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NEWS RELEASE

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Orange County to host Community Listening Sessions

September 28, 2015 (Orange County, NC) - Orange County may have been named the healthiest county in North Carolina this year, but that doesn't mean we still don't have a lot of work to do. Healthy Carolinians of Orange County (HCOC) and the Orange County Health Department (OCHD) invite residents to attend community listening sessions that are being held throughout the month of October. At these sessions, participants will learn about health concerns discovered during conversations with community members through the collection of the 2015 Orange County Community Health Assessment survey and focus groups, which took place in the summer.

HCOC encourages residents to attend the listening sessions to discuss survey results and to help select priority health issues. This information will help the OCHD and its partners develop a plan for improving health across the community. The listening sessions will also help HCOC select focus areas for its various health improvement committees.

The sessions will start with a review of community health data, then, session participants will break into small group discussions and select their top five health priorities. Local policy makers and Board of Health members will attend as well, to hear residents' concerns and ideas regarding Orange County health issues. HCOC will present forum results at its annual meeting on November 13th with a final list of priority issues.

Help Orange County know what health issues affect you and what prevents you or others around you from being as healthy as possible, and contribute to a plan of improving everyone's health by attending one of the community forums. Date, time and location are as follows:

1. October 3 – 1:00p to 3:00p. Rogers Road Community Center located at 101 Edgar Street. Chapel Hill, NC 27516
2. October 5 – 6:00p to 8:00p. Frank Porter Graham Elementary located at 101 Smith Level Road. Chapel Hill, NC 27516
3. October 6 – 4:00p to 6:00p. Mt. Zion AME Church located at 5124 NC Hwy 86. Hillsborough, NC 27278
4. October 20 – 4:00p to 6:00p. UNC Hospital, Hillsborough Campus located at 430 Waterstone Dr. Hillsborough, NC 27278
5. October 22 – 6:00p to 8:00p. Efland-Cheeks Community Center located at 117 Richmond Road. Efland, NC 27302

For more information, or to register to attend one of the above listening sessions, contact Ashley Mercer, Healthy Carolinians Coordinator, at 919.245.2440 or hcoc@orangecountync.gov.