

# **THE 5 A'S OF the CHSAC**

## **Roles of the Community Health Services Advisory Committee**

### **ASK**

Asking tough questions, challenging staff ideas and concepts about policy and programs is the first important role for the CHSAC. Do not be afraid to ask what you might think is a naïve question. It is amazing how we in the field often lose sight of the forest for the trees.

### **ADVISE**

Advising both department staff and the elected officials of Saint Paul and Ramsey County is the second important role for CHSAC. The committee has a long history of giving both general and specific advice and recommendations to elected officials. A review of the history reveals that the elected officials accept the vast majority of these recommendations. However, on the rare occasion where advice has not been accepted, staff is committed to coming back to the CHSAC and giving a full, detailed explanation as why this has occurred.

### **ASSESS**

Assessing the health of the community is a key function of public health. The CHSAC members and their experience in the community is a third important role. The community health services assessment and planning process is ongoing. The committee is asked to give input into this assessment and planning at various intervals.

### **ASSURE**

Assuring that programs and services are provided in an appropriate fashion is a fourth role for the committee. Program assessments, program outcomes, and evaluations will be shared with the CHSAC for their input and comment.

### **ADVOCATE**

The last but not the least role is for the CHSAC to advocate for public health. To this end, the committee will undertake review of policy positions. Many of these will relate to State matters and State legislative actions that would benefit local public health.