Partnering for Impact: Connecting Literacy Programs with Local Health Resources

Dr. Heather McKnight, DNP, RN, NE-BC

Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Identify potential local health partners.
- Name at least two simple partnership activities.
- Draft a first-step partnership plan.

Warm Up Question

List health-related organizations in your community: clinics, hospitals, health departments, nonprofits, churches with health ministries, etc.

Why Health Partners Need Literacy Programs

- Literacy programs reach adults who may not trust or access traditional health channels.
- You build skills in reading, speaking, and navigating systems.
- Health partners have content expertise and resources but may lack access to your learners.

Low Risk, High Impact Activities

- Guest speakers (nurse, CHW, health educator) using plain language.
- Health fair or “Health Literacy Day” at your site.
- Co-developing simple flyers or lessons on specific topics.
- On-site screenings with interpreters and literacy support.

Asset Mapping Activity

Handout: Community Health Asset Map

Columns:

1. Organization / Person
2. What they do (services)
3. How they could support our learners
4. First contact person / info

Prompt groups to fill in based on local knowledge.

Pilot Project Planning

Handout: Simple Partnership Plan Template

- Program:
- Health Partner:
- Shared goal (1 sentence):
- Activity idea (pick one):
    - Guest speaker
    - Joint workshop
    - Co-created materials
    - Health fair
- When (month/quarter):
- Who will lead from our side:
- Who might lead from their side:
- First step (call/email/visit by [date]):

In small groups from the same program/region, draft one realistic pilot.

Share and Commitments

Ask each group or individual to share:

- One partner they want to contact.
- The first step they will take within 30 days.

Provide a simple follow-up reminder idea: “Email yourself or write this step in your planner right now.”

Wrap Up

- Session Survey Link: https://forms.gle/Vn8cejgigkD6ZhP47



- Contact info: Heather McKnight, DNP, RN, NE-BC
- 903-748-4332
- heather.mcknight.consulting@gmail.com