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For Immediate Release

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Kent County Health Needs Assessment in Final Stages

GRAND RAPIDS—Starting in early 2014, Healthy Kent has been gathering information about the most pressing needs in Kent County when it comes to our health. The **2014 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)** and **Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP)** processes are progressing well. Healthy Kent is now gathering further community input on strategic priorities using an online survey to make sure everyone has a chance to weigh-in on the selection of strategic priorities for Kent County.

In October, the Healthy Kent Fall Summit helped us determine the top-ten health concerns. Community weaknesses discussed during the Summit are important to the planning process, as many are underlying root-cause issues that influence health status. By addressing key health concerns, we hope to address some weaknesses as well. The strategy priority selection survey will focus on further refining *health concerns*. **The survey can be accessed through the following link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PrioritySelection>, and will only take a few minutes to complete.**

The survey is now live and **will remain open until January 12th**. The data collected through this survey will greatly influence strategic priority selection, so please share with as many members of your personal and professional network as possible. Once analysis of the survey data has been completed, all who have played a role to date in the community health needs assessment process will be contacted with information regarding the Healthy Kent Winter Summit. Further information about this upcoming event will follow in January 2015.

“We have been very fortunate that the community has been so responsive to our meetings and taken the Healthy Kent surveys,” said Adam London, Kent County Health Officer, who has dedicated staff working with Healthy Kent. “We anticipate this will be our most comprehensive look at the health needs and concerns of people living and working in Kent County.”

Healthy Kent and Kent County Health Department has worked with numerous health, human service, mental health and oral health organizations to meet CHNA requirements. Local Health Departments are required to update their Community Health Needs Assessment every five years for state accreditation, but hospitals must every three years, under requirements set by the IRS. The data collected through the CHNA will be used to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan. More information about the CHNA can be found at www.kentcountychna.org/.

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