

Notes from Chat

CDC's working definition of Sustainability

Pulled from [The CDC's Healthy Communities Program Sustainability Guide](#) "A community's ongoing capacity and resolve to work together to establish, advance, and maintain effective strategies that continuously improve health and quality of life for all"

Discuss:

- What are your first reactions to this definition?
- What do you like about it?
- What do you feel is missing?
- Is there anything you would like to change or add?

Comments

- add "even with changing or discontinuation of funding sources"
- partnerships is something that is missing--sustainability is not something you can do on your own
- I like the words ongoing capacity, we often talk about this as we enter communities and provide funding but worry if we left the funds would make it not sustainable
- I like that it focuses on the community's capacity
- "ongoing" - not a destination

Speaker Bios

Kim Prewitt manages the Sustainability projects for the Center for Public Health Systems Science at Washington University in St. Louis. She facilitates workshops and webinars for public health, clinical care, and social service programs throughout the United States on how to assess and plan for sustainability. She also works with groups to administer the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool (PSAT) and the Clinical Sustainability Assessment Tool (CSAT), collects and analyzes data related to sustainability planning and assessment, and provides technical assistance and training for sustaintool.org.

Valerie Howard has over thirty years of experience overseeing state, federal and foundation funded programs related to health, mental health and social services. As assistant bureau chief of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Bureau of Community Health and Wellness, Valerie manages the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program working to improve health by promoting and supporting tobacco-free environments and lifestyles by preventing and reducing tobacco use and exposure. She also provides leadership to the Building Communities of

Health Program, which partners with local agencies and communities to reduce chronic disease and health inequities. Valerie worked with the Missouri Department of Mental Health on strategies to prevent and reduce substance use and promote mental health, as well as, with the Department of Social Services where she oversaw the eligibility for the state's Food Stamp, TANF, and Medicaid Programs, in addition to other federal programs aimed at reducing poverty and homelessness. Her career has focused on helping individuals and communities achieve optimal health, wellness and self-sufficiency through providing tools and opportunities to assist those efforts. Valerie has a Master's of Social Work degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia, has been married for 31 years and has two beautiful children

Brain Dump: Promising practices in Various Domains of Sustainability

