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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Putnam County Health Department was chosen to participate in Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and Environmental change (ACHIEVE). They are one of only 40 awardees nationwide. “It is an honor to be selected to this community leadership opportunity to facilitate change strategies focused on chronic disease prevention and health promotion,” explained the health department administrator Ericka Klingner.

As part of ACHIEVE, the health department will compose a team of 8-10 community leaders to strategically plan our Putnam County effort. A Community Health Action and Response Team (CHART) will be formed as a subcommittee to the existing Putnam County Partners in Prevention coalition.

Unionville City Administrator Brian Crane will act as the partner coach on this project. He and the health department coach, Gigi Pettengill, will spearhead this effort. They will travel with other local CHART members to an Action Institute in Tampa, FL, to begin work on a community action plan and learn from national experts about strategies to promote policy, systems, and environmental change focused on chronic disease prevention and community health.

The overall goals of ACHIEVE are to:

- Enhance collaboration between local leaders and stakeholders to prevent chronic diseases and related risk factors;
- Build healthier communities by promoting health policy, systems and environmental change strategies at the local level;
- Improve public health partnerships between the State Department of Health, the local health department, community based organizations, parks and recreation departments, and local YMCAs;
- Increase usage and establishment of health policy, systems and environmental change strategies focusing on tobacco cessation, physical activity, nutrition, obesity, heart disease, and diabetes; and
- Transform the patterns of a healthy community into practice.

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