participate in arts and academically-oriented activities. Other community members lamented the high costs associated with the existing recreation options in the county, including memberships for country clubs, golf courses, and private pools, and the costs of team uniforms, league fees, and equipment required to participate in organized sports.

The need for recreation and entertainment facilities was one of the top priorities expressed during the focus group with youth. One youth said:

*When you don't have nothing, no place to hang out, people, [youth] are going to decide to do something. They're going to either walk the street, have friends that are bad influences, or just stay at home, and most people will never choose to stay home on the weekends. That's just crazy.*

Youth want more places to go for social interaction besides parties where drinking and drugs are involved. They were disappointed with the many rules that are strictly enforced at school and community-organized dances, which preclude many youth from attending or enjoying these activities. They want more opportunities to talk to adult leaders in the community about organizing activities and space for youth entertainment, such as a teen center, with less-strict rules, but adequate security to prevent violence or gang activities from taking place in or around these areas. Youth also felt that more activities that bring different townships and races together would have a positive effect on the county's youth dynamics.

### ***Service Provider Perspective***

*“They started the Boys & Girls Club just a month ago, but before that there was no activity. No place for teens to meet. They sit out in parking lots in their cars.”*

Service providers held many of the same views as community members regarding the need for more choices of recreational activities and facilities for youth. A teen center was suggested as a possible way to get teenagers in Franklin County to be more active and occupied. Other suggestions included additional Boys & Girls Club locations and promoting activities for teenagers at the Boys & Girls Club. Bowling alleys and swimming pools were other ideas. There was a feeling among some service providers, however, that spending public funds on recreation facilities might appear frivolous to residents of the county.

Service providers noted that an increase in recreational activities might help increase exercise and improve the health of youth in Franklin County. Entertainment was tied to health in other ways, such as the need for teens to have something constructive to do rather than experimenting with drugs or sex.

### ***Team Member Perspective***

On several occasions, the team observed teens unoccupied in the after-school hours. During one visit, teens were gathered at the public library, socializing, working on homework, and using the computers. This suggested that some teens would enjoy and make constructive use of a designated gathering place for these types of activities. The need to leave the county for some recreational activities was also apparent, as was the possible transportation barrier to doing so.

### ***Comparison of Perspectives***

Service providers and community members agree that there is a need for more recreation and entertainment facilities for youth in Franklin County. Such facilities would increase options for positive social interaction among youth. They also agree that safety and security should be considered but not prohibitive.

### **Economic Development**

**There is a need to support new and current businesses in Franklin County to enhance local economy and create new job opportunities.**

### ***Community Member Perspective***

*“We need jobs here in Franklin County. Most working people leave the county every morning and primarily go to Wake County, Rocky Mount, Durham County, Nash, Vance, or Henderson to work. See, way back we were primarily agricultural; tobacco would pay the bills. They cut down the mills. That was a major place for people to work...Not having the jobs but having the growth is a real problem.”*

A number of Franklin County residents expressed concern about economic development and discussed the creation of jobs as a high priority. A majority of community members stated the lack of well-paying jobs in the county is forcing residents to travel to Raleigh, Durham, and Rocky Mount for employment. Residents also expressed a desire for more options for goods and services within the county.

On the other hand, some residents expressed concern that growth in the area would change the rural identity of the county. As mentioned, even without new jobs and industry in the area, residential growth has affected the character of the county. Achieving a balance of character and growth was of priority to many community members.

### ***Service Provider Perspective***

*“There is a big need for increasing industry that’s going to come in and not only hire people that are here but also to pay taxes, industry-level taxes... that’s how you build new schools and that’s how you build new recreational facilities.”*

Service providers were aware of Franklin County’s status as one of the fastest-growing counties in the state, and cited the need for new industry to match the influx of new residents. They observed that population growth puts a strain on county resources and creates the need for new infrastructure, such as schools, health facilities, public works, and police and fire departments. Industry-level taxes are needed to supplement taxes collected from residents, to help support the new infrastructure. It was noted, however, that without first developing the infrastructure, luring new businesses would be difficult:

*The industry is going to go somewhere else. Who wants to move employees to a town without a hospital? Who wants to move employees to a town where schools aren’t built? So it all ties together.*

In addition to needing industry to pay taxes, service providers talked about the need for competitive jobs to keep residents employed within the community. Some noted that when residents work outside the county, they do their shopping there as well, further draining the county of potential tax revenue.

Many service providers also spoke of current activities that support economic growth in Franklin County, such as the Committee of 100, a fundraising initiative, and the Kerr-Tarr Regional Hub Project, an innovative tax-sharing initiative.

### ***Team Member Perspective***

In contrast to more rural townships, such as Centerville and Bunn, the team observed an abundance of new housing and commercial developments around Youngsville, where most of the County's population growth is occurring. While the Youngsville Industrial Park appeared to have a number of thriving industries, the team observed several abandoned older commercial buildings and factories in other parts of the county, especially around Franklinton and Louisburg. These observations suggested to the team that the county's economy is transitioning, with agriculture being displaced by technology and biotech industries, and Youngsville taking over from Louisburg as the economic center of the county. Additionally, while traveling to and from Franklin County, the team witnessed the heavy morning and evening traffic along Interstate 540 and U.S. Highways 1 and 401 between Louisburg and Raleigh – evidence of the large number of residents that leave the county each day for work.

### ***Comparison of Perspectives***

Though some community members expressed concern over economic growth changing the character of the county, there was agreement among community members and service providers that creating new jobs and expanding industry in Franklin County is a high priority. Additionally, service providers stressed the need for proactive planning for the development of infrastructure and generating revenue from taxes. Both community members and service providers agree this is a topic that needs to be addressed as it affects everyone in the county.



## **Physical Activity**

### **A lack of physical activity options is contributing to increasing rates of obesity in Franklin County.**

#### ***Community Member Perspective***

*“Like Americans, we’re obese and not exercising enough. [We’re] working hard, but that’s not the same thing as exercising. That’s a problem.”*

A lack of options for physical activity and recreation was one of the challenges most commonly identified by residents of Franklin County. Community members acknowledged some of the existing options, such as private gyms, golf courses, and pools, but added that few of these options were convenient or affordable. Bike trails, walking trails, recreational sports, and school-sponsored sporting activities were cited as existing options, in which more people in the county could participate. While some community members felt that there were plenty of organized sports for youth, others wished to see greater variety. Multiple community members noted that there was no public swimming pool in the county. Other comments reflected the lack of other facilities such as skating rinks and bowling alleys, and needing to travel outside of the county for these types of activities.

In addition to the lack of options and facilities for physical activity, community members also discussed barriers related to culture and convenience. Physical inactivity among youth was attributed to an increase in indoor activities, including video games, television, and computers. For adults, time was seen as a major constraint to participating in physical activity, especially for individuals working outside of the county.

While community members were less likely than service providers to discuss it, those who were aware of the county’s high rates of obesity viewed the lack of physical activity options (in addition to diet and nutrition) as a contributing factor.

### ***Service Provider Perspective***

*“Healthcare isn’t necessarily going to the doctor’s clinic...it’s diet and exercise and those things that are causing the real problems.”*

Most service providers interviewed recognized obesity as a problem for both adults and youth in Franklin County, and were aware of the county’s recent ranking (along with Vance and Warren counties) as the most obese in the State. Many service providers also acknowledged a lack of physical activity options for residents, and some pointed to this as a cause of obesity in the county.

Service providers cited many factors that keep Franklin County residents from engaging in regular physical activity. Issues such as convenience, finances, time constraints, cultural factors, lack of interest, and lack of awareness were mentioned on several occasions. Some service providers also mentioned that physical activity was not emphasized enough in schools or the home environment. One service provider revealed that children were not required to pass physical education classes in order to graduate. Other service providers mentioned that due to the rural nature of the county and the lower average income as compared to neighboring counties, there is a shortage of venues to recreate and exercise.

### ***Team Member Perspective***

While the team noticed baseball fields, basketball courts, and a skate park, we noted that there were few private fitness centers in the county. The team also observed the paved bike path on the outskirts of Louisburg. Although our time in the community was limited, the team never saw anyone using it. On several occasions, however, the team did observe people walking for exercise in the downtown area of Louisburg, suggesting that some residents were actively seeking opportunities for physical activity.

The team also noted that several organizations within the county are actively trying to promote physical activity. For example, when the Louisburg Senior Center hosted a diabetes expo, exercise instruction was part of the program for the event. The team also attended a Girl Scouts event, at which the 4-H staff were conducting a class on the importance of physical activity and nutrition. At a meeting of the School Health Advisory Council, the group discussed ongoing activities in the school system intended to increase physical activity among youth.

### *Comparison of Perspectives*

There was agreement among community members and service providers that the options for physical activity in Franklin County are limited, and that more services and facilities are needed. Service providers, in particular, noted a number of other barriers to physical activity in the county, including cultural factors and a lack of awareness. While service providers seemed to be more concerned with obesity than most of the community members interviewed, there was general agreement that a lack of physical activity among residents is contributing to the obesity rates in the county.

### **Mental Health**

**There is an impression that the needs of people with mental health concerns are not being met, either because of a lack of services, lack of awareness of services available, or stigma attached to seeking help for mental health.**

### *Community Member Perspective*

*“[I’m] not sure of the reason for mental health underutilization... I don’t sense a system of care - community care - and this is a population that needs it.”*

Several community members felt that mental health was the biggest priority among health issues in the county. Among those who mentioned mental health as a concern, there was an impression that many residents who need of mental health services are not currently receiving them. Some community members felt that while physical health was being addressed, mental

health cases were “falling through the cracks,” especially for people who did not qualify for disability or Medicaid. Community members also noted the lack of outpatient facilities and the embarrassment of seeking services – especially in a small town where anonymity is difficult – as potential causes. There was an impression that the services at the schools could be improved for youth. Lastly, a need for greater public awareness about mental health issues was identified.

Some community members noted that the problem was more visible in more urban areas, such as Raleigh, which experience a greater level of homelessness. One community member was concerned that in Franklin County, persons with more severe mental illness were being housed in prison and still not receiving the services they needed.

### ***Service Provider Perspective***

Service providers noted the recent decentralization of mental health services in the county. While there used to be a central Franklin County facility, all cases are now routed through the Five County Mental Health Authority 24-hour hotline. Some service providers thought that the underutilization of mental health services was indicative of a national problem, and that it was even more difficult to get specialized services to rural counties, such as Franklin. They noted a lack of mental health service providers in the area and even fewer who spoke Spanish. Transportation to appointments was identified as a barrier. Several service providers mentioned a need for better mental health services for youth, in particular, and for better prevention services.

Aiding the situation, many providers felt there was a commitment among service providers in the community to helping people get the mental health services they need, and Rep. Lucy Allen was commended for her advocacy on this issue. A NAMI (National Alliance on

Mental Illness) group had recently formed in Franklin County, and some support groups for substance abuse are ongoing.

### ***Team Member Perspective***

Early in the process, the team observed an annex next to the Health Department and Social Service office, labeled, “Mental Health.” This led the team to believe that services were being provided by a county office. The team later learned, however, that this facility was not for walk-ins, and was not run by the county. In a review of a North Carolina provider directory, the team found few mental health providers in the county, and no private practice psychiatrists. The team did not, however, observe visible impacts of mental illness, such as homelessness.

### ***Comparison of Perspectives***

There was agreement among community members and service providers that too many people are not receiving the mental health care that they should be. The perspectives are quite similar in noting the lack of providers for mental health, especially outpatient services, and that stigma or embarrassment may also be contributing factors. Lastly, there was consensus that youth needed better services to identify and receive care for mental health concerns.

### **Transportation**

**There is a need for inexpensive transportation options to increase access to services and resources for some residents of Franklin County.**

### ***Community Member Perspective***

Although service providers were nearly unanimous in citing transportation as a major need in Franklin County, the issue was not often raised among community members interviewed. More often, community members spoke about transportation in the context of having to travel outside of the county for entertainment, shopping, and certain services, such as appointments with medical specialists. For these community members, with access to personal vehicles, traffic

on highways entering and leaving the county (such as on U.S. 401 and N.C. 96) seemed to be of greater concern than lack of transportation options.

One community member, who did acknowledge transportation as a barrier in the county, noted that for some residents without access to personal vehicles, social networks (such as churches) can help meet transportation needs:

*A lot of people don't have transportation to go to the doctor...if you're a part of a church, most of the time there's somebody in that church who will help you get to the doctor...but there's a lot of people who are home-bound, so we forget about them.*

### ***Service Provider Perspective***

*“One thing that could make a huge impact, and you really don't hear people talking about, is public transportation—we don't have public transportation. If you live in outlying parts of the county, how much of your income does it take...to get your basic needs filled?”*

Most service providers interviewed named transportation as the primary barrier to accessing their services, such as after-school activities and health care. Examples of this included children from townships other than Louisburg not being able to take advantage of the new Boys & Girls Club, and older residents of the county not being able to get to doctor's appointments once they could no longer drive.

It was noted that several county offices, such as the Health Department and the Franklinton and Louisburg Senior Centers, contract with the fee-based KARTS vanpool to provide vouchers for clients to get to appointments. However, their ability to provide vouchers is limited by their funding. It was also stated that the need to request service a day in advance, along with other scheduling constraints, makes KARTS less useful in some situations. Furthermore, since most agencies and businesses in the county do not provide vouchers, the out-of-pocket expense was also seen as a barrier to Franklin County residents using the KARTS service.

One service provider observed that the lack of transportation is not only a barrier to accessing services, it prevents some residents from obtaining jobs in other parts of the county or outside of the county. Thus, the lack of transportation compounds concerns related to the lack of employment opportunities within the county.

### ***Team Member Perspective***

It was immediately evident to the team that personal vehicles and school buses were the primary forms of transportation in the county. Although KARTS was mentioned by several service providers as an option for getting around, the team spotted their vehicles only a few times during our work in the county. The team observed that in nearly all parts of the county, accessing services such as grocery stores and pharmacies would be impossible without a car. The team also reviewed the 2006 AOCD of people with disabilities and their families in Franklin County, in which transportation emerged as a prominent theme<sup>23</sup>. Finally, in searching for secondary data on the topic, it was evident that there was no centralized resource, such as a transportation committee, working to increase access to transportation in the county.

### ***Comparison of Perspectives***

The lack of transportation options in Franklin County was more seen as a greater problem by service providers than by community members. This may have been because the community members interviewed had not personally experienced lack of transportation as a barrier, whereas service providers reported hearing of clients missing appointments because they had no way to get there. Thus, the discrepancy may reflect the fact that the community member interviewees were not representative of some of the harder-to-reach sub-populations within the county, such as individuals with low incomes (see Limitations of Primary Data Collection, below), for whom transportation may be a much greater need.

## **Summary of Small Group Discussions and Action Steps**

The five themes described above were presented for discussion at a Community Forum held on April 24, 2007. Forum attendees were invited to attend a small group session on any of the five themes. Since only one attendee initially chose to discuss the transportation theme, that session was disbanded, and only four small group discussions took place. Each group was facilitated using a technique called Force Field Analysis. Using this technique, each group facilitator (a member of the student team) sought agreement on a goal related to the theme, then asked participants to brainstorm factors that both hinder and help attainment of the goal. Participants then prioritized the responses by their perceived importance and changeability, and action steps were identified.

### **Youth Recreation and Entertainment**

During the forum, six community members, all of whom also provide services in the county, chose to talk about recreation and entertainment facilities for youth in Franklin County. In addition to the need for new recreation and entertainment options, the discussion centered on making current options more available by reducing or subsidizing participation costs, and by changing age, height, and weight restrictions to participate in recreational sports. Participants also expressed a need to increase communication throughout the county about youth recreation and entertainment needs, to garner support for new and improved facilities and to increase participation in currently available options. Finally, the group emphasized the need to provide more transportation to and from recreation facilities to defray the travel time and gasoline costs for parents. The group decided on the following action steps:

1. Talk to the board of the Boys & Girls Club about hosting fundraising events for youth participation in recreation.



2. Talk to Rep. Lucy Allen and Sen. Doug Berger, as well as county commissioners and other leaders, about the need to allocate tax dollars for more recreation facilities and options for youth.
3. Talk to Superintendent Bert L'Homme about a sports uniform recycling program.
4. Contact church leaders about scholarships for youth participation in recreation activities.
5. Communicate with 4-H, Parks and Recreation, and The Franklin Times about the need to increase recreation facilities and activity options in Franklin County. Ask for support from these organizations in creating new options and increasing county-wide communication about recreation and entertainment options for youth.

### **Economic Development**

The small group discussion of economic development was attended by eight participants, including service providers from Franklin County Schools, the Franklin County Health Department, a member of the Economic Development Commission, and a county commissioner. The group discussion revolved around the goal of increasing job opportunities in Franklin County. After listing and prioritizing factors that both help and hinder this goal, the group decided to focus on two factors in particular: the movement in Franklin County Schools toward education linked to current available jobs, and the expansion of current business and the recruitment of new businesses. The following action steps were generated:

1. Establish a study committee to look at educational opportunities that match current local job opportunities.
2. Support applying for the 21st Century grant for Franklin County Schools.
3. Encourage continued support for economic development by increasing awareness of activities and initiatives among community members and county commissioners.
4. Build collaboration between agencies (such as the Health Department, Planning, etc.) to work on a one-stop permitting process.

## **Physical Activity**

The group discussion on physical activity was attended by seven participants, including service providers from Franklin County Schools, the Franklin County Health Department, and two local pastors. To identify ways to increase physical activity options for Franklin County residents, the group began by listing current options that Franklin County citizens had to participate in physical activity, reasons for the success of these options, and factors that are keeping residents from participating in physical activity. After ranking these factors according to which they believed was most important and most changeable, the group decided to focus on the following: increasing awareness about the benefits of physical activity in Franklin County, increasing awareness about the options for physical activity in Franklin County, and increasing media messages that promote physical activity for Franklin County residents. Participants in the group agreed upon the following action steps:

1. Talk to The Franklin Times about publishing a regular health column written by representatives of community organizations.
2. Encourage physical activity competitions among various places of employment, community groups, schools, and other organizations in the county.

The group decided that both action steps would be initiated by the local Healthy Carolinians coalition, Frankly Healthy.

## **Mental Health**

Six participants attended the small group discussion on mental health, all of whom were service providers, and three of whom were also residents of Franklin County. The group identified a wide variety of factors contributing to mental health needs in the county, including a lack of service providers in the community, long wait times for appointments, a lack of Spanish speaker providers, difficulty of getting appointments, the fact that many residents cannot afford

services or medication, a lack of parental awareness of youth issues such as substance abuse, and decentralization of services. Factors seen as helping the current mental health situation in the county included a 24-hour bilingual help line, concern among service providers, having the support of Rep. Lucy Allen, local support groups such as NAMI and Alcoholics Anonymous, youth prevention activities, and potential for funding from the Five County Community Collaborative. The group agreed it was a priority to increase the number of service providers in the county, and decided upon the following action step:

1. Form an advocacy group to increase recruitment and education of mental health providers. To help achieve this, three participants in the small group discussion agreed to meet again following to forum to brainstorm names of individuals to serve on the advocacy group, and a mental health service provider agreed to be a point person for this effort.

### **Transportation**

As previously mentioned, the small group discussion on transportation was not held, due to lack of participants. Transportation was, however, raised in several of the other breakout sessions, and surfaced within some action steps, since it affects Franklin County residents' ability to make use of various existing services and resources.

### **SECTION III: METHODS**

The student team used a variety of methods to meet the goals of our AOCD, which included learning about the strengths, challenges, and needs of the community, assisting the community in identifying priorities, and bringing the community together to openly discuss and work towards action steps that address the identified issues. Here we describe how we defined and gained entrée into the community and procedures used to collect and analyze primary and secondary data. We also discuss the limitations of these approaches.

## **Defining the Community**

The student team chose to maintain a broad focus on all residents of Franklin County rather than focus on a single subgroup for several reasons. First, although each township has its own character, activities, and priorities, the challenges identified by interviewees pertained to the county as a whole. While we did not know this upon entering the county, it became apparent very early in the process. We were also working with the Franklin County Health Department which aims to serve all residents of the county. Lastly, we found that some residents do consider the county to be their community. The community was therefore defined as people who live in Franklin County. As very few people commute into Franklin County for employment, we chose not to add people who work in Franklin County to our definition of community members.

The team did not encounter resistance to our interpretation of all residents of Franklin County as a community. In light of this definition, however, the team realized the importance of ensuring inclusiveness of a variety of demographics and locales within the assessment.

## **Entering the Community**

The process of getting to know Franklin County began with a windshield tour (or driving tour) in October 2006. The purpose of the windshield tour was for the student team to begin to become acquainted with the county by observing aspects such as the landscape, density, layout, housing, businesses, geography, agriculture, and diversity. The team was guided on the tour by one of our preceptors, and visited four of the five major townships in the county. As was the case throughout the AOCD, the team took field notes, or notes of our experiences and perceptions. These were compiled and included in the analysis of the team's perspective of the themes (see Section II).

Following the windshield tour the team spent time in Franklin County in a variety of capacities. We volunteered with the Cooperative Extension, the Girl Scouts, and the Department of Child Nutrition of Franklin County Schools. We attended Frankly Healthy and School Health Advisory Council meetings, and we attended and helped with Diabetes and Heart Expos at the Louisburg Senior Center. We chatted with employees of local businesses about the county and our work, and spent time in local restaurants and shops. We also participated in other festivals, meetings, and events with ‘movers and shakers’ in the community. With these activities, our goals were to earn the trust and respect of community members, to meet people who we could interview or who could refer us to interviewees, and to gain a developed outsider’s perspective of Franklin County. Our interaction with the community was informed by our concurrent classroom studies.

### **Secondary Data Collection**

Our understanding of Franklin County was supplemented by reading available sources of information on the county. The secondary data analysis provided in Section I began with the collection of data sources in Fall 2006. Most of the secondary data sources we reviewed are publicly available on the internet or from service providers (see Appendix C for a list of key resources used). We were aided by a wealth of information available from the Health Department and a student team who had conducted an AOCD of people with disabilities and their families in Franklin County the prior year. We reviewed documents from trusted sources, such as federal agencies, and community based sources, such as The Franklin Times. Many sources were obtained from agencies we visited as part of our AOCD.

## **Limitations of Secondary Data Collection**

Secondary data has many limitations. It is subject to the biases of data collection, including under- or non-representation of some populations and inaccurate counts due to transience. We found there to be limited data available at the township level beyond the last decennial census (2000). Further, data from the 2005 U.S. Census are based on projections. Therefore some of the data may not be current. Secondary data provides only a shallow view of the community that cannot be used for making conclusions about the strengths, challenges, future directions, or needs of community members. This gave a weighted importance to the next step, primary data collection.

## **Primary Data Collection**

The methods we used for primary data collection included interviewing 23 service providers and 22 community members, including six youth who participated in a focus group. Nineteen service providers interviewed were also residents of the County. Field notes made by team members of our observations, interactions, and experiences while in the county are also considered primary data.

Before we began primary data collection, we developed interview guides and consent forms. These forms were developed from the resources of past student teams who sought Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for their AOCD documents. Although our team was not required to obtain IRB approval, we aimed to meet the high standards of the IRB, whose goal is to protect human subjects of research. Thus IRB requirements and past AOCDs heavily influenced our materials development. Further, because this was a class project, our materials and protocols were reviewed by our instructors for ethical responsibility.

Drawing upon our observations of Franklin County, we worked with our preceptors and the course instructors to develop interview guides that would allow us to obtain the most valuable information for the AOCD. We also wanted to give interviewees a comfortable platform for expressing their perceptions of life in Franklin County. The interview guides can be referenced in Appendix A. We developed consent forms that provided interviewees with an understanding of our process and explained the confidentiality of their statements. As can be seen in Appendix A, participants were protected through a separation of their names and other identifying information from their statements.

We pilot tested our interview guides with our preceptors at the Health Department to ensure their appropriateness and effectiveness. We piloted the service provider guide with Cynthia Gary, who has been a health educator at the Franklin County Health Department for three years. We piloted the community member guide with Becky Leonard, who has lived in Franklin County for most of her life in addition to knowing the community through her role as Allied Health Supervisor at the Health Department.

## **Interviews**

We sought out ‘key informants’ in the community to interview, which we defined as people who were knowledgeable and in a good position to comment on life in Franklin County. We identified participants using several methods. Our preceptors directed us to many of our initial service provider interviewees. We also used our review of the secondary data and contacts we made via activities in the community. Lastly, at the end of each interview we asked for recommendations of people who they believed would be good candidates for interviews. While we approached service providers directly to invite their participation, we sought consent to contact community members before we approached them to schedule an interview. In some cases

we sought out unique perspectives that had not yet been collected through primary or secondary data in order to achieve representativeness.

Interviews began with the process of obtaining consent. Participants were given the consent form and had the opportunity to read it and ask questions. Confidentiality and the voluntary nature of participation were explained to interviewees orally before the interview. Interviews would not take place without a signed consent form.

Two group members were present at each interview. One would conduct the interview, while the other, with permission of the interviewee, would take notes on a laptop computer or notepad. Consent was also sought to make audio recordings of the interviews.

Interviews typically lasted about an hour. As can be referenced in Appendix A, interviews included questions about the strengths and future directions of Franklin County. They were also asked what they thought were the most important issues for the county to address. Questions were open-ended and the interviewers used probes to fully examine the topics brought up in the interviews. Some questions were omitted later in the AOCD process because the team had achieved data saturation, or began hearing only repeat information on that topic. Some probes were also added if the team needed more information on an emerging theme.

### **Focus Groups**

The team worked with a service provider to bring together a group of six high school students for a focus group. In addition to gaining written and oral assent, as was done in all interviews, the parents of the youth also signed consent forms to allow their children to participate. These forms, as well as the interview guide, can be seen in Appendix A. The focus group allowed the team to gain the youth's perspective on the strengths, challenges, and needs of



Franklin County. This view was considered especially important, since several of the themes that emerged during the project related to youth.

### **Data Transcription, Coding, and Analysis**

All interviews and the focus group were coded for analysis by the student team. The coding process began with the creation of a codebook of domains, codes, and sub-codes (see Appendix B). Team members used inductive reasoning to create the codebook, which involved first listening to and transcribing several interviews, which were digitally recorded, to determine the emerging domains and codes. Each code was assigned a definition to increase inter-rater reliability among the two team members on the coding sub-team (see Appendix B). The coding sub-team completed transcriptions of each interview, recording summarized information and listing direct quotes when they were especially illuminating. The coders assigned codes and sub-codes to interview transcripts, which were then entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet based on the codebook. Identifying information was removed before entering data into the spreadsheet. Interviewee identification numbers, used for confidentiality purposes, and demographic indicators were also entered into the spreadsheet. The team calculated the percent of the time that interviewees discussed themes in each domain by weighing each interviewee's responses based on the number of times that they discussed a topic (and respective codes) in each domain. This weighting ensured that individuals would be represented equally in the results, given that some individuals spoke about a particular topic multiple times. An analysis of the themes that emerged in this weighted analysis allowed the team to produce a list of 14 themes (see Appendix B).

Field notes on the team's observations and experiences in Franklin County were not subjected to the same strenuous coding procedure, but were thoroughly consulted in the development of the team's perspective presented in Section II.

## **Limitations of Primary Data Collection**

There are limitations of the primary data collected and used in this AOCD. The team only spent seven months in the community, a very short amount of time to truly gain entrée and meet a diverse cross-section of the community. We were also limited by the demands we could reasonably make of community members, as we wanted to be respectful of their time and to maintain their respect and trust. Our limited time in the community did not allow the team to fully develop an understanding of the power dynamics within the community. The history of who has held the decision-making power in the community could play a crucial role in the achievement of the action steps, and their acceptance with residents.

This leads to what was perhaps the greatest limitation of the primary data: our inability to reach disenfranchised populations. While age, geography, and gender of interviewees represented the county's demographics fairly well (see Appendix B), we were not able to gain entrée into the Latino community and only interviewed one person of Latino ethnicity. Further, although we did not collect information on income, we also have the impression that we did not adequately gain the perspective of low-income residents. We believe these gaps in our data are due to a shortage of liaison relationships to these communities and due to the inherent bias towards one's own social networks when we asked key informants in the community for names of people to interview. We believe that because of this process the majority of our interviewees were people with relationships with the service providers and power holders of Franklin County.

Franklin County, like the whole of North Carolina, is experiencing a rapidly quickly growing Latino population. This population presents a whole new set of challenges to service provision in Franklin County. Our team's recommendation would be a focused study Latino

residents. The time and procedural limitations of our AOCD did not allow us to assess their strengths, challenges, or needs in a way that our data could be extrapolated to include Latinos.

Lastly, with our limited time we cannot aim to fully address topics such as disenfranchisement and race relations, though the team would like to emphasize their importance. The team would also like to acknowledge the limitations of our interpretations of the data. Though we have made an effort to have open minds and to not influence the data outside of the analysis of the team's perspective, we recognize that we are limited in our ability to do so and that primary data was filtered through our own assumptions and perceptions.

### **Forum Planning**

The planning for the community forum began in mid-March. Due to our limited knowledge of the geography, politics, and social dynamics within the local community, it was essential to involve the community in planning this event. At the end of each service provider and community member interview, interviewees were invited to join the Forum Planning Committee (FPC). The forum planning was a participatory process with decision-making and tasks shared by the committee and the student team. The FPC consisted of nine members including community members, service providers, and members of the student team. The committee was diverse in age, gender, race, and work experience. Although a majority of the committee was comprised of service providers, many were also long-standing community members of Franklin County.

The FPC met four times in March and April prior to the forum, at a cafe in downtown Louisburg. At the first meeting the student team presented an overview of the AOCD project and explained the purpose of the community forum. The committee chose a name for the event—“One Community, One Voice”—and discussed logistics of selecting a location and a date for the

event. During the second meeting the student team explained the facilitation techniques that would be used during the small group sessions at the forum. The committee also discussed forum logistics including planning the program agenda, resources, advertising, and childcare. At the third meeting, the student team presented fourteen themes that emerged from the interviews and focus groups (see Appendix B). The FPC was asked to rate the themes on importance and changeability. Importance was defined as what community members and service providers would find most important to the quality of life in Franklin County. Changeability was based on which themes people in Franklin County could most feasibly take charge of and create action steps for. Only two members of the FPC attended this meeting. Because of the importance of selection the themes, the group agreed it was necessary to contact the rest of the committee members via email to obtain their input. The student team incorporated the input from the FPC and the interview data to prioritize the final five themes, which were presented in detail in Section II. A final meeting was held to explain the program, finalize the logistics, and debrief speakers.

The FPC was actively involved throughout the planning process and was instrumental in coordinating several tasks of the community forum. Planning committee members aided the student team in securing Terrell Lane Middle School as the site for the event, provided food as well as kitchen staff for the dinner, and provided childcare services. They also aided in garnering publicity for the forum, including speaking with the local radio station and publishing in the local newspaper. Finally, two members also agreed to speak at our forum, one as an introductory speaker, and one to provide closing remarks.

## **Community Forum**

The community forum was held from 5:30-8 pm on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at Terrell Lane Middle School in Louisburg. The purpose of this forum was to bring together community members and service providers to celebrate the strengths of Franklin County and to work together to find ways to improve the lives of Franklin County residents. Approximately 30 people attended the forum.

The event began with welcome addresses by the preceptor for the student team, Ms. Cynthia Gary, and the director of the Health Department, Mr. Phillip Tarte. This was followed by an introduction to the student team. The team then recognized and thanked the forum planning committee, followed by a keynote address from the Reverend Everett Jenkins explaining the importance of the community coming together for action. Rev. Jenkins explained the meaning of the name of the event, "One Community, One Voice": that the collective voice can accomplish greater things than disparate voices. A member of the student team gave a brief overview of the project and presented the main findings of the project, including strengths, challenges, and the five prioritized themes. The community then broke into small groups which, as described previously, developed action steps. Dinner was served after the small group discussion and the action steps from each group were presented. The program concluded with a raffle drawing and closing remarks, made by Franklin County's "Citizen of the Year," Paige Sayles (see Forum Program in Appendix D).

## **Limitations of the Forum**

The actions steps created at the forum and the momentum to accomplish them are limited by the number of forum attendees and the scope of their reach. April is a busy month in Franklin County, and this event was competing with many others for people's time; two other health-

related forums had taken place in the same week, and an ad-hoc meeting of the county commissioners was held on the night of the forum. The team also feels that the forum did not accomplish further solicitation of the perspectives of marginalized populations, as most attendees were both community members and service providers.

#### **SECTION IV: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The goal of this AOCD was to learn about the strengths, challenges, and needs of the community, to assist the community in identifying priorities, and to bring the community together to openly discuss and work towards action steps that address the identified issues. This document has described our process in detail, and presented the findings of our AOCD. While the process had its limitations, such as lack of time, the limited perspective of the 45 interviewees and focus group participants, and the under-representation of low-income and Latino residents, we hope this document displays our attainment of this goal.

Franklin County is in a time of transition, with changes taking place in the economy and population; both active civic participation and responsive governance can help make this transition a positive one. We hope that this document can be used as a resource to gain further support and understanding around the issues that the residents and service providers of Franklin County identified as priorities.

The AOCD process involved seven months of interviewing and research, ending in a community forum on April 24, 2007. At this forum, the strength of the people of Franklin County as a resource was very apparent. Their investment in the quality of life of the county came through in many ways, including their insightful ideas for next steps and initiative to volunteer to see the steps through. The team's primary recommendation is to achieve and build upon the action steps generated at the community forum. The team would also like to make the

following suggestions as additional steps that may help build upon the county's strengths while addressing some of its needs:

- Expand inter-agency communication. Many service providers were not aware of other programs and resources in the county. One positive step in this direction is an inter-agency lunch that takes place the last Wednesday of each month.
- Provide additional activity options for youth other than sports. Involve youth in the planning of facilities or programs that affect youth.
- Continue to support economic growth and increased job opportunities while respecting the pace and tranquility that residents appreciate.
- Begin to recognize and address nutrition as a contributor to obesity.
- Improve communication between decision-makers and the community, to better inform leaders of the county's needs and the public of the activities and decisions made by their government.
- Conduct greater in-depth analysis of the needs and implications of the growing Latino population. Work towards greater service provision in Spanish.

The team encourages the public to contact Cynthia Gary, Lead Health Educator at the Franklin County Health Department, to obtain further information on the action steps developed at the community forum, or other content of this document. Ms. Gary can be reached by email at [cynthia.gary@ncmail.net](mailto:cynthia.gary@ncmail.net) or by telephone at (919) 496-2533 ext. 2372.

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## Franklin County Community Member Interview Guide

### Opening

- a) Thank you for taking the time to meet with me/us. We recognize that your time is valuable and we appreciate your participation.
- b) We are graduate students from UNC, working with the Franklin County Health Department to conduct a community assessment, to identify strengths, weaknesses, and future directions. The information we gather will be summarized and shared with the community and the local health department. In addition, we will present our results to the community at a forum that will be held in the spring.
- c) The purpose of speaking with you today is to find out about your thoughts and experiences of Franklin County. We are interested in your opinions. There are no right or wrong answers.
- d) This interview should last about 45 minutes to an hour. We would like to give you the opportunity to tell us as much as you would like, but (mention if you have limited time/ask if they do)

### Confidentiality

- a) Your comments will remain confidential. We will be reporting summaries of the comments made by community members but will not identify who said what, nor will we identify the names of the individuals we interview.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ [name of team member] will take notes and tape record this interview so that we can accurately record what you tell us. Please know that you can decide not to respond to any question we ask, or hit the “Stop” button on the tape recorder, or end the interview at any time.
- c) Here is a copy of a consent form to participate in this interview. If you agree to the terms on this form, please sign it at the bottom.
- d) What questions do you have about anything I’ve said so far?

### General Information about the community

1. How would you describe Franklin County?
  - a) How long have you lived in Franklin County?
  - b) What’s it like to live in Franklin County?
  - c) What do people in Franklin County do for recreation?  
**Probe:** for fun, on the weekends
2. What are some of the best things about Franklin County?  
**Probe:** What are people in the community proud of?
3. What would you say are the greatest needs?  
**Probes:** children, poverty, health, safety, housing
  - a) Which needs do you feel are the most important for Franklin County to address?

4. What projects or programs are going on in Franklin County?
5. What services/programs do the residents of Franklin County use?  
**Probe:** health, transportation
  - a) What services/programs do residents need?
6. Who would you say are community members that seem to be leaders in Franklin County?
  - a) Informal leaders (if responded with politicians/gov't officials)
  - b) If you were going to try to solve a community problem, whom would you try to involve to ensure success?
7. How has Franklin County changed since you've been here?
8. What are some things that bring people together in Franklin County?
9. What are some things that cause tension?
10. How do people in Franklin County find out about things such as events? E.g. newspaper, radio, flyers  
**Probe:** What would be the best way to inform the community about our community forum?

### **General**

11. Of all the issues we've talked about today, which do you think are the most important for Franklin County to address?
12. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about Franklin County?

### **Referrals**

We would like to interview a wide variety of individuals in Franklin County who can provide insight on questions like the ones we've asked you today. We'd appreciate it if you had any recommendations of people to speak with. If you recommend someone we'll let you gauge their interest in being an interviewee, and we'd follow up with you to get their contact information if they were. Of course, no one is under an obligation to participate in the study. Can you think of the names of some people who would be good to speak with about the needs and assets of Franklin County?

[if community member provides other community member name(s)]

Ok, thank you. Here is a document with some brief information on our purpose [give Community Member adapted consent form]. Would you please relay this information to

\_\_\_\_\_ [name(s) of Community Member(s)] and if they want to participate, would you please let me know. I will be happy to follow up with you \_\_\_\_\_ [give a date, or say next week, or at the end of the week].

**Community Forum**

1. We'd like to have a planning committee for the forum that will take place in April when we will share our findings with the community. Would you like to be part of this planning committee?

[If Community Member answers "yes, thank them; if they answer "No" say "Ok, no problem"]

2. Also, would please write your contact information on this card so that our team can send you an invitation to the community forum? [Present contact information card, and have Community Member fill it out during the interview]

**Thank you again for your participation!**

## Franklin County Service Provider Interview Guide

### Opening

- e) Thank you for taking the time to meet with me/us. We recognize that your time is valuable and we appreciate your participation.
- f) We are graduate students from UNC School of Public Health, working with the Franklin County Health Department to conduct a community assessment, to identify strengths, weaknesses, and future directions. The information we gather will be summarized and shared with the community and the local health department. In addition, we will present our results to the community at a forum that will be held in the spring.
- g) The purpose of speaking with you today is to find out about your thoughts and experiences of having worked with the residents of Franklin County. We are interested in your opinions. There are no right or wrong answers.
- h) This interview should last no more than 75 minutes.

### Confidentiality

- e) Your comments will remain confidential. We will be reporting summaries of the comments made by community members but will not identify who said what, nor will we identify the names of the individuals we interview.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ [name of team member] will take notes and tape record this interview so that we can accurately record what you tell us. Please know that you can decide not to respond to any question we ask, or hit the “Stop” button on the tape recorder, or end the interview at any time.
- g) Here is a copy of a consent form to participate in this interview. If you agree to the terms on this form, please sign it at the bottom.
- h) What questions do you have about anything I’ve said so far?

### Overview of Services

1. Okay, I’d like to start with a few questions about \_\_\_\_\_ [agency].
2. Can you please tell us about the services your agency provides?  
What is your source of funding?
3. Can you tell us more about your role as \_\_\_\_\_ [title], or what you do here?  
How long have you been in this position?
4. Now, please tell us about the clients of \_\_\_\_\_ [agency]. Who does your agency serve?
  - a) Where do they live?
  - b) What demographics do you tend to see? (race/SES)
  - c) How do you meet the various cultural and language needs of the County?
  - d) How do community members find out about you?

5. What barriers does your organization face in providing services to people of Franklin County?
  - a) Are there certain populations for whom this is more of an issue? (or that are harder to reach)
  - b) Are you able to meet the demand for services?
  - c) Are any services under-utilized? Why do you think that is?
  - d) What barriers do people face in accessing your services?
6. Tell us about your agency's relationships with other organizations in Franklin County.
  - a) Which organizations do you collaborate with? In what capacity? How often?
  - b) Are there other organizations you haven't already mentioned that play an important role in providing services to the county?
7. How is the community involved in determining the services that you provide?

### **Community**

13. How would you describe Franklin County?
  - a) What's it like to live in Franklin County? How would you describe the culture of the County? What sub-communities exist?
14. What are some of the best things about Franklin County?
  - a) **Probe:** What are people in Franklin County proud of?
15. What would you say are the greatest needs?
  - a) Thanks, that's helpful information. Are there any specific health issues that come to mind when you think of needs?
16. What projects are going on in the community?
17. Who would you say are the key community leaders in Franklin County?
18. How has Franklin County changed since you've been here?
19. What are some things that bring people together in Franklin County?
20. What are some things that cause tension?
21. If you needed to communicate something to the people of Franklin County, how would you reach them (what's the best way to communicate)? (e.g., newspaper, radio, flyers)

### **General**

1. Of all of the issues we've talked about today, which do you think are the most important for the community to address?

2. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about Franklin County?

**Documents**

1. We would like to include as much data as possible in the report that we will be giving back to the community as a resource. Does your agency have any documents that we can either look at or have copies of? (e.g., annual reports, funding applications, etc.)

**Referrals**

1. We would like to interview a wide variety of individuals who have a vested interest in the community and who can provide incite on questions like the ones we've asked you today. Who else would you recommend that we talk to about the needs and assets of your community?

[if Service Provider provides Community Member name(s)]

2. Ok, thank you. Here is a document with some brief information on our purpose and activities [give Service Provider adapted consent form]. Would you please relay this information to \_\_\_\_\_ [name(s) of Community Member(s)] and if they are okay with us contacting them, please let me know. I will be happy to follow up with you \_\_\_\_\_ [give a date, or say next week, or at the end of the week].

**Community Forum**

3. We'd like to have a planning committee for the forum that will take place in April when we will share our findings with the community. Would you like to be part of this planning committee?

[If Service Provider answers "Yes," thank them; if they answer "No," say "Ok, not a problem"]

4. Also, would please write your contact information on this card so that our team can send you an invitation to the community forum? [Present contact information card, and have Service Provider fill it out during the interview]

**Thank you again for your participation!**



## Franklin County Youth Focus Group Interview Guide

### Opening

- i) Thank you for taking the time to meet with me/us. We recognize that your time is valuable and we appreciate your participation.
- j) We are students from UNC, working with the Franklin County Health Department to conduct a community assessment. This involves talking with a diverse group of people from Franklin County to get a better sense for what it is like to live here. This includes things that you would like to see changed and things that you really enjoy about Franklin County. The information we gather will be summarized and shared with the community and the local health department. In addition, we will present our results to the community at a forum that will be held in the spring.
- k) The purpose of speaking with you today is to find out about your thoughts and experiences of Franklin County. We are interested in your opinions. There are no right or wrong answers.
- l) This interview should last about 45 minutes to an hour. We would like to give you the opportunity to tell us as much as you would like, but (mention if you have limited time/ask if they do)

### Confidentiality

- i) Your comments will remain private. We will be reporting summaries of the comments made by youth but will not identify who said what, nor will we identify the names of the individuals we interview.
- j) \_\_\_\_\_ [name of team member] will take notes and tape record this interview so that we can accurately record what you tell us. Please know that you can decide not to respond to any question we ask or end the interview at any time.
- k) Here is a copy of the consent form to participate in this interview. If you agree to the terms on this form, please sign it at the bottom.
- l) Do you have any questions about anything I've said so far?

### Icebreaker

#### General Information about the community

22. How would you describe Franklin County?
  - a) How long have you lived in Franklin County?
  - b) What's it like to live in Franklin County?
23. What do people in Franklin County do in their free time?
  - a) What do you do for fun?
  - b) What do you do for physical activity?
    1. What types of sports do you play?
  - c) What types of extra-curricular activities do you participate in?

24. When you look around, what kinds of problems do you see in Franklin County?  
**Probes:** drugs, poverty, health, crime, safety, pregnancy, entertainment
25. What do you think can be done about some of the problems you just mentioned?
- a) (If obesity is mentioned) Franklin County has one of the top rankings in the state for the number of students who are overweight. (Franklin County's rate is 73.8 percent) How do you feel about that?
    1. Why do you think Franklin County has such a high ranking?
    2. What do you think can be done about it?
26. In your opinion, what are some things that could make the community better?
- a) Is there anything in particular that you would like to see happen that is not currently being done?
27. If you had a friend who had never visited Franklin County before and they asked you what some of the best things about Franklin County were, what would you tell them?
28. Can you name one thing about Franklin County that you are really proud of?  
Probe: are the people friendly, do people help each other out, are there a lot of things to do?

### **General**

29. Of all the issues we've talked about today, which do you think are the most important for Franklin County to deal with?
30. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about Franklin County?

### **Community Forum**

We are in the process of interviewing many people from Franklin County. We are planning on having a community forum (explain what this is) in April where we will share some of the topics that people have mentioned to us with the community. If you can make it, we would love to have you there.

Before you leave, please complete this demographic form. It is optional, but the information is helpful to us. We will use the responses to make sure we have included a diverse group of community members in our interview process.

**Thank you again for your participation!**



### **WHAT IS AOCD?**

AOCD means Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis. AOCD is an assessment of the real experiences of people who live in your community, and team members are striving to better understand the strengths, weaknesses, and priorities of people living in Franklin County. We will also call ourselves the Community Assessment Team. If you have participated in an AOCD in the past, keep in mind that the process is similar but our focus will be different.

### **WHY ARE YOU PARTICIPATING?**

You are invited to participate because we want your ideas on the strengths and needs of Franklin County. Someone in your community identified you as a good person to talk with on this subject.

### **WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED TO DO?**

You will be asked to participate in an individual interview with two graduate students from UNC. The interview is made up of a series of questions about life in Franklin County. An example of a general question is, “What is it like to live in your community?” There are no wrong answers or bad ideas, just different opinions. The interview will be one-time only and will take about 60 minutes of your time. If you agree to participate in the interview we will record your response on a piece of paper. Also, if you do not object, we would like to tape record the discussion to make sure we do not miss anything. Only members of our group will have access to the tapes. The tapes will be erased

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after our study is over. You can ask us to turn off the tape recorder at anytime.

There are no costs for participating in the study other than your time spent during the interview.

If you decide to participate in this interview, you will be asked to sign this form. Signing this brochure means that you have read this form and you understand the purpose of the AOCD project, what you will be asked to do as a participant in the project, and the confidentiality guidelines. It also means that you understand that you can stop taking part in the project at any time if you want to.



### **WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF BEING IN THIS PROJECT?**

You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts about Franklin County and the future directions of the County. You will not be paid to participate in this interview.

### **WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION THAT WE GATHER?**

The team will summarize the information gathered from interviews and focus groups (small groups assembled to identify and discuss key issues in the community) and present it

both in writing and verbally to your community as a resource. Some information will be shared with the Franklin County Health Department. *All identifying information and characteristics* will be removed before information is presented to the community or the Health Department. For example, if you mention the street you live on, that would be removed before sharing the information.

### **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL.**

Any information that you provide will remain confidential. Though your name and address will be collected, they will not be used in any way linked to your responses. Your contact information will only be used to invite you to attend the community forum.

To protect your privacy, all of the information you provide will be stored only with an identification number, not with your name. Every effort will be taken to protect the identity of the participants in this study. However, there is no guarantee that the information cannot be gotten by legal process or court order. This is extremely unlikely to occur.

If you would like to remain anonymous, you can pick a made-up name to use during the project.

Information such as age and sex may be gathered during the interview. These descriptive characteristics are collected only to help summarize our data. When we report the data, all identifying information will be removed. Your responses and comments will not be linked

to you. The only people with access to all data are the members of the student team and the faculty advisors. All notes and audiotapes containing your interview responses will be stored in a locked cabinet at the UNC School of Public Health or in password-protected computer files. Once we finish sharing our results with community and health department, all files will be destroyed (likely May 2007).

**CAN YOU REFUSE OR STOP PARTICIPATION?**

**Yes.** If you agree to participate in this study, please understand that your participation is voluntary (you do not have to do it). You are free to stop participating at any time. You can refuse to answer any questions. During the interview you may ask that the recording be stopped at any time.

**ARE THERE ANY RISKS?**

The risk to you for taking part in this project is small, as we will be asking you general questions about life in Franklin County. Some questions, such as those about problems or needs in your community, may cause you to feel uncomfortable. Therefore, you can skip over any question which you do not wish to answer.

Participation will *not* impact your ability to receive services.



**WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THIS PROJECT? HOW CAN I CALL THEM?**

We are completing this project as a class assignment. If you have

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any questions about this project, please contact Sarah, Kevin, Erica, Jessica, Tania, or Emily at 919-966-5542, or toll-free at 866-610-8273. You may also contact our instructor, Kate Shirah, collect if you wish at 919-966-0057. You may also call our preceptor, Cynthia Gary, at the Franklin County Health Department, at 919-496-2533, x. 2372.

If you are interested in participating in an interview, **please read the following agreement statement very carefully.** Then please sign and date this form and give it to one of the interviewers. You will get a copy of the form for your own records.

**Agreement Statement:**

By signing this consent form, I give permission to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to use my interview information for the Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name, please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature and date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Team member signature and date)

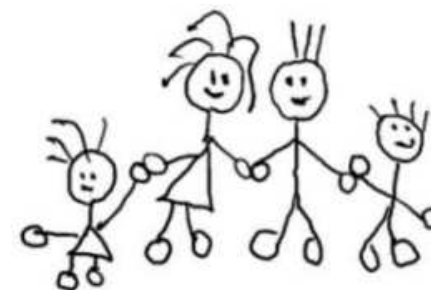
**Thank you!**



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Would you like to participate in an AOCD of Franklin County?

**Consent Form for Community Members**





### **WHAT IS AOCD?**

AOCD means Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis. AOCD is an assessment of the real experiences of people who live in your community, and team members are striving to better understand the strengths, weaknesses, and priorities of people living in Franklin County. We will also call ourselves the Community Assessment Team. If you have participated in an AOCD in the past, keep in mind that the process is similar but our focus will be different.

### **WHY ARE YOU PARTICIPATING?**

You are invited to participate because we want your ideas on the strengths and needs of Franklin County. Someone in the community identified you as a good person to talk with on this subject.

### **WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED TO DO?**

You will be asked to participate in an individual interview with two graduate students from UNC. The interview is made up of a series of questions about life and services in Franklin County. An example of a question is, “What are some of the best things about Franklin County?” There are no wrong answers or bad ideas, just different opinions. The interview will be one-time only and will take about 60 minutes of your time. If you agree to participate in the interview we will record your response on a piece of paper. Also, if you do not object, we would like to tape record the discussion to make sure we do not miss anything. Only members of our group will have access to the tapes. The tapes will be

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erased after our study is over. You can ask us to turn off the tape recorder at anytime.

There are no costs for participating in the study other than your time spent during the interview.

If you decide to participate in this interview, you will be asked to sign this form. Signing this brochure means that you have read this form and you understand the purpose of the AOCD project, what you will be asked to do as a participant in the project, and the confidentiality guidelines. It also means that you understand that you can stop taking part in the project at any time if you want to.



### **WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF BEING IN THIS PROJECT?**

You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts about Franklin County and the future directions of the County. You will not be paid to participate in this interview.

### **WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION THAT WE GATHER?**

The team will summarize the information gathered from interviews and focus groups (small groups assembled to identify and discuss key

issues in the community) and present it both written and verbally to your community as a resource. Some information will be shared with the Franklin County Health Department. All identifying information and characteristics will be removed before it is presented to the community or the Health Department. For example, if you mention the name of your agency, that will be removed before sharing the information.

### **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL.**

Any information that you provide will remain confidential. Though your name and address will be collected, they will not be used in any way linked to your responses. Your name in contact information will only be used to invite you to attend the community forum.

To protect your privacy, all of the information you provide will be stored only with an identification number, not with your name. Every effort will be taken to protect the identity of the participants in this study. However, there is no guarantee that the information cannot be gotten by legal process or court order. This is extremely unlikely to occur.

If you would like to remain anonymous, you can pick a made up name to use during the project.

Information such as age and sex may be gathered during the interview. These descriptive characteristics are collected only to help summarize our data. When we report the data, all identifying information will be removed.

Your responses and comments will not be linked to you. The only people with access to all data are the members of the student team and the faculty advisors. All notes and audiotapes containing your interview responses will be stored in a locked cabinet at the UNC School of Public Health or in password-protected computer files. Once we finish sharing our results with community and health department, all files will be destroyed (likely May 2007).

**CAN YOU REFUSE OR STOP PARTICIPATION?**

**Yes.** If you agree to participate in this study, please understand that your participation is voluntary (you do not have to do it). You are free to stop participating at any time. You can refuse to answer any questions. During the interview you may ask that the recording be stopped at any time.

**ARE THERE ANY RISKS?**

The risk to you for taking part in this project is small, as we will be asking you general questions about life in Franklin County. Some questions, such as those about problems or needs in your community, may cause you to feel uncomfortable. Therefore, you can skip over any question which you do not wish to answer.



**WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THIS PROJECT? HOW CAN I CALL THEM?**

We are completing this project as a class assignment. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Sarah, Kevin, Erica, Jessica, Tania, or Emily at  
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919-966-5542, or toll-free at 866-610-8273. You may also contact our instructor, Kate Shirah, collect if you wish at 919-966-0057. You may also call our preceptor, Cynthia Gary, at the Franklin County Health Department, at 919-496-2533, x. 2372.

If you are interested in participating in an interview, **please read the following agreement statement very carefully.** Then please sign and date this form and give it to one of the interviewers. You will get a copy of the form for your own records.

**Agreement Statement:**

By signing this consent form, I give permission to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to use my interview information for the Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name, please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature and date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Team member signature and date)

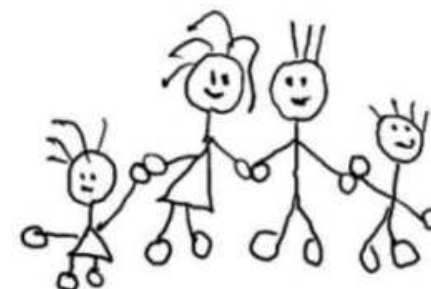
Thank you!



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Would you like to participate in an AOCD of Franklin County?

Consent Form for  
Service Providers





**WHAT IS AOCD?**

AOCD means Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis. AOCD is an assessment of the real experiences of people who live in your community, and team members are striving to better understand the experiences and priorities of people living in Franklin County. We will also call ourselves the Community Assessment Team. If you have participated in an AOCD in the past, keep in mind that the process is similar but our focus will be different.

**WHY ARE YOU PARTICIPATING?**

You are invited to participate because we want your ideas on the strengths and needs of Franklin County. Someone in your community identified this group as a good one to talk with on this subject.

**WHAT WILL YOU BE ASKED TO DO?**

You will be asked to participate in a focus group (small groups assembled to identify and discuss key issues in the community) with graduate students from UNC. The focus group is made up of a series of questions about life in Franklin County. An example of a general question is, "What is it like to live in Franklin County?" There are no wrong answers or bad ideas, just different opinions. The focus group will be one-time only and will take about 60 minutes of your time. If you agree to participate in the focus group we will record your response on a piece of paper. Also, if you do not object, we would like to tape record the discussion to make sure we do not miss anything. Only members of our group will have access to the tapes. The tapes will be

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erased after our study is over. You can ask us to turn off the tape recorder at anytime.

There are no costs for participating in the study other than your time spent during the focus group.

If you decide to participate in this focus group, you will be asked to sign this form. Signing this brochure means that you have read this form and you understand the purpose of the AOCD project, what you will be asked to do as a participant in the project, and the confidentiality guidelines. It also means that you understand that you can stop taking part in the project at any time if you want to.



**WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF BEING IN THIS PROJECT?**

You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts about Franklin County and the future directions of the County. You will not be paid to participate in this focus group.

**WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION THAT WE GATHER?**

The team will summarize the information gathered from interviews and focus groups and present it both in writing and verbally to your

community as a resource. Some information will be shared with the Franklin County Health Department. *All identifying information and characteristics* will be removed before information is presented to the community or the Health Department. For example, if you mention the street you live on, that would be removed before sharing the information.

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL.**

Any information that you provide will remain confidential. Though your name and address will be collected, they will not be used in any way linked to your responses. Your contact information will only be used to invite you to attend the community forum.

To protect your privacy, all of the information you provide will be stored only with an identification number, not with your name. Every effort will be taken to protect the identity of the participants in this study. However, there is no guarantee that the information cannot be gotten by legal process or court order. This is extremely unlikely to occur.

If you would like to remain anonymous, you can pick a made-up name to use during the project. Information such as age and may be gathered during the interview. These descriptive characteristics are collected only to help summarize our data. When we report the data, all identifying information will be removed. Your responses and comments will not be linked to you. The only people with access to all data are the members of the student team and the

faculty advisors. All notes and audiotapes containing your interview responses will be stored in a locked cabinet at the UNC School of Public Health or in password-protected computer files. Once we finish sharing our results with community and health department, all files will be destroyed (likely May 2007).

**CAN YOU REFUSE OR STOP PARTICIPATION?**

**Yes.** If you agree to participate in this study, please understand that your participation is voluntary (you do not have to do it). You are free to stop participating at any time. You can refuse to answer any questions. During the focus group you may ask that the recording be stopped at any time.

We must also have the signed consent of your parents if you are under 18.

**ARE THERE ANY RISKS?**

The risk to you for taking part in this project is small, as we will be asking you general questions about life in Franklin County. Some questions, such as those about problems or needs in your community, may cause you to feel uncomfortable. Therefore, you can skip over any question which you do not wish to answer.

Participation will *not* impact your ability to receive services.



**WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THIS PROJECT? HOW CAN I CALL THEM?**

We are completing this project as a class assignment. If you or your

*Formatting has been altered from original version*

parents have any questions about this project, please contact Sarah, Kevin, Erica, Jessica, Tania, or Emily at 919-966-5542, or toll-free at 866-610-8273. You may also contact our instructor, Kate Shirah, collect if you wish at 919-966-0057. You may also call our preceptor, Cynthia Gary, at the Franklin County Health Department, at 919-496-2533, x. 2372.

If you are interested in participating in the focus group, **please read the following agreement statement very carefully.** Then please sign and date this form and give it to one of the interviewers. You will get a copy of the form for your own records.

**Agreement Statement:**

By signing this consent form, I give permission to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to use my responses from the focus group for the Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name, please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature and date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Team member signature and date)

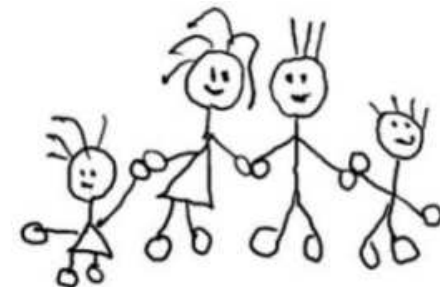
**Thank you!**



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Would you like to participate in an AOCD of Franklin County?

Youth Assent Form for Focus Group Members







## WHAT IS AOCD?

AOCD means Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis. AOCD is an assessment of the real experiences of people who live in your community, and team members are striving to better understand the experiences and priorities of people living in Franklin County. We will also call ourselves the Community Assessment Team. If you or your child have participated in an AOCD in the past, keep in mind that the process is similar but our focus will be different.

## WHY IS YOUR CHILD PARTICIPATING?

Your child is invited to participate because we want to understand the experiences of youth living in Franklin County.

## WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD BE ASKED TO DO?

Your child will be asked to participate in a focus group (small groups assembled to identify and discuss key issues in the community) with graduate students from UNC. The focus group is made up of a series of questions about life in Franklin County. An example of a general question is, “What is it like to live in Franklin County” and “What do you do for fun?”. There are no wrong answers or bad ideas, just different opinions. The focus group will be one-time only and will take about 60 minutes of their time. If you agree to allow them to participate in the focus group we will record their responses on a piece of paper. Also, if they do not object, we would like to tape record the discussion to make sure we do not miss anything. Only members of our group will have access to the tapes. The

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tapes will be erased after our study is over. Any participant can ask us to turn off the tape recorder at anytime.

There are no costs for participating in the study other than time spent during the focus group.

If you decide to allow your child to participate in this focus group, you will be asked to sign this form. We will also have a separate form for your child to sign. Signing this brochure means that you have read this form and you understand the purpose of the AOCD project, what your child will be asked to do as a participant in the project, and the confidentiality guidelines. It also means that you understand that your child can stop taking part in the project at any time if they want to.

## WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD GET OUT OF BEING IN THIS PROJECT?

Your child will have the opportunity to share their thoughts about Franklin County and the future directions of the County. Your child will not be paid to participate in this focus group.

## WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE INFORMATION THAT WE GATHER?

The team will summarize the information gathered from interviews and focus groups and present it both in

writing and verbally to your community as a resource. Some information will be shared with the Franklin County Health Department. *All identifying information and characteristics will be removed* before information is presented to the community or the Health Department. For example, if your child mentions the street they live on, that would be removed before sharing the information.

## YOUR CHILD’S PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Any information that your child provides will remain confidential. Though their name and address will be collected, they will not be used in any way linked to their responses. Your child’s contact information will only be used to invite them to attend the community forum.

To protect your child’s privacy, all of the information they provide will be stored only with an identification number, not with your child’s name. Every effort will be taken to protect the identity of the participants in this study. However, there is no guarantee that the information cannot be gotten by legal process or court order. This is extremely unlikely to occur.

If your child would like to remain anonymous, they can pick a made-up name to use during the project. Information such as age and sex may be gathered during the interview. These descriptive characteristics are collected only to help summarize our data. When we report the data, all identifying information will be removed. Your child’s responses and comments will not be linked to them. The only people with access

to all data are the members of the student team and the faculty advisors. All notes and audiotapes containing your interview responses will be stored in a locked cabinet at the UNC School of Public Health or in password-protected computer files. Once we finish sharing our results with community and health department, all files will be destroyed (likely May 2007).

**CAN YOU OR YOUR CHILD REFUSE OR STOP PARTICIPATION?**

**Yes.** If your child agrees to participate in this study, please understand that their participation is voluntary (they do not have to do it). Your child is free to stop participating at any time. Your child can refuse to answer any questions. During the focus group your child may ask that the recording be stopped at any time. Parents will not be present but may opt for their child to not participate.

**ARE THERE ANY RISKS?**

The risk to your child for taking part in this project is small, as we will be asking your child general questions about life in Franklin County. Some questions, such as those about problems or needs in your community, may cause your child to feel uncomfortable. Therefore, your child can skip over any question which they do not wish to answer.



Participation will *not* impact your child's ability to receive services.

**WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THIS PROJECT? CAN I CALL THEM?**

We are completing this project as a class assignment. If you have any questions about this project, please contact Sarah, Kevin, Erica, Jessica, Tania, or Emily at 919-966-5542, or toll-free at 866-610-8273. You may also contact our instructor, Kate Shirah, collect if you wish at 919-966-0057. You may also call our preceptor, Cynthia Gary, at the Franklin County Health Department, at 919-496-2533, x. 2372.

If you are interested allowing your child to participating in a focus group, **please read the following agreement statement very carefully.** Then please sign and date this form and give it to one of the interviewers. You will get a copy of the form for your own records.

**Agreement Statement:**

By signing this consent form, I give permission to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to use my child's responses from the focus group for the Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name, please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature and date)

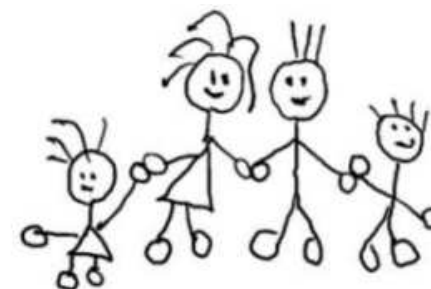
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Team member signature and date)



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

May your child participate in an  
A OCD of Franklin County?

Parent Consent Form for  
Youth Focus Group Members



2006-2007 Franklin County Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis Team  
Consent to Contact Information and Script

**Purpose:**

*This form provides guidelines for service providers and community members to receive permission to release name and contact information of potential interviewees and focus group participants to the UNC Franklin County Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis Team.*

A team of graduate students from UNC are doing an assessment of the real experiences and strengths, weaknesses, and priorities of Franklin County. They would be interested in contacting you to participate in an interview (or focus group) for their study. Your comments will be confidential. The results of the information they gather will be presented to the community at a forum that will be held in the spring. They will report summaries of the comments made by community members, but they will not identify who said what, nor will they identify the names of the individuals they interview.

If you agree to be contacted by the team, I will give them your information, and they will provide you with more information. You will have the opportunity to decide whether or not you wish to participate. I will not know whether you decide to participate or not. Regardless of your decision, any services you may utilize will not be affected in any way. If you have any questions about the study, you can contact the AOCD team, their instructor, Kate Shirah, or their local liasion, Cynthia Gary at the Franklin County Health Department.

Team (Sarah, Kevin, Erica, Tania, Emily, and Jessica): 919-966-5542, or toll-free 866-610-8273  
Kate Shirah, Instructor: (collect if you wish) 919-966-0057  
UNC School of Public Health  
Dept of Health Behavior and Health Education  
Campus Box 7440  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7440  
Cynthia Gary, Franklin Co. Health Department: 919-496-2533

I would appreciate your consent for providing the contact information below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: (C) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your preferred method of being contacted:  
Cell Phone Home Phone Work Phone Email

Thank you!

2006-2007 Franklin County Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis Team  
Contact Information

I would appreciate your consent for providing the contact information below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: (C) \_\_\_\_\_  
(H) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

## Demographic Information Form

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

What is your race? (You may choose more than one)

- African American (Black)
- Caucasian (White)
- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

What is your ethnicity?

- Hispanic
- Not Hispanic

What is your age?

\_\_\_\_

## **Franklin County AOCD Recruitment and Confidentiality Procedures**

### **Recruitment Procedures**

#### Service Provider Interviews

Our interview process will begin with service providers. Potential service providers to be interviewed will be identified in several ways:

- A list provided by our preceptors at Franklin County Health Department
- Review of websites and other secondary resources
- Referrals from other service providers in the community

Service providers will be contacted directly (by telephone and/or email) by a member of the Franklin County AOCD team, who will introduce and explain the project and invite participation.

#### Community Member Interviews

To identify potential community members for interviews, we will begin by requesting referrals from service providers. Rather than contacting referred individuals directly, we will ask the referrer to first contact the community member to introduce the project and seek permission to be contacted by a member of the AOCD team (we will provide a sample script for them to follow). Once we have received permission to contact an individual, procedures will be the same as those used with service providers.

In some cases, we may also identify community members for interviews directly. This will only occur if we have met the community member first (e.g. at a community event), and he/she seems interested in the project. We will not contact any community members to request an interview without first gaining their permission either through our own interactions with them or through another community member or service provider.

#### Focus Groups

To recruit participants for focus groups, we will work with the specific community organizations (such as the Boys and Girls Club, or schools) where the focus group(s) will be held. We will ask the organization(s) to advise us on the best strategy for identifying participants (e.g. through advertising or inviting select individuals), and to help with the recruitment process they recommend (e.g. they may help by posting flyers, sending home letters with students, talking to certain individuals, etc.).

### **Informed Consent Procedures**

After an individual service provider or community member has informally agreed to participate in an interview or focus group, he/she will be asked to give his/her informed consent prior to the interview, as described below.

For those under the age of 18, a parent or guardian will be asked to sign a consent form on behalf of the child. The child will also be asked to sign an assent form to indicate his/her willingness to participate and understanding of the process.

Interviews (service providers and community members)

As is noted in the referral script and in the interview guides, interviewees will be provided with the appropriate consent form (community member or service provider) prior to the interview. They will have a chance to read it and ask questions, and the basics of confidentiality and that their participation is voluntary will be explained to them verbally before the interview. Interviews will not take place until the team obtains a signed consent form. If the interviewee is a minor, we will obtain both youth assent and parental consent and the guardian will have the option to be present for the interview. However, we plan to assess youth needs mainly through focus groups.

Focus Groups

Focus groups will have a similar consent process. Small modifications to the Community Member Consent Form or Youth Assent Form may be made to obtain consent from focus group participants, such as the title and the nature of what they will be asked to do. They will have a chance to read it and ask questions, and the basics of confidentiality and that their participation is voluntary will be explained to them verbally before the interview. No one will participate in focus groups unless the team has obtained signed consent. If participants are minors, we will obtain both youth assent and parental consent.

Participants in the AOCD interviews and focus groups will be provided with their own copies of the consent form, which includes phone numbers if questions arise.

## **Confidentiality & Data Storage**

To help ensure participant confidentiality, all participant data will be de-identified (i.e. we will remove names and other identifying information). Each participant will be assigned a unique identifier, which will be used to label all data associated with that participant, including interview tapes, transcripts, and demographic profile forms.

Tapes and hard copies of data will be stored in a locked file cabinet. Electronic documents with participant data will be stored on password-protected computers or a password-protected Yahoo Groups website (accessible only by Franklin County AOCD student team members). The link between the unique identifier codes and participant identities will be kept in a separate location from hard copies or electronic versions of data.

### Demographic Information of Interviewees

*For the purposes of confidentiality, youth focus group participants were considered community members in this table.*

Demographic Indicator	Community Members	Service Providers
<b><i>Gender</i></b>		
Female	15	13
Male	7	10
<b><i>Race/Ethnicity</i></b>		
White	16	17
White Hispanic	0	1
African American	6	5
<b><i>Age</i></b>		
0-18	6	0
19-35	3	6
36-50	3	6
51-65	5	8
65+	5	3
<b><i>Township of Residence</i></b>		
Louisburg	8	7
Youngsville	4	2
Franklinton	1	5
Bunn	4	1
Lake Royale	2	0
Other or Unknown (in Franklin County)	3	4
Outside Franklin County	0	4



## Codebook

### Domain: Access

#### Codes and Definitions

- *Transportation* – Availability and use of public and/or personal vehicles to travel to different places inside and outside of the county.
- *Recreation* – Indoor and outdoor activities for entertainment and social interaction. These can include both physical and non-physical activities, such as organized sports or watching movies.
- *Recreational facilities* – Buildings, areas or locations used for recreation.
- *Sidewalks* – Availability, quality and convenience of sidewalks.
- *Services provided* – Examples of services and resources that are coordinated and/or provided by agencies and organizations for people in the county.

### Domain: Health

#### Codes and Definitions

- *Health facilities* – Availability of resources and places for improving or maintaining health. May be inside or outside of the county.
- *Hospital* – Information related to the Franklin County Regional Medical Center, including the planned move.
- *Health insurance* – Cost, availability, and ownership of private or government-subsidized health insurance.
- *Obesity* – References to overweight and obesity among county residents.
- *Physical activity* – Presence or examples of physical exercise among youth and adults in the county.
- *Nutrition* – Healthy or unhealthy eating habits as well as the availability of healthy and unhealthy foods.
- *Mental health* – Availability of services for people with mental health needs in the county. Includes seeking of and referring to mental health services.
- *Teen mothers* – References to women under age 18 who are pregnant or who have children, as well as references to education for family planning.
- *Substance use* – Use of substances, including alcohol, cigarettes and other tobacco products.
- *Chronic disease* – Lifelong illnesses or infections, including cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other chronic illnesses.
- *Drugs* – Selling or using illegal drugs.
- *Socioeconomic impact on health* – Disparities between the level of health among people of high and low social and economic status.
- *General health needs* – References to health problems or needs for services that do not fall under the other codes in the Health domain.

**Domain: Race relations**

**Codes and Definitions**

- *Interaction* – Circumstances where people of different races and ethnicities are in the same place together or choose not to be in the same place together.
- *Geographic location* – Physical locations where people of different races live or spend time in the county.
- *Racial tension* – Animosity toward or among people of different races; specific races are not referenced or are referenced very generally.
- *African-American racial tension* – Animosity toward or among people specifically due to their African-American race.
- *Hispanic racial tension* – Animosity toward or among people specifically due to their Hispanic ethnicity.
- *Minority youth services* – Resources and programs specifically tailored toward children and adolescents of minority races and ethnicities.
- *Language needs/Hispanic services* – Resources and programs specifically tailored toward people of Hispanic ethnicity and who speak Spanish as a first language.

**Domain: Youth**

**Codes and Definitions**

- *Education* – Resources and facilities for education, such as schools, colleges, and technical schools, as well as the use of these resources and facilities.
- *Adult/Child communication* – Opportunities for young people and adults, including parents, in the county to discuss ideas for improving different aspects of life in the county.
- *Crime* – Youth committing acts that are against the law. This includes violence in addition to other illegal acts.
- *Youth services* – Resources and programs specifically tailored toward children and adolescents in the county.
- *Gangs* – Formation, interaction, and influence of youth gangs both inside and outside of schools.

**Domain: Growth**

**Codes and Definitions**

- *Economy* – References to economic development in the county, including taxes and other monetary and industrial support.
- *Housing* – References to development or existence of homes for low-income and high income residents of the county.
- *Employment* – New and existing jobs and careers in the county.
- *Hispanic population growth* – Expansion of the Hispanic community in the county.
- *Community growth* – Expansion of the resident population in the county.
- *New business* – Development or introduction of small and large businesses and industries in the county.

- *Infrastructure* – Existence or development of infrastructure in the county, including sewer, electricity, phone lines, and roads to serve residents and facilities in the county.

**Domain: Community**

**Codes and Definitions**

- *Geographic location* – References to different areas or townships in the county, which influence the particular communities that develop in those areas.
- *Sense of community* – Perceptions of the intangible aspects that make up the community or communities in Franklin County.
- *Fundraisers* – Events and programs conducted in the county to raise money for projects or for residents in the county.
- *Organizational partnership* – Collaboration among different organizations, programs and agencies that provide services in the county.
- *Community atmosphere* – Perceptions of the social, emotional, and political opinions and aura in the county.
- *Church* – The presence and influence of religious organizations of different denominations in the county.
- *Community leaders* – References to people, committees, boards, or panels, which provide leadership in the county.
- *Politics* – References to county government leaders and decisions of governmental bodies that affect the county.
- *Community involvement* – Actions taken by community members to increase or improve activities, social interactions, and other opportunities in the county.

**Sub-codes\***

- *Positive* – Optimistic, constructive, affirmative attitudes toward the topic area. This attitude also refers to the availability and adequacy of services, resources, opportunities, and facilities in the county.
- *Negative* – Pessimistic, critical attitudes toward the topic area. This attitude also refers to the need for or inadequacy of services, resources, opportunities, and facilities in the county.
- *Neutral* – Neither positive nor negative attitudes toward the topic area. A general reference to the topic area that does not imply a particular emotion or perception of that topic.

\*Sub-codes to indicate respondents' attitudes towards the different topics were assigned along with each code.

**Franklin County Action Oriented Community Diagnosis**  
**Potential themes from interviews to be discussed at the forum**  
**PLEASE SELECT 5 THEMES BASED ON IMPORTANCE AND CHANGEABILITY (see**  
**instructions in e-mail)**  
**by Monday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m.**

Category	Topic	Percent of time discussed**	Emerging Themes <i>Themes have been numbered for the voting process. They are not based on any rank order.</i>
Access	Transportation	21.76%	1) There is a need for inexpensive, public transportation to increase access to services and resources for some residents of Franklin County. 2) There is a need for additional transportation for youth in Franklin County to increase access to after school activities.
	Recreation/ Recreation facilities	59.33%	3) There is a need for a public facility in Franklin County to provide recreation and/or entertainment activities for youth. 4) There is a need for more public, outdoor spaces for recreation in Franklin County.
Growth	Economy	15.33%	5) Franklin County needs new industry to broaden the tax base and create new job opportunities.
	Employment	9.43%	
	New Business	22.78%	
Health	Obesity	8.22%	6) Lack of physical activity options is contributing to increasing rates of obesity in Franklin County. 7) A lack of healthy food options is contributing to unhealthy eating habits and increasing rates of obesity in Franklin County.
	Physical Activity	5.01%	
	Nutrition	7.04%	
	Mental Health	11.81%	8) There's an impression that the needs of people with mental health issues are not being met, either because of a lack of services, lack of awareness of services available, or stigma attached to seeking help for mental health.
Race Relations	Hispanic race relations	14.41%	9) Community involvement and education is needed to embrace the growing Hispanic population in Franklin County. 10) Services are needed to decrease the language and other cultural barriers among the growing Hispanic population in Franklin County.
	African American race relations	10.34%	11) Among African Americans, there is a desire for greater community engagement as well as representation in leadership positions in Franklin County.
Youth	Crime/ Violence	18.77%	12) Youth in Franklin County are concerned with a lack of security in schools, which could be used to prevent fights and gang activities and violence
	Education	57.60%	13) There's concern that a high drop out rate from school is leaving youths unprepared for secondary education or the workforce. 14) There's a need for even more technical or skill-based training options within or outside of traditional school curriculum.

**\*\* Percent of the time that interviewees discussed the respective topic within each category.**

### **Franklin County Needs\***

*The following is a list of challenges and needed improvements, for which service providers and community members share concern. Issues are not listed in a rank order, and issues discussed at the forum are in boldface.*

- ❖ Recreation
  - **There is a need for more public facilities in Franklin County to provide recreation and/or entertainment activities for youth.**
  - There is a need for more public, outdoor spaces for recreation in Franklin County.
- ❖ Transportation
  - **There is a need for inexpensive, public transportation to increase access to services and resources for some residents of Franklin County.**
  - There is a need for additional transportation for youth in Franklin County to increase access to after school activities.
- ❖ Economy, Employment, New Business/Industry
  - Franklin County needs new industry to broaden the tax base and create new job opportunities.
  - **There is a need to support new and local business in Franklin County to enhance the local economy and create new job opportunities.**
- ❖ Residential Growth
  - There is a desire among many long-time residents of Franklin County for the county to maintain its close-knit, respectful atmosphere and clean environment in the wake of its rapid growth.
- ❖ Housing
  - There is need for more affordable housing in Franklin County for residents with lower incomes.
- ❖ Physical Activity, Nutrition, Obesity
  - **A lack of physical activity options is contributing to increasing rates of obesity in Franklin County.**
  - A lack of healthy food options is contributing to unhealthy eating habits and increasing rates of obesity in Franklin County.
- ❖ Mental Health
  - **There's an impression that the needs of people with mental health issues are not being met, either because of a lack of services, lack of awareness of services available, or stigma attached to seeking help for mental health.**
- ❖ Healthcare Access
  - There is a need for more medical specialists in Franklin County, so it is not necessary to travel outside the county to receive these services.
  - There are many residents in Franklin County who cannot access health insurance or medication because their incomes are too low to afford these resources, but too high to qualify for Medicare/Medicaid.
  - Some residents of Franklin County are concerned that if the hospital moves from Louisburg to Youngsville, medical services will not be as accessible.

- ❖ Animal Welfare
  - To ensure the safety and health of people and animals in the County, there is a need for laws mandating rabies vaccinations, animal welfare education, spay/neutering, and leash use.
- ❖ Chronic Disease
  - Community members and service providers in Franklin County are concerned with the level of chronic disease among members of the community.
- ❖ Hispanic Race Relations
  - Community involvement and education is needed to embrace the growing Hispanic population in Franklin County.
  - Language and other cultural barriers are preventing some members of the growing Hispanic population in Franklin County from accessing services and participating fully in community activities.
- ❖ African American Race Relations
  - Among African Americans, there is a desire for greater community engagement as well as representation in leadership positions in Franklin County.
- ❖ Crime/Violence
  - Youth in Franklin County are concerned with a lack of security in schools, which could be used to prevent fights, gang activities, and violence.
- ❖ Education
  - There's concern that a high drop out rate from school is leaving youths unprepared for secondary education or the workforce.
  - There's a need for even more technical or skill-based training options within or outside of traditional school curriculum.
- ❖ Youth Health Needs
  - There is concern over drug dealing and drug use occurring among youth in Franklin County.
  - There is a need for more sexual education resources for youth in Franklin County, to reduce teenage pregnancy and prevent sexually transmitted diseases.
- ❖ Youth-Adult Communication
  - Youth would like more opportunities to be heard by county leaders, to make positive changes in the community, particularly around recreation and social activities.

*\*Not every theme on this list was presented to the FPC for consideration for discussion at the forum (see Appendix B.c.). This was due to each theme's weight in the analysis (how often it was mentioned and by how many interviewees). This handout was provided to forum attendees to demonstrate all of the concerns of the citizens.*

## Key Sources of Secondary Data on Franklin County

### Demographics

#### **CensusScope**

Charts and Trends, Franklin County

<http://www.censuscope.org>

#### **Fedstats**

Franklin County MapStats

<http://mapstats.gov/qf/states/37/37069.html>

#### **Log in to North Carolina (LINC)**

[http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn\\_linc\\_main.show](http://data.osbm.state.nc.us/pls/linc/dyn_linc_main.show)

#### **North Carolina Department of Commerce**

Economic Development Information System

<http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles/profile.cfm>

#### **North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, Inc.**

Rural Data Bank, County profile for Franklin County

<http://www.ncruralcenter.org/databank/profile.asp?county=Franklin>

#### **U.S. Census Bureau**

American FactFinder

<http://factfinder.census.gov>

State and County Quick Facts

- Franklin County  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37069.html>
- Bunn  
<http://censtats.census.gov/data/NC/1603708860.pdf>
- Louisburg  
<http://censtats.census.gov/data/NC/1603739360.pdf>
- Franklinton  
<http://censtats.census.gov/data/NC/1603724720.pdf>
- Youngsville  
<http://censtats.census.gov/data/NC/1603776200.pdf>
- Centerville  
<http://censtats.census.gov/data/NC/1603711560.pdf>

### Education

#### **Franklin County Schools**

<http://www.franklinco.k12.nc.us/>

#### **Louisburg College**

<http://www.louisburg.edu/>

#### **Vance Granville Community College**

<http://www.vgcc.edu/franklin.htm>

## **Health**

### **North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics**

Health risks among North Carolina adults: BRFSS 2005  
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/pdf/BRFSSReport2005.pdf>

2006 County Health Data Book  
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/databook/>

### **Franklin County Health Department**

Health Department Website:  
[http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/health/l\\_Health\\_Ed.html#h-ed2](http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/health/l_Health_Ed.html#h-ed2)

Franklin County 2003 Community Health Assessment Report  
<http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/health/docs/CAssmnt2003.pdf>

State of the County Health Report (2006)  
<http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/health/documents/SOTCH2006Modified.pdf>

### **Franklin County Regional Medical Center**

<http://www.franklinregionalmedicalctr.com/>

## **History, Government and Economy**

### **Franklin County Chamber of Commerce**

<http://www.franklin-chamber.org/>

### **Franklin County Government**

Government Website  
<http://www.co.franklin.nc.us>

Franklin County Finance Department  
[http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/finance/frame\\_finance.html](http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/finance/frame_finance.html)

Economic Development  
[http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/econdev/nc\\_franklin/index.asp](http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/econdev/nc_franklin/index.asp)

### **North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences,**

Agriculture Statistics Division – County Statistics  
<http://www.ncagr.com/Stats/cntysumm/franklin.htm>

### **State Library of North Carolina**

North Carolina Online Encyclopedia.  
<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/NC/CNTYOUT/CNTYMAPS/COUNT3.HTM>

## **Other Resources**

### **The Franklin Times**

<http://www.thefranklintimes.com>

Diggs P, Morgan R, Munson B, Sachdeva N, Succop S, Wang H. (2006). *People with Disabilities in Franklin County, North Carolina: An Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis: Findings and next steps of action.* <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/phpapers/FranklinCoDisabilities06.pdf>



Regional map of Franklin County (in blue)





THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

Appendix D.a.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR  
AND HEALTH EDUCATION

302 ROSENAU HALL  
CAMPUS BOX 7440  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7440

T 919.966.3761  
F 919.966.2921  
[www.sph.unc.edu/hbhe](http://www.sph.unc.edu/hbhe)

Date

Dear Friend in Franklin County,

We are graduate students at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. As part of an academic course, we are on a team of 6 students conducting a community assessment. This is required of all first-year students in our program. We are partnering with the Franklin County Health Department in order to identify central issues to citizens of Franklin County. We are currently attending community events in Franklin County, interviewing local residents and service providers, and frequenting local restaurants, boutiques and stores.

In April we will be presenting our results at a community forum. This event will serve as an opportunity to share our findings with Franklin County residents. As we have noticed the pride that community members have in local establishments, we would like to have your business represented at the forum. We are requesting a donation from your business to be given away as a door prize to local residents. We will also have a list of donors present at the forum to give you recognition. This will undoubtedly generate even more goodwill in the community and publicly credit your organization as a generous one.

Your donation is eligible for a tax deduction. The Federal Tax ID number for UNC-CH is 56-600-1393. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone at (919) 966-5542 or toll-free at (866) 610-8273.

We thank you for your donation, and hope you can join us for the forum!!

Most Sincerely,

Erica Bourget  
Community Forum Planning Committee, Co-Chair

Kevin McKenna  
Community Forum Planning Committee, Co-Chair

**Join us for a Franklin County Community Forum:**



**One Community,  
One Voice.**

**Tuesday, April 24**

**5:30pm - 8:00 pm**

(refreshments from 5:15-5:30pm)

**Terrell Lane Middle School**

101 Terrell Lane, Louisburg

---

**Come out and be heard as we talk about the challenges and strengths of Franklin County. Meet with citizens, service providers, and local leaders. We will discuss the problems the county faces and steps the community can take to improve quality of life in the area.**

---

**FREE!**

**FOOD - CHILDCARE - PRIZES**

(dinner only guaranteed for the first 75 attendees)

For additional information, or anyone needing special assistance, an interpreter, or accommodations (RSVP by April 17), call Toll Free: 1-866-610-8273



This forum is a joint collaboration between the Franklin County Health Department and the UNC School of Public Health.



Venga a un foro comunitario del condado de Franklin



**Una Comunidad,  
Una Voz.**

**Martes, 24 de abril  
de 5:30 a 8:00 de la tarde**

(refrigerios de las 5:15 a las 5:30)

**La escuela de Terrell Lane**

101 Terrell Lane, Louisburg

---

Venga y sea escuchado mientras conversamos de los aspectos Fuertes y los que se puede mejorar del condado de Franklin. Reúnase con otros ciudadanos, proveedores de servicios y unos líderes locales. Hablaremos de los problemas en el condado y de los pasos que puede tomar la comunidad para mejorar la calidad de la vida aquí.

---

**GRATIS!**

**COMIDA - CUIDADO DE NIÑOS - PREMIOS**

(la cena solo será garantizada para los primeros 75 que lleguen)

Para más información, or si se necesita un interprete, llame sin cargos a  
**1-866-610-8273.**



Este foro es una colaboración entre el departamento de salud del condado de Franklin y la facultad de salud comunitaria de UNC





**Franklin County Assessment Team**  
**Department of Health Behavior & Health Education**  
**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
**Chapel Hill, NC 27599**  
**Phone: 1-866-610-8273**  
**Email: kevin\_mckenna@unc.edu**

Dear

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts and experiences about what life is like for people living in Franklin County. We have spoken with nearly 50 people in your community and are eager to share with you what we have found through our interviews and focus groups. You may remember hearing that we were planning to host a community forum in Franklin County in April. Now, the time has finally come and we are very pleased to invite you to attend this event!

The community forum —***One Community, One Voice***— will take place on **Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.** (refreshments will be served starting at 5:15), at Terrell Lane Middle School in Louisburg (101 Terrell Lane, see reverse side for map). Come out and be heard as you meet with citizens, service providers, and local leaders to discuss issues affecting Franklin County and steps the community can take to improve quality of life in the area. The event is free and we will provide dinner, childcare, and prizes.

We hope that you are able to attend the forum and we invite you to bring your co-workers, friends and family. Unfortunately we have limited space and would very much appreciate an **RSVP by April 17<sup>th</sup>**. In addition, if there are any accommodations needed, please let us know ahead of time so we can be sure to make arrangements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by phone (1-866-610-8273) or by e-mail (kevin\_mckenna@unc.edu). Thank you for your participation and your commitment to the Franklin County community!

We hope to see you soon!

On behalf of the Franklin County Assessment Team and the Franklin County Forum Planning Committee,

Kevin McKenna and Erica Bourget



**Franklin County Assessment Team  
Department of Health Behavior & Health Education  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599  
Phone: 1-866-610-8273  
Email: kevin\_mckenna@unc.edu**

Dear Franklin County resident,

We are writing to let you know about some exciting work that is going on in Franklin County. We are a team of six graduate students from the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We have been conducting a community assessment in Franklin County over the last 8 months. Our goal was to gather information about what life is like for people living in Franklin County by attending community events, and conducting interviews and focus groups with nearly 50 community members and service providers. In partnership with the Franklin County Health Department and our forum planning committee, we are currently planning a community forum to discuss the issues raised in these interview and focus groups. We are very pleased to invite you to attend this event!

The community forum —***One Community, One Voice***— will take place on **Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.** (refreshments will be served starting at 5:15), at Terrell Lane Middle School in Louisburg (101 Terrell Lane, see reverse side for map). Come out and be heard as we talk about issues affecting Franklin County. Meet with citizens, service providers, and local leaders. We will discuss steps the community can take to improve quality of life in the area. The event is free and we will provide dinner, childcare, and prizes.

We hope that you are able to attend the forum and we invite you to bring your co-workers, friends and family. Unfortunately we have limited space and would very much appreciate an **RSVP by April 17<sup>th</sup>**. In addition, if there are any accommodations needed, please let us know ahead of time so we can be sure to make arrangements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by phone (1-866-610-8273) or by e-mail (kevin\_mckenna@unc.edu). Thank you for your participation and your commitment to the Franklin County community!

We hope to see you soon!

On behalf of the Franklin County Assessment Team and the Franklin County Forum Planning Committee,

Kevin McKenna and Erica Bourget

Welcome to the  
**Franklin County  
Community Forum**



Organized by a partnership of the UNC School of Public Health,  
the Franklin County Health Department, and Frankly Healthy.

Franklin County Health Department: 919-496-2533  
Kate Shirah, UNC Teaching Team Representative: 919-966-0057  
Kevin McKenna, Student Team Representative: 919-272-6214



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Tuesday, April 24  
5:30 - 8 pm  
Terrell Lane Middle School

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## SCHEDULE

5:15-5:40	Registration and Check-in
5:40-5:55	Welcome and Introductions
5:55-6:05	Address by Rev. Everett Jenkins
6:05-6:20	Presentation of Findings and Themes
6:20-7:15	Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical Activity: Room 302</li><li>• Economy: Room 305</li><li>• Youth Recreation/Entertainment: Room 306</li><li>• Transportation: Room 307</li><li>• Mental Health: Room 308</li></ul>
7:15-7:35	Dinner and Raffle Prizes
7:35-7:50	Discussion of Action Steps
7:50-8:00	Closing Remarks



## OVERVIEW: ACTION-ORIENTED COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Preceptors: Cynthia Gary and Becky Leonard,  
Franklin County Health Department

UNC Student Team: Jessica Bates, Erica Bourget, Kevin  
McKenna, Sarah Parvanta, Tania Sarker, and Emily Waters  
.....

As graduate students at the University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill School of Public Health, our coursework includes a  
community assessment. Since October 2006, the student  
Assessment team have been interviewing community members  
and service providers to gather information on issues of  
importance to residents of Franklin County.

We are excited to gain further input from the community and  
share our findings this evening. The purpose of the forum is to  
present the themes, which are issues that were identified as  
both important and changeable to the community, and bring  
together individuals committed to making a difference in the  
county. Forum attendees will come up with and take charge of  
action steps to address each theme.

Our findings will also contribute to the Franklin County Health  
Department's Community Health Assessment. The student  
team's final report will be available at the Franklin County  
Health Department and branches of the Franklin County  
Library. You can also access our final report after June at:

[http://www.hsl.unc.edu/phpapers/phpapers\\_franklin.cfm](http://www.hsl.unc.edu/phpapers/phpapers_franklin.cfm)

## STRENGTHS

Rather than only focusing on the areas of Franklin County that  
need improvement, we would also like to acknowledge some of  
its many strengths.

Residents describe Franklin County as a great place to live and  
a great place to raise a family.

Most Franklin County residents are extremely proud of its  
beauty and slow pace. Residents enjoy living in a close knit  
community where the people are friendly and know one  
another. Most also express benefiting from strong leadership.

Team members have heard and observed that community  
members come together in times of need and in times of  
celebration. There is also a strong faith community in Franklin  
County, and the churches play many important roles in the  
community from leading active youth groups to raising money  
for charities.

There is a spirit of collaboration among community  
organizations and agencies. A recent success is the opening of  
the Boys & Girls Club in Louisburg, a service that met an  
identified need in the community. This project demonstrates the  
ability of Franklin County community organizations to work  
together to achieve collective goals. It also shows the  
community's commitment to the children and youth of Franklin  
County.

**THEMES: CONCERNS BROUGHT UP BY THE COMMUNITY THAT WE WILL ADDRESS TONIGHT**

**Economy**  
 There is a need to support new and current business in Franklin County to enhance the local economy and create new job opportunities.

**Room 305**

*“There is a big need for increasing industry to come in and not only hire people but also pay taxes, industry level taxes...and that’s how you build new schools and that’s how you build new recreational facilities.”*

**Transportation**  
 There is a need for inexpensive transportation options to increase access to services and resources for some residents of Franklin County.

**Room 307**

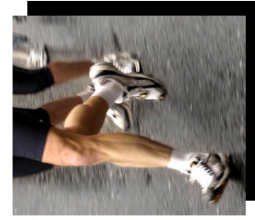
*“We don’t have public transportation. And so if you live in some of the outlying parts of the county... you have to pay out your income to just get some real basic needs filled.”*

**Physical Activity**  
 A lack of physical activity options is contributing to increasing rates of obesity in Franklin County.

**Room 302**

*“[We] don’t have places to recreate... it’s just the culture... There aren’t many choices.”*

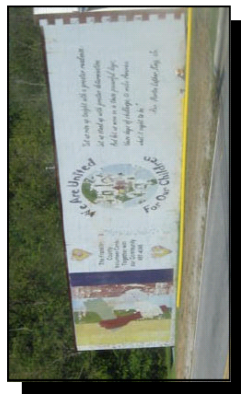
*“Like Americans we’re obese and not exercising enough. We’re working hard, but that’s not the same thing as exercising.”*



**Youth Recreation/Entertainment**  
 There is a desire for additional public facilities in Franklin County to provide recreation and/or entertainment activities for youth.

**Room 306**

*“They started the Boys and Girls Club just a month ago but before that there was no activity. No place for teens to meet. They sit out in parking lots in their cars.”*



**Mental Health**  
 There’s an impression that the needs of people with mental health concerns are not being met, either because of a lack of services, lack of awareness of services available, or stigma attached to seeking help for mental health.

**Room 308**

*“[I’m] not sure of the reason for mental health underutilization... I don’t sense a system of care - community care - and this is a population that needs it.”*

These quotes are from interviews and represent common feelings among Franklin County community members.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the people of Franklin County, who have been extremely welcoming and cooperative throughout this process. We would also like to extend a special thanks to:

Cynthia Gary, Becky Leonard, and everyone at the Franklin County Health Department  
 Jama Stallings and the food service staff  
 Crystal Smith  
 Dee Harris  
 Reverend Everett Jenkins  
 Ron Goswick  
 Rosemary Champion  
 Cedric Jones  
 Terrell Lane Middle School  
 John Harris  
 Chris Blacker  
 our forum volunteers  
 and the members of the UNC teaching team.

## THANKS

We would like to thank and encourage everyone to support our donors:

Andy's Cheesesteaks & Cheeseburgers  
 Carolina Sky Sports  
 Dairy Queen  
 Dominoes Pizza  
 East Side Entrees  
 Food Lion  
 Hill Ridge Farms  
 Hopco Foodservice  
 Jimmy's Tire and Auto Repair  
 Miranda B's Hallmark  
 Quality Sales and Marketing  
 Remington Grill  
 Rowe's Men's Shop  
 Safe Space  
 Subway of Youngsville  
 Sweeties  
 The Coffee Hound Bookshop  
 The Cola Café  
 The Flower Cottage

NOTES

NOTES

# **Franklin County Resources**

## **TOWN MAYORS**

### **Bunn**

Marsha Strawbridge, Mayor  
Judy Jeffreys, Town Manager  
P.O. Box 398  
Bunn, NC 27508  
Phone: (919) 496-2992

### **Centerville**

Margaret Nelms, Mayor  
3370 Hwy 58  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 853-3164

### **Franklinton**

Jenny Edwards, Mayor  
Mike Morton, Manager  
P.O. Box 309  
Franklinton, NC 27525  
Phone: (919) 494-2520

### **Louisburg**

Karl Pernell, Mayor  
C. L. Gobble, Town Administrator  
110 West Nash Street  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-3406

### **Youngsville**

Sam Hardwick, Mayor  
Brenda Robbins, Town Administrator  
P.O. Box 190  
Youngsville, NC 27596  
Phone: (919) 556-5073

## **COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Franklin County Government  
<http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/>

### **County Manager**

Chris Coudriet  
113 Market Street  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-5994

## **County Commissioners**

### *District 1 - Louisburg*

Sidney E. Dunston  
129 George Leonard Rd.  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-7855

### *District 2 - Franklinton*

Penny McGhee-Young  
421 Long Mill Road  
Franklinton, NC 27525  
Phone: (919) 494-2999

### *District 3 - Epsom- Centerville*

Robert L. Swanson  
1669 White Level Rd.  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 853-3395

### *District 4 - Bunn, Pilot*

Bob Winters  
195 Black Cloud Drive  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
(252) 478-4717

### *District 5 - Youngsville*

Don Lancaster  
75 Remington Court  
Youngsville, NC 27596  
Phone: (919) 556-6577

### *District 6 - At - Large*

Harry L. Foy, Jr.  
P.O. Box 1270  
Spring Hope, NC 27882  
Phone: (919) 269-0299

### *District 7 - At - Large*

Lynwood D. Buffaloe  
165 Bridges Farm Rd.  
Youngsville, NC 27596  
Phone: (919) 556-2477

**STATE REPRESENTATIVES**

*Senate Member*

Doug Berger  
622 Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925  
Phone: (919) 715-8363  
Email: DougB@ncleg.net

*House of Representatives Member*

Lucy T. Allen  
1307 Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096  
Phone: (919) 733-5860  
Website: [www.lucyallen.com/hta.htm](http://www.lucyallen.com/hta.htm)

**ECONOMICS**

**Economic Development Commission**

Ronnie Goswick, Director  
112-D Wheaton Dr.  
Youngsville, NC 27596  
Phone: (919) 554-1863  
Website: <http://www.franklinedc.com/>

**Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce**

112 East Nash Street  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-3056  
Website: <http://www.franklin-chamber.org>

**HEALTH**

**Franklin County Health Department**

107 Industrial Drive, Suite C  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-8110  
<http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/health/index.html>

**Franklin Regional Medical Center**

100 Hospital Drive  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-5131  
Website: <http://franklinregionalmedicalctr.com/>

**MENTAL HEALTH**

**Five County Mental Health**

24-hour help line: 1-877-619-3761  
Website: [www.fivecountymha.org](http://www.fivecountymha.org)

**RECREATION**

**Franklin County Boys & Girls Club**

Phone: (919) 496-1696  
Website: [www.bgcfranklin.org](http://www.bgcfranklin.org)

**Franklinton Senior Center**

602 East Mason Street  
Franklinton, NC 27525  
Phone: (919) 494-5611

**Louisburg Senior Center**

127 Shannon Village  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-1131

**Parks and Recreation**

62 West River Road  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
Phone: (919) 496-6624  
<http://www.co.franklin.nc.us/docs/parks/index.html>

**Youth 4-H**

Phone: (919) 496-3344  
Website: <http://franklin.ces.ncsu.edu>

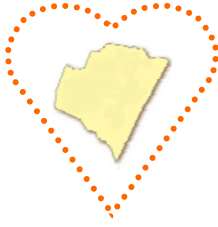
**TRANSPORTATION**

**KARTS (Kerr Area Transit Systems)**

943 West Andrews Ave  
Henderson, NC 27536  
Phone: (252) 438-2573  
Email: [dcox@KARTSNC.com](mailto:dcox@KARTSNC.com)

**North Carolina Public Transportation Association**

PO Box 33318  
Raleigh, NC 27636  
Phone: (919) 259-8009  
Email: [ncpta@nctransit.org](mailto:ncpta@nctransit.org)  
Website: <http://www.nctransit.org/index.html>



**One Community, One Voice:  
The Franklin County Community Forum  
April 24, 2007**

Please fill out the following evaluation and turn it in before you leave. Thank you for your participation.

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
1. The presentation by the student team was informative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The small group format was an effective way to foster dialogue, share ideas, and create action steps.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The report back after the small group discussions was informative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I feel that this gathering has provided me with opportunities to become more involved in Franklin County.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I feel that my voice was represented here today.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I plan to participate in following up on the action steps formulated during the forum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. How did you hear about this event? <input type="checkbox"/> Invitation from student team <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer <input type="checkbox"/> Radio <input type="checkbox"/> Friend/family/coworker <input type="checkbox"/> Other	8. Have you been to a community forum before? Yes                      No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Have you been interviewed by the student team? Yes                      No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
10. What were the best things about this forum?					
11. What things could have made this forum better?					
Other Comments:					