



March 6, 2008

Dear Colleague:

Every ten years, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) leverages scientific insights and lessons from the past decade, along with the knowledge of current data, trends, and innovations to develop the next iteration of national health promotion and disease prevention objectives known as Healthy People. Healthy People provides science-based, 10 year national objectives for promoting health and preventing disease, encouraging collaborations across sectors, guiding individuals toward making informed health decisions, and measuring the impact of our prevention and health promotion activities. Currently, Healthy People 2010 is leading the way to achieve increased quality and years of healthy life and the elimination of health disparities. HHS is beginning the development of Healthy People 2020 which will reflect: assessments of major risks to health and wellness, changing public health priorities, and emerging technologies related to our nation's health preparedness and prevention.

The Healthy People process is inclusive; its strength is directly tied to collaboration. The development process strives to maximize transparency, public input and stakeholder dialogue to ensure that Healthy People 2020 is relevant to diverse public health needs and seizes the opportunity to achieve its goals. To this end, HHS will seek input from communities and stakeholders across the nation through public meetings and public comment periods. These meetings will be held in Atlanta (March 17), San Francisco (April 1), Fort Worth (April 14), Chicago (April 30), New York City (May 14), and Washington, DC/Bethesda, Maryland (May 28). Additional information on these regional meetings and registration information is available at the www.healthypeople.gov website.

I would like to invite and encourage you and other representatives from your organization to attend a Healthy People public planning meeting that is convenient for you. The Healthy People objectives shape the strategic direction and goals of HHS, and the health and well-being of the nation for the next decade. These public meetings are a unique and valuable opportunity for our partners to discuss their goals and objectives and ensure that topics central to your organization's mission are included in this important national health dialogue.

Please feel free to contact Erik Williams in my office at 404-639-8062 (or gqu2@cdc.gov) for any additional information.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin A. Fenton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kevin A. Fenton, M.D., Ph.D., FFPH

Director

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention