



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH IN HARTFORD DIALOGUE

Hartford, Connecticut (July 17, 2013) In an effort to address the priority health needs in the Hartford community, Hartford Health and Human Services Department in partnership with the City of Hartford and Hartford Public Library is sponsoring *Health in Hartford Dialogue* on Wednesday, July 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm and on Monday, July 29th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Hartford Public Library, 500 Main, Hartford.

This program is part of the City of Hartford's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Hartford residents are invited to come to the library and participate in discussions about their health concerns and what needs to be done to address them. Topics include improvements that would influence quality of life in the community and risky behaviors that have the greatest impact on overall health in the community. This program is open to the public.

"A community health improvement plan is a long-term, systematic effort to address important public health issues based on findings from community health assessment activities and inputs from our residents," said Dr. Raul Pino, Director of Hartford of Health and Human Services Department. "It is crucial that we engage our residents in the process for an effective health improvement plan to prioritize health needs and address the root causes of those problems. These dialogues will be a great opportunity for residents in our community to share their views and experiences and suggest strategies for action."

The CHIP project will take nearly 18 months from the start of the assessment to the completion of the improvement plan. Effective community health improvement requires constantly refining efforts to respond to community conditions. Public health work is always evolving as public health priorities shift over time.

“For many reasons, urban communities like Hartford experience worse health outcomes when compared to our suburban neighbors,” said Tiana Hercules, Program Director in the Mayor’s office. “Lending your voice as a resident and important stakeholder in our community is one sure way to help in the fight against racial and ethnic health disparities. Please come and share your thoughts on what should be Hartford’s community health priorities”

Those residents interested in participating are encouraged to contact Health and Human Services Department at 860-757-4793 or email healthyhartfordhhs@hartford.gov . This program is sponsored by Hartford Health and Human Services Department in partnership with the City of Hartford and Hartford Public Library.

About Hartford Health and Human Services

Hartford Health and Human Services’ mission is to protect the well-being of the people in Hartford, to promote an environment conducive to healthy lifestyles, and to prevent adverse health outcomes; whenever possible, employ strategies, policies and interventions through community partnerships to reduce health disparities.

About [Hartford Public Library](#)

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 865,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. According to a recent editorial in *The Hartford Courant*, “Indeed, the Library has established itself as the center of the community in Hartford.” To learn more about the library, please see www.hplct.org.