

## **I. The Community Wellness Council of Rutherford County - Introduction**



The Community Wellness Council of Rutherford County, which actually began as the Rutherford County Health Council, was developed after a meeting between Tennessee Department of Health Community Development Staff and local county officials. The County's Chamber of Commerce, County Executive, County Planning Department, and County Health Department all collaborated in June of 1996 to develop a list of potential council members. Prospective members were contacted and invited to a meeting to be held July 9. At this meeting, prospective members were introduced to the "Community Diagnosis" process and to the roles and responsibilities of the newly formed Rutherford County Health Council. A list of current members is included as "Attachment A". It is important to note that this list does not represent the initial membership, as a result of adding and deleting members throughout the existence of the Council.

During early meetings of the Council, the group developed a mission statement:

"To help the perpetual improvement of the health status of Rutherford County residents by promoting a health-conscious county, identifying priorities, establishing goals, and determining courses of action to improve the health status of the community. We will do this on an ongoing basis using the Community Diagnosis Process".

The Council has met monthly, up until January of 1998. The meeting schedule has now been changed to reflect a quarterly meeting schedule, with meetings held on the first Tuesday of the first month in each quarter (i.e. January, April, July, October). Meetings are open to the public from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Typically meetings are held at the Rutherford County Health Department.

Throughout the course of the Council's existence, it was unanimously decided that the Council change its name from the Rutherford County Health Council, to the Community Wellness Council of Rutherford Council to more closely reflect the purpose and activities of the Council. The Council has also established bylaws, and incorporated as a 501C3 nonprofit entity, so that they might apply for grant monies on behalf of the Council. The Bylaws and Charter of the Council are included as "Attachment B". According to the Bylaws of the Council, the Council must have a Chair, Co-Chair, and Treasurer. Both the Chair and Co-Chair were elected soon after the initial meeting, with a Treasurer elected after the decision to incorporate.