

## **Process for State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan**

In the spring of 2016 as part of its preparation for applying to the national Public Health Accreditation board, the Division of Public Health convened a broad group of partners to do a State Health Assessment. The group met 3 times to review the data and at each of the first 2 meetings, identified additional data they wanted to see. Once the data review and discussion of health issues was completed, the team was asked to identify their 3 – 5 top priorities via a “voting with dots” methodology. Because of the results of the voting (i.e., the differences in numbers of votes between the top 3, 4 and 5), they decided on 5 priorities:

Obesity, Nutrition and Physical Activity

Unintended Pregnancy

Tobacco Use, including e-cigarettes

Infant Mortality/Perinatal Health

Access to Care

Following that, teams of DPH and partners were identified to develop an Improvement Plan for each of the priority areas. The partners vary by priority, but include other State Departments; other division in DHHS; NCLHD (Buck Wilson serves on Unintended Pregnancy and Tobacco Use Teams); NC Medical, Pediatric and Dental Societies; the Academy of Family Physicians; NC Child; the March of Dimes; the American Lung Association; Youth Empowered solutions; the NC Alliance for Health; NCPHA; a health leader at Camp Lejeune; and the NC Hospital Association.

All Teams have identified their objectives and where they will obtain baseline data as well as data on progress, and are in the process of identifying activities that DPH and its partners are already doing that target the objectives. The final step will be to look at that information, see if there are gaps and if so, determining what activity by what organization will fill that gap.