

The Bylaws of the Washington County Health Coalition

Article I: Name

The name of the organization is The Washington County Health Coalition.

Article II: Purpose

The Washington County Health Coalition will be a multisector collaboration. It will be made up of: community stakeholders, people affected directly as well as indirectly with our shared problems as well as goals, and people who sometimes have a limited voice in decision making, all working together towards building a healthier community.

Article III: Guiding Principles

In support of the Washington County Health Coalitions Mission, Vision and Purpose, the coalition believes in the following principles:

- Universal access to health care.
- Promoting Health services that are community-based, preventative and culturally appropriate.
- Creating partnerships with public, private and community-based stakeholders, decision makers, and the public regarding health issues.
- Clear and open communication with all stakeholders to facilitate mutual goals and objectives.
- Both the right and responsibilities of individuals to participate on decisions affecting their own health.
- Encouraging creative approaches to health issues.
- Advocating for and promoting health intervention strategies which are based on sound scientific principles.
- Recognizing the value and strengths of the current community health care system.
- Accomplishing our mission through teamwork and continuous improvement.

Article IV: Eligibility

The coalition shall be open to any agency, organization or individual that demonstrates an affirmative interest and concern to improve the health of Washington County Residents.

Membership in the coalition shall be extended to essential partner agencies such as but not limited to:

- Washington County Health Department - Public Health
- Washington County Memorial Hospital
- Washington County Ambulance
- Great Mines Health Center
- Southeast Missouri Community Treatment Center
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Health Care Providers, Specialty Health Care Providers and Services

The coalition shall recognize other agencies in our community as “Trusted Partners”. Trusted Partners are those who are encouraged to attend meetings, receive copies of agendas and minutes, participate in trainings and exercises and are eligible to vote.

Trusted Partner Agencies such as but not limited to:

- Division of Family Services
- Labs
- Pharmacies
- Food Pantry
- Ministerial Alliance
- Washington County Partnership
- City, County and State Law Officials
- City, County and State Emergency Service Officials
- City, County and State Political Agencies
- Division of Family Services
- County Wide School Districts
- Food Pantries
- Ministerial Alliance
- Washington County Handicap Center
- Disabled Citizens Alliance

Members of the Washington County Health Coalition must (a) have an interest in the health of Washington County and subscribe to the Health Coalition's mission statement (b) agree to participate in a bi-annual strategic planning session of the coalition that sets goals, objectives, and outcome measures (c) agrees to participate actively on at least one committee as needed (d) agree to attend 75% of the scheduled meetings.

Any member can be removed by a vote of 2/3 of the voting membership present at the scheduled official meeting. The Oversight committee will give 30 days' notice of such a vote and specify the reasons for such action.

The regular meetings shall be held bi monthly at a minimum on the second Thursday of the month unless modified by the Chair. Each meeting shall follow an agenda established by the chair in consultation with the Steering Committee which shall be made available to the general membership at least 5 business days in advance of the meeting. Minutes of the meetings shall be taken by the Secretary and be retained for a period of not less than 2 years.

Voting:

Voting is restricted to active coalition organizations defined as those vested organizations who have attended at least 75% of the meetings annually. Each organization gets one vote. A member of each voting organization must be present to vote. Actions in a meeting shall be determined by a simple majority vote.

Article V: Committees

Steering Committee:

This group is made up of a collaborative group of Health Agency Directors:

- Washington County Memorial Hospital
- Washington County Health Department
- Great Mines Health Center
- Washington County Ambulance
- Washington County Partnership

The Health Coalition shall submit meeting minutes and agendas to this Steering committee after each meeting. The Health Coalition will look to this steering committee for recommendations.

Officers:

The Health Coalition shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair and a Secretary

The Chair:

The Chair shall preside at coalition meetings, administer the operation policies established by the coalition and represent the coalition at public events as necessary. The Chair shall also attend or be represented at the Steering Committee meetings for direction and input on behalf of the Health Coalition.

The Vice Chair:

The Vice Chair shall serve as the Chair in the absence or under the Chair's direction.

The Secretary:

The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of any coalition meetings and arrange for their distribution, give notice of meetings and keep a current list of members and their contact information and meeting sign in sheets.

General Meeting Conditions:

Reports of committee activities and Steering Committee meetings should be given. The coalition may establish additional committees, task force or action teams for the purpose of supporting the mission and purpose of the Washington County Health Coalition.

Article VI: Amendments

The Steering Committee may recommend alterations, amendments, repeal or add provisions of the Bylaws, or make additional provisions to the Bylaws, provided that the voting membership shall be notified in advance of any intent to review the Bylaws and that amendments proposed for adoption are circulated by the Steering Committee at least ten days in advance. Alterations, amendments, repeals, or additions to the Bylaws shall be adopted by the affirmative majority vote of the voting membership.