



QCHI MARKS A MILESTONE

20 YEARS OF HELPING TO CREATE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

A 20-year-old vision to create a healthy community for all Quad Citizens continues to advance through the unique collaboration of the Quad City Health Initiative (QCHI). On October 30th, 2019, QCHI formally celebrated its history and future, which is rooted in a shared understanding that all sectors of our community-- healthcare, public health, education, government, non-profits, philanthropy, and business--have a role to play in improving our community's health. The celebration recognized the important contributions of Board members, sponsors, volunteers and community partners who all influence QCHI's success.

At the breakfast event, QCHI was honored to hear from speakers Mr. Gerd Clabaugh, Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health and Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. The speakers were introduced by local public health leaders, Edward Rivers, Director of Scott County Health Department and Nita Ludwig, Administrator, Rock Island County Health Department. Both Iowa and Illinois public health directors noted how QCHI continues to foster collaboration and innovation. The speakers also highlighted QCHI's unique bi-state perspective on community health improvement.



L-R Nita Ludwig, Rock Island County Health Department; Gerd Clabaugh, Iowa Department of Public Health; Edward Rivers, Scott County Health Department; and Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Illinois Department of Public Health



L-R Hal Wagher, Genesis Health System and Daniel Joiner, UnityPoint Health - Trinity

The sustained support of QCHI's Founding Sponsors, Genesis Health System and UnityPoint Health-Trinity, has been instrumental to QCHI's success. In addition to funding, the health systems have provided leadership, staff support and in-kind services. Representatives from each health system accepted thank you awards and also spoke at the event.

"QCHI has worked tirelessly to bring experts together on specific health topics," said Daniel Joiner, Director of Community Engagement for UnityPoint Health-Trinity. Hal Wagher, Chief Compliance & Enterprise Risk Officer at Genesis Health System also spoke of the important way QCHI consistently brings the health systems and partners to

the same table. "[QCHI] is the model," admitted Wagher. "It is really the best practice for community health."

From the beginning, QCHI’s work has been informed by comprehensive, community health assessments that have helped leaders and community members select and prioritize community health issues. Over the past two decades, QCHI has addressed topics such as healthy eating & active living, mental health, tobacco use, and oral health care access. Notably, the Be Healthy QC project led to the development of more Safe Routes to School, a focus on school wellness and the development of QCTrails.org, a one-stop resource for information on non-motorized trails across our region.



Mike Oberhaus, Quad Cities Chamber

“QCHI’s work is everlasting,” says Mike Oberhaus, QCHI Board Chair and Vice President of Finance & Administration for the Quad Cities Chamber. “What we do is a heavy lift. It takes us all and will require us to continue to enlarge our sphere of partners.”



During the celebration, QCHI also announced the latest recipient of the Dr. Richard "Bud" Phillis Healthy Community Leadership Award which was named in honor of QCHI's founding Board Chair. Bud Phillis assisted Mike Oberhaus in presenting the award to current Board member Decker Ploehn. Decker served as QCHI's Board Chair from 2016-2017 and is also the City Administrator for Bettendorf.

L-R Dr. Richard "Bud" Phillis, QCHI Founding Board Chair; Decker Ploehn, City of Bettendorf

"QCHI facilitates collaborative action on health and that requires exceptional leadership," says Nicole Carkner, QCHI Executive Director. "Decker works fluently across sectors with a strong commitment to bettering our community. His expertise has helped to guide the QCHI partnership and we're grateful for his contributions."

Tom Bowman, QCHI Vice Chair and CEO of Community Health Care, Inc. noted the great potential for QCHI's next 20 years. "This is the kind of work that's going to help us meet challenges in health care and create a wellness mindset," says Bowman. "We can create a healthier Quad Cities based on the work we do together."

For more information on how *you* can Contribute Collaborate & Connect with QCHI, please reach out to us at quadcityhealthinitiative@gmail.com.



Tom Bowman, Community Health Care, Inc.