

Population Health Council Nomination: Representative of The Community Action Movement

Application Excerpt

Deborah Monahan, Executive Director, Thames Valley Council for Community Action

Q2 How does healthcare reform relate to your work?

The people that TVCCA serves are impacted by whether or not they have adequate and affordable health care insurance; many times they present circumstances that if they had better access to health care, they would not be in such crises.

Q3 Describe a personal or professional experience which motivates your dedication to community wellbeing and health improvement.

Many years ago, I was the first WIC director for TVCCA; working with young pregnant women, at risk babies and children opened my eyes to the need for better health care access and better general health information around diet, exercise, smoking cessation, etc. we also operate the Elderly Nutrition program and that good food helps seniors in their later years; also helping people on fixed/limited incomes make wise food choices has been something we have tried to do in our work.

Q4 Describe how your work experience and its impact on consumers can be improved by changes in the healthcare system. If your work involves advocacy, please describe examples of you working on behalf of others. Health and human services working together in delivering services and serving individuals and populations could improve overall population health; they cannot be siloed any longer; our overall health status does impact significantly our life-financially as well as physically and emotionally;

Q5 What would you bring to community health improvement discussions and how would your participation contribute to the overall process of improving healthcare?
45 years of experience working in the community with disadvantaged populations; TVCCA delivers the social determinants of health services throughout the community.

Q6 Please describe your experience with health coverage(s). For example, Medicare, HUSKY (Medicaid), Access Health CT or commercial insurance.

Currently have commercial insurance, but even with that insurance appointments can be challenging and the wait time for specialists long

Q7 Who do you work for and in what capacity? (If applicable)
Executive Director of TVCCA, a community action agency serving Southeastern Connecticut