

**Assurance:** Assurance means that high quality services, including personal health services, which are needed for the protection to the community are available and accessible to all persons. Each community should receive proper consideration in the allocation of federal, state, and local funds for health. Each community should be informed about how to obtain public health services and/or comply with health requirements.

In summary, community-based health planning is a process, which assists local citizens in their respective communities to do the following:

- **Identifying the community's health care needs.**
- **Examine the social, economic, and political realities affecting the local delivery of health care.**
- **Determine what the community can realistically achieve in a health care system to meet their needs.**
- **Develop and mobilize an action plan based on analysis for the community.**

The end result of the process should answer three questions for the community:

Where is the community now?  
Where does the community want to be?  
How will it get there?

The Tennessee Department of Health is committed to assisting communities throughout our state in finding the answers to these questions via the Community Diagnosis process. The following is the Pickett County Community Diagnosis Document, which details the process the Pickett County community utilized to assess its strength, weaknesses, and gaps in resources. A very thorough analysis of health statistical data, community surveys, resources, and key leaders perception of Pickett County's health care status facing the community is presented in document form to be utilized as a baseline document for public relations, grant applications, and as a foundation of the work plan for the future.

## Summary

The Pickett County Health Council was first formed in January 1997 by the Tennessee Department of Health Community Development Staff with an initial group of community leaders which consisted of the County Executive, the local mayor, School Superintendent, U.T. Agriculture Extension agency, and the local County Health Department Director. The first initial council meeting took place in January 1997 with approximately 19 community leaders. The Mayor, Mr. Paul Jordan, was elected chair and has remained extremely active in the Community Diagnosis process. He exemplifies the meaning of leadership within a community and constantly seeks to empower the Pickett County Council with his enthusiasm and support. Currently the council has grown to over 53 community leaders who remain actively involved with the issues surrounding Pickett County. The council consists of various community leaders such as the town mayor, county executive, school superintendent, industry representation, health