



Deliberation of the South Heartland District Health Department Ethics Committee  
April 10, 2019

Ethics of Community-Based Screening

The SHDHD Ethics Committee discussed potential risks and harms of community based screenings, including potential lack of follow through on results, false positive or false negative results, and an unintentional false sense of security. Deliberation centered on efficacy data for community screenings, and screening follow up issues that included individual responsibility to report results to providers and cost barriers for follow up tests and treatment.

The Ethics Committee made the following recommendations for improving community screenings:

- Develop/consider processes that include sending screening results to providers with opt out option for individuals.
- Improve stakeholder leadership involvement in the process, e.g., including information on their websites.
- Consider stakeholder advisory groups, such as physicians, to assist with planning.
- Determine methods to track efficacy, e.g., providing follow up questions from previous year on current year's registration forms – did you make any changes for your health as a result of the community screening?, did you follow up with your provider?
- Consideration for other benefits besides health screenings – education and community socializing.
- Expand education about goals, what the community screening event is and is not.