Anchor Institutions and Community Health: the impacts of hospitals as neighbors

Brookwood Alliance : Atlanta : December 11, 2007
Georgia Tech Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development
Georgia Tech’s Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development
About the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development

**A VISION** to help communities achieve a sustainable, equitable, superior quality of life through the generation of new knowledge.

**A MISSION** to the study, disseminate and implement ideas and technology that foster quality growth through improved theory and practice.
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Incremental Urbanism: AFTER

10 Emerging Megaregions

The BeltLine Health Impact Assessment
Healthy Housing:
Forging the Economic and Empirical Foundation

Georgia Coast 2030:
Population Projections for the 10-county Coastal Region

A Time for Leadership:
Growth Management and Florida 2060

About CQGRD

What we do: ASSISTANCE
Health and the Built Environment
Health is “a state of complete physical, social and mental well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Furthermore, health is the ability of an individual or group “to identify and to realize aspirations, to satisfy needs, and to change or cope with the environment.”

1948 World Health Organization Constitution and the 1986 Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion
Factors that affect health

The BeltLine and Health

Health and the Built Environment

- Respiratory illness, some cancers, low birth weight, infectious disease, mental health
- Injuries, death, stress, physical inactivity, hypertension
- Social Capital
- Mental health, reinforcing healthy lifestyles, faster recovery from illness, better cardiovascular health
- Physical Activity
- Cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, some cancers, osteoporosis, stroke, mental health, injury, overall well-being
- Access
- Diabetes, obesity, asthma, cardiovascular disease, some cancers, stroke, hypertension, mental health

Built Environment
Historic focus on reducing harmful exposures. **Recent research is exploring the link between the built environment and lifestyle.**

Health Impact Assessment
Collection of procedures and tools by which projects, policies, and programs can be evaluated based on their potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.

Gothenburg Consensus, 1999
An HIA does NOT make decisions.

- It provides information in a clear and transparent way for decision makers.

- Raises awareness of the relationship between health and projects/policies/programs.

- Provides guidance to improve and maintain the health and reduce health inequalities.

- At its best, an HIA leads to better informed decisions that take health impacts into account.
- **Screening:** is an HIA necessary?
- **Scoping:** possible consequences, boundaries, management
- **Appraisal/Assessment:** nature and magnitude, affected population
- **Decision Making:** reporting results to decision makers
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** review affects of HIA
Piedmont Hospital
Health Impact Assessment
Piedmont Hospital HIA

About: a retrospective HIA of Piedmont Hospital on the surrounding neighborhoods; a prospective HIA of how future plans can change hospital impacts

Team: CQGRD and CDC

Policy Makers: City of Atlanta, Piedmont Hospital, Fulton County, Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta Regional Commission, MARTA transit agency, BeltLine, Inc.

Funding: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Steps

- Community and stakeholder involvement
- Inventory of existing conditions
- Assessment of existing health-related impacts of hospital on neighborhoods
- Assessment of implications of changes to area
- Recommendations
- Report findings
Hospitals as Neighbors HIA

- Understanding the enormous regional health benefits of the hospital versus the localized health disbenefits
- Isolating hospital impacts in a complex urban environment
- Dealing with constant change
- Mobilizing policy makers
Hospitals as Neighbors HIA

- **Traffic**
  - Potential Impacts: injury, physical activity, air quality, stress, noise, sense of community

- **Connectivity and Access** (parks, trails, destinations)
  - Potential Impacts: physical activity, sense of community, healthy foods

- **Access to Opportunity** (jobs, health care, health information, housing)
  - Potential Impacts: nutrition, livelihood, health preservation, shelter

- **Others?**
Next Steps?

Georgia Tech’s
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