



## Business Leadership Network

### Network News and Notes

September 2017



*At the University of Iowa College of Public Health, we understand that our work is very place based; it happens out in the "real world" where people live and work. We also recognize the mutual benefits that might come about through collaborative relationships with communities and businesses around the state. We invite you to keep in touch with us through these quarterly messages and through our initiatives around the state.*

- Edith Parker, Professor and Head, Department of Community and Behavioral Health

### BLN Fall Community Events



The Business Leadership Network will be coming to **Clarinda, IA on Wednesday, October 11th**. Join us for a community conversation with Paul Gilbert, assistant professor at the UI College of Public Health, on the possibilities of overcoming alcohol addiction without formal treatment. The discussion will focus on what recovery means to people, why many choose to forego treatment, and the strategies they use to change alcohol use.

A second event may be held this fall. The Business Leadership Network is looking to areas of the state where we have not previously held community forums.

### Funding Opportunity - BLN Community Grants



The UI College of Public Health Business Leadership Network is seeking proposals for 2018 community public health projects in Iowa. Nonprofit organizations or local government entities located within the state of Iowa are eligible to apply. Up to six cash grant awards of up to \$3,000 each will be made to recipients. For full details, download the [request for proposals](#).

Past grant cycles have included projects focused on enhancing food security for children, bringing awareness to mental health issues through high school student theatrical performances, keeping seniors with mobility concerns healthy, and making healthy eating easier for families living in poverty.

## LGBTQ Workplace Culture Summit



One Iowa will host two all-day summits (one in central Iowa and one in eastern Iowa) to provide resources for employers and LGBTQ employees to help them create safe and inclusive workplaces. Employers will learn about ways to improve their policies and retain LGBTQ talent, while LGBTQ employees will learn about their rights and strategies for creating effective LGBTQ employee resource groups. For more information:

[Tuesday, October 10](#) – Des Moines, IA

[Thursday, October 26](#) - Coralville, IA

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## BLN Community Grant Spotlight



### **Carry on Bags, Fairfield**

The *Greatest Impact* project seeks to determine the most nutritional and effective food items for their program that aims to provide food security for children outside of school hours. Parents of children in the program have been surveyed and items in the bags of food that are distributed weekly have been adjusted accordingly. One of the recent changes has been the addition of milk vouchers that participants are able to redeem at Hy-Vee.

One Fairfield elementary teacher remarked that the children in her class, who previously came to school hungry, are definitely benefiting from the program. “It is obvious that without the program, some of my students would go without proper nutrition over the weekend,” she said.



### **Athletic for Education and Success, Fort Dodge**

The *One Step Further* project aims to provide low-income, at-risk and under-served adults and families safe and affordable fitness and social activities to promote healthy choices and help fight obesity and substance abuse.

Family exercise programs are now offered for single mothers who want to exercise though cannot afford childcare. Children can exercise with their parents or join other simultaneous youth-focused activities. Participants, particularly those who are in alcohol recovery, have found the programs to be vital for their mental as well as physical health.

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## The UI College of Public Health in the News

### **UI researchers find brain region that affects drug use habits**

University of Iowa researchers have identified a brain region involved in cocaine addiction. The findings could lead to targeted drugs or improved behavioral treatments for substance addiction, including opioid dependency. The research team included CPH graduate student Wensday Worth.

### **Wright discusses the proposed ACA stopgap, guardrails, and the 'spirit of the waiver'**

Brad Wright, CPH assistant professor of health management and policy, recently answered questions about Iowa's proposed stopgap measure that would set up reinsurance as well as offer both age- and income-based tax credits.

### **UI project uncovers correlation between housing and health**

The UI College of Public Health is working with the city of Iowa City to develop a plan to improve health in some neighborhoods. The team is narrowing their focus to three neighborhoods where 20 percent of residents in a recent survey indicated they are diagnosed with asthma.

### **"Head to toe" care for high users of the health care system seeks to reduce ER usage**

Population health management uses data to target high users of the health care system. Once identified, health care providers work to treat the individual's medical needs as well as his or her social needs. To do so, said Keith Mueller, interim dean of the UI College of Public Health, health care providers have to go outside the four walls of a clinic and work collaboratively with agencies to address a person's social determinants of health.

### **UI study finds Medicaid and hospitals pick up the bill for majority of gunshot victims**

Hospitalization costs associated with gun injuries in the U.S. exceeded \$622 million a year, according to a new study by the UI College of Public Health. "These findings demonstrate the high health care cost burden of firearm injuries," says Corinne Peek-Asa, professor of environmental and occupational health in the UI College of Public Health. "Efforts to prevent these injuries, particularly assaults and injuries caused by handguns, could reduce this cost burden."

### **Junk food may increase cancer risk in healthy weight women**

A recent study found that a diet high in energy dense foods, such as cookies, chocolate, and pizza, may increase the risk of certain cancers in postmenopausal women, specifically in those of a healthy weight. This suggests that having a healthy weight does not necessarily protect against cancer risk. The research team included Linda Snetselaar, CPH professor of epidemiology.

Questions or comments? Contact:

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