



Hennepin - University Partnership Quarterly Update

From Commissioner Jan Callison's Office

The Hennepin-University Partnership (HUP) is supported by the Hennepin County Board and the University of Minnesota. On behalf of the County Board, I've accepted a role as the Board lead, responsible for providing guidance and monitoring the progress of this important and unique initiative. This update is intended to communicate within Hennepin about HUP activities and outcomes. For additional information, please contact Kathie Doty at kdoty@umn.edu or me at janis.callison@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Citizen Professional Project Kicks Off

The first cohort of Hennepin County staff chosen for the Citizen Professional Project will begin meeting this month. The staff will meet twice a month with Dr. Bill Doherty and Dr. Tai Mendenhall of the University of Minnesota's Citizen Professional Center. Over the past decade the Center has developed a way to change how health care and human services professionals approach citizen engagement. A key strategy is to train professionals to unlearn the traditional top-down model of service delivery and develop the public skills of democratic engagement with other citizens to solve community



Professors Bill Doherty and Tai Mendenhall, of the Citizen Professional Center

problems. In addition to learning the theory and practice of Citizen Professional Model, each professional will plan and implement a project with a local community group on a priority issue to that community and to Hennepin County.

Six Hennepin County staff are participating in the project and are from several departments: HSPHD; Research, Planning and Development; Corrections; and the Library.

For more information on the Citizen Professional Center, visit: www.cehd.umn.edu/cpc

Using "Design Thinking" to Address Public Policy Issues

In April, the HUP convened a meeting with representatives from the College of Design, the Humphrey Institute and several Hennepin County departments. Dean Tom Fisher, along with Senior Fellow Steve Kelley from the Humphrey Institute's Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy presented on how local government might use "design thinking" as a tool. Design thinking involves visual thinking, observation, prototypes, and charrettes to approach a problem or project. Designers have been traditionally involved in how an object looks or functions. The new approach of using design as a way to address social issues can be adopted by organiza-

tions like local government as a way to tackle the important work of serving clients and improving lives. Hennepin County's Property Services department recently met with the College of Design staff to build upon efforts to explore how the County's many waiting rooms might be used as interactive learning environments for families with young children. This is just one of the many ways the HUP envisions a partnership between the County and the College of Design to benefit both institutions.

For more information about design thinking visit: <http://z.umn.edu/design>

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The Latest

Evaluation the Human Services and Public Health (HSPHD) Client Services Delivery Model (CSDM)



Clients at Century Plaza

The HUP has been working with HSPHD to plan for an evaluation of the new Client Service Delivery model focusing on how the CSDM and regionalization efforts will impact client outcomes. HSPHD hopes to collaborate with University of Minnesota faculty to examine how clients are experiencing the new model and its effectiveness in delivering services. In late May, HSPHD staff will meet with faculty

from various schools and departments to explain the model and talk about ways the faculty could be involved with research and evaluation. Faculty from the School of Public Health, Social Work, the Humphrey Institute and the Children, Youth and Family Consortium will be in attendance.

Read more about the Client Service Delivery Model here: <http://z.umn.edu/hsphd>

Master Cooperative Agreement Expected to Be Renewed this Summer

The HUP has been working with County and University staff over the past year to update and refine the Master Cooperative Agreement (MCA), which simplifies the contracting process by allowing work orders to be used under an umbrella agreement. The MCA has been in place since August 2007 and is up for renewal this

summer. By reviewing the document and working to further clarify and streamline processes, the MCA should facilitate collaborative projects between the County and the University of Minnesota. MCA materials can be found online here: www.umn.edu/hup/collaborate/agreement.html

University Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC) Open House Held on May 12



UROC building in North Minneapolis

The University's Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC) held an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 12th. UROC is located at the intersection of Penn Avenue and Plymouth Avenue in North Minneapolis. The building will house

several University programs that work in partnership with community members to address issues facing urban communities. *Commissioner Mark Stenglein* was a speaker at this event and remarked about the importance of working with the community to learn from their wealth of knowledge and resources.

Hennepin-University Partnership Focus Areas

Educational Achievement

Increasing high school graduation rates is considered one of the most effective ways to improve the wellbeing of the community.

Major public policy question: What are the most effective ways for the County to influence high school graduation rates?

There are presently three ways the County and the University are collaborating to support the County's AGRAD initiative:

- The County Attorney's Be@school truancy prevention program is currently being evaluated by the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW).
- Hennepin County's Research, Planning and Development Department has been working with U of M and Augsburg graduate research assistants to do case reviews from various departments in order to ana-

lyze education goals. The students have done hundreds of case reviews and interviews, and are working on the final report .

- Four University faculty are on the A-GRAD Policy Advisory Board: Co-chair Heidi Barajas (College of Education and Human Development Associate Dean), Geoff Maruyama (Associate Vice President of System Academic Administration), Zha Blong Xiong (Family Social Science Associate Professor) and Dale Blyth (Center for 4-H Youth Development Director)



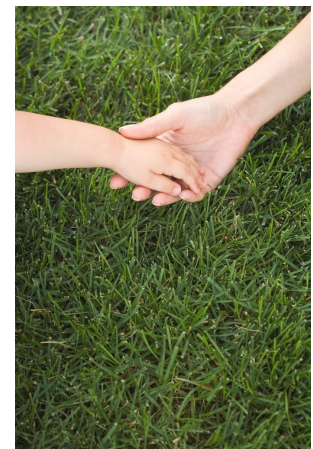
Child Well-Being

Programs for children whose parents cannot care for them sometimes do not achieve the goal of providing a stable and secure place for them to thrive.

Major public policy question: How can the County increase successful outcomes for children placed in foster care?

PhD student Annette Semanchin has been working with the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) and Deborah Huskins from Human Services and Public Health. She has completed a report on re-entry to foster care and will

be producing two more reports: (1) adoption disruptions and (2) systems of care working with long-term foster care youth transitioning to adulthood. The reports are due in May and July, respectively. Staff will then review findings and determine next steps.



Impacts of the Baby Boomer Age Wave

Demographics are changing as the "baby boomers" grow older and have changing needs and preferences.

Major public policy questions: What are the implications of the wave of aging boomers on County services and operations? And for the University?

A meeting was held in April to review a potential research agenda. Hennepin County department heads from Housing, Community Works and Transit; Research, Planning and Development; the Library; and Human Services and Public Health met with faculty from the College of Design and the Sociology Department. Their research will start this summer and will include: a literature search on factors that influence older adults to remain in their

communities as well as the housing and community preferences of Boomers; demographic analysis and projections of trends in housing in Hennepin County; and focus groups and informational questionnaires to assess the determinants of choices and constraints and how these connect to the dynamics of residential choice and mobility as people move into older adulthood. This research will be conducted over the next 6–12 months.





Ongoing Collaborations

Transitway Impacts Research Program (TIRP) forum connects research results, future directions

Looking toward the future of public transportation in the Twin Cities region, researchers and policymakers came together on the U of M campus on March 26 to discuss the impacts of transitways and prospects for future development. The TIRP was launched in 2006 through the HUP as a collaboration between the University and Hennepin County and the program has since expanded to include a wide range of stakeholders representing regional organizations, local governments, and regulatory agencies. The TIRP is intended to improve decision making for transitway expansion by creating new knowledge, educating stakeholders, and fostering collaboration between government and academia.



Commissioner Peter McLaughlin participated in the final panel of the half-day session which was moderated by emeritus professor of geography John Adams and also included Metro Transit general manager Brian Lamb, St. Paul council member Russ Stark, and Minnesota state representative Alice Hausman. Commissioner McLaughlin outlined inequities in investment patterns of the 1970s and 1980s, concluding that the success of the Hiawatha LRT line is spurring state government to pay more attention to integrating transit infrastructure and land use.

Research on Ending Homelessness

Lisa Thornquist from the County’s Office to End Homelessness has been working with faculty and graduate students over the past semester. Two different capstone class projects reported out on their research at events held in May, and reports on their work are available:

- Heading Home Hennepin: An Analysis of Shelter Use and Intervention Points (Professor Maria Hanratty’s class)
- Report on Heading Home Hennepin as a Collaborative Model (Professor Melissa Stone’s class)

(Please email Sara Bielawski at biel0032@umn.edu for copies)

In the Concept Phase

Environmental Services Evaluating Impact Of Environmental Response Fund Grants

Staff from Environmental Services have met with University faculty from several University schools and departments including the School of Public Health, Department of Geography, Department of Applied Economics and Department of Natural Resources. Environmental Services needs to evaluate the impacts of their Environmental Response Fund grants, which are awarded to assess and clean up contaminated sites. Environmental Services will be working with a student from Public Health who can assist in the evaluation. The report that student generates will be used to lobby for additional funding for the Environmental Response Fund during the 2011 legislative session.

Other Updates

Jamie Halpern and Team Receive Humphrey Institute Local Government Innovation Award

The Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center nominated the Hennepin County School Mental Health Program for the Humphrey Institute’s Local Government Innovation Award. Jamie Halpern and his team from Human Services and Public Health, in collaboration with public school districts and non-profit agencies, created this program to improve service delivery in children's mental health. Mr. Halpern was invited to speak on behalf of the program partners at an award ceremony held on April 7th. Congratulations on receiving this well-deserved recognition!

Get to Know the University

Priscilla Gibson, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work.

Interest areas: culturally sensitive services to African American families, African American grandmothers as kinship care providers, and families with children who have developmental delays. Current research: service utilization— stories of African American grandmother caregivers and service providers; raising a vulnerable generation; experiences of African American grandmother caregivers in preparing grandchildren to succeed in the 21st century; and the Hennepin County caregiver-child matching tool project.



Download Dr. Gibson’s PowerPoint from HUP’s Noontime Forum: http://www1.umn.edu/hup/collaborate/lunch_series.html