

IV. Community Diagnosis: Overview of the process

The Community Diagnosis process seeks to identify community health care problems by analyzing health statistical data, community surveys, and council perceptions. The initial step in the process is to select a county health council. Through local community leaders, a county health council is formed. This council may consist of various community leaders such as the Mayor, County Executive, Hospital Administrator, School Superintendent, industry representation, health care providers, mental health care providers, Nursing Home representation, local law enforcement, various community agencies, and other community leaders as determined by council members. Once the council is formed, the Department of Health Community Development Staff facilitates the process. The basic steps of the Community Diagnosis process are as follows:

- **Assemble the initiating group**
- **Select the County Health Council**
- **Present data to the council**
- **Discuss and define health problems**
- **Analyze the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey**
- **Distribute and Analyze the Stakeholders Survey**
- **Score/Rank health problems**
- **Design interventions**
- **Develop funding strategies**
- **Assess development and effectiveness of interventions**

The following documentation provides a summary of the findings of White County via the Community Diagnosis Process. As of this writing, the White County Health Council is currently designing interventions and developing funding strategies to address the key issues prioritized during the Community Diagnosis Process. After very intense analysis of top issues, a resource assessment is currently in progress to determine existing services with the possibility of reallocating funding. One of the top issues is the increasing trend in ***Female Breast Cancer Mortality Rates***. Not only does the health statistical data support this trend, but the community assessments also exhibit a strong concern for female breast cancer. It is anticipated that the council will expand on this issue by utilizing the American Cancer Society as a resource to address this health care need. The council is committed to providing more female breast cancer community awareness and education to the citizens of White County. As mentioned earlier, each year the Council provides free health screenings to the citizens of White County whether through the local hospital or the National Mediguard. With assistance from the American Cancer Society and the White County Community Hospital, local citizens are provided reduced-cost mammograms via the community health screenings. The Council is committed to continue searching for