

The OPINE (Asterhill's Blog)

Winter Series: "Health Capacity"

7 December 2017

Number 1

COMMUNITY HEALTH: *What is a community's Health Capacity?*

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What is a community's health capacity? As a relative new term and concept, it is difficult to find a concise definition. However, there are plenty of published materials about it. According to Wikipedia (2017), it is described as capacity building, and is a process to obtain, retain, and build skills and knowledge. Merriam-Webster (2017) described capacity as the "facility or power to produce, perform or deploy." For this discussion, **a community's health capacity** can be defined as its ability to adapt to changing conditions to sustain a high quality of life. The community needs to be able to understand obstacles and barriers that inhibit progress, and allows them to achieve measurable and sustainable results. The goal is to find that equitable balance between economic, environmental, educational, ecological and social equity factors.

What are your thoughts?

References:

Birt, C., & Foldspang, A. (2009). Public health capacity building—not only the property of the medical profession. *European journal of public health, 19*(3), 232-235.

Definition of Capacity. (2017). In *Merriam-Webster*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/capacity>

