



## Carlton – Cook – Lake – St. Louis Community Health Board

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November 29, 2012

Dear JoAnn Hoag,

I am writing on behalf of the Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board (CHB). One of our key responsibilities is the “Promotion of Healthy Communities and Health Behaviors”. This includes the coordination of the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), signed into law in 2008 as an integral component of Health Care Reform. SHIP is designed to help Minnesotans live longer, better, healthier lives by reducing the burden of chronic diseases by addressing physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use.

In support of healthy communities and healthy behaviors, the CHB recently endorsed the Commons Health Hospital Challenge which encourages and promotes those hospitals which adopt up to three healthy food environment policies. These are:

- The Phase-out of Hospital Sugary Beverage Sales
- Adoption of the World Health Organization Baby Friendly Hospital Guidelines
- A Measureable Commitment to Source and Serve Local, Sustainable Food

We are writing to ask for your leadership by helping adopt these policies at your hospital.

Each of the challenge goals are consistent with policy of one or more of the following professional organizations; the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, the American Nurses Association, MN Cancer Alliance, and the American Heart Association.

Additionally, each of these goals has been accomplished by a variety of hospitals across the country. For example, the Cleveland Clinic, Packard Children’s Hospital, Chicago based Vanguard System, just last week Baylor Health in Texas, and more hospital and schools, have all ended the sale of Sugary Beverages. Many, many hospitals are tracking and measuring their purchases of local, sustainable food. A wide array of hospitals including Fletcher Allen Healthcare (40% local) VT, Kaiser Permanente, CA Oregon Health and Sciences University and most Michigan hospital have committed to and are measuring and tracking local food purchases.

Importantly, here in the Northland St. Luke’s recently announced the adoption of a 20% local, purchasing goal and the phase-out sugary beverage sales by early November, 2012. Moreover, Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin, has signed the letter of intent to become Baby Friendly meeting the third “Challenge” goal. So we know it can be done.

In their statement of support for the Challenge the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MN-AAP) shared that “Our patients and community look to our health care institutions as models of healing and wellness. We believe it is easier for providers to encourage better nutrition when these choices are being modeled by the local clinics and hospitals in which we serve.”

On behalf of the Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board, I am asking for your leadership in modeling and supporting adoption of these policy goals at your hospital.

In closing, I would recommend the many resources available through the Challenge coordinator Jamie Harvie (218 -525-7806 or via email at [harvie@isfusa.org](mailto:harvie@isfusa.org)) including tools, trainings, case studies and an advisory team of nurses and physicians willing to provide education and support. Please let me or Julie Myhre, CHB Director, at [juliem@communityhealthboard.org](mailto:juliem@communityhealthboard.org) know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Carlton County Commissioner Marv Bodie, CHB Board Chair

CC: Jamie Harvie, Executive Director ISF  
Commons Health Hospital Challenge Coordinator