Bridging Gaps to Building Stronger Communities

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March 7, 2013 RPHI
Your problem is to bridge the gap which exists between where you are now and the goal you intend to reach.

--Earl Nightingale
Jackson County

- Southern Illinois County of 60,000
- Home of Southern Illinois University--Carbondale
- Healthy Communities Coalition
Gaps we identified...

- Fragmented system of care across Southern Illinois
- Poor health outcomes
- Lack of prevention
- Need for more infrastructure and resources
- High levels of poverty
POVERTY IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA

Percent in Poverty

% in Poverty

- 0.0% – 8.9%
- 8.9% – 11.6%
- 11.6% – 14.5%
- 14.6% – 18.9%
- 18.9% – 56.9%

Source: 2000 Census SF3
Healthy Southern Illinois Delta Network

Transforming Southern Illinois into a region that supports and enhances healthy living.

Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice
PSE Changes in this Region

- More Walking and Biking Paths
- Coordinated School Health Programs
- Community and School Gardens
- Smoke Free Worksites, sports fields and Playgrounds
Jackson County with Franklin Williamson Bi-County covers lower 16 counties

GOALS:

- Expand Smokefree public places and multi-unit housing
- Provide more physical activity opportunities through Joint Use Agreements
- Assist Schools in adopting Coordinated School Programs and Wellness Policies
- Promote Worksite Wellness policies and programs
Together we can bridge the gap

- Face your challenges with the strength and conviction that what we do makes a difference.
- Face your opportunities with open arms and look for ways to build on the assets you have!