

**Problem Based Learning Exercise**  
**“Our Town”**  
**Facilitator Notes**

“Our Town” is Tillery, NC, located in Halifax County. Tillery residents represent the epitome of success in organizing grassroots efforts that affect major change. This PBL illustrates some of the Healthy Communities initiatives that can be undertaken by community groups like the Concerned Citizens of Tillery.

**Scenario Part 1**

Tasks

1. Major issues: health needs, unemployment rate and corporate exploitation, environmental concerns
2. Prioritize using visioning workshops or other tools to brainstorm issues and prioritize needs; seek outside facilitators from religious or charitable organizations.
3. Students should seek additional information on other grassroots efforts, and may discover the Healthy Communities programs at this point.

Additional Information

1. History will be provided in Scenario 2.
2. Students may attempt to identify the real identity of the town.
3. Results of visioning workshop, provided in Scenario 2.

**Scenario Part 2**

1. Health issues could be addressed in a variety of ways, including:
  - a. Collaborate with a health care provider to conduct a Health Fair.
  - b. Collaborate with medical schools to bring students to the community for health clinics.
  - c. Identify community health advocates, ask a health care provider or medical student group to train advocates on specific health issues. Advocates would then work within the community to educate members.
  - d. Identify and use tools used in Healthy Communities initiatives.
2. Health beliefs and folk remedies vary from culture to culture. Cultural competence is paramount for health care workers to effectively interact with community members. Module 4 part 3 addresses cultural competence in more detail.

Additional Information

1. Specific information on corporate exploitation will be provided in Scenario 3.

## Scenario Part 3

### Additional Information

1. Environmental issues can be addressed by forming local grassroots groups to identify and research issues; collaborate with other groups on a local or statewide basis; lobby County and State Boards of Health; contact groups such as the Environmental Defense League and other national groups for assistance. Local religious and charitable groups may also lend assistance.
2. See the facilitator notes for the “Farmer in the Dell” problem based learning exercise for additional information on the environmental impact of livestock farming.

### **Objectives**

At the conclusion of this exercise, the student should be able to:

1. describe grassroots group efforts that affect change.
2. describe the Healthy Communities program.
3. discuss issues such as health needs, socioeconomic and justice concerns and environmental threats related to their impact on small communities.
4. identify resources for initiating grassroots community efforts.
- 5.

### **Web Resources**

Tillery, NC

<http://members.aol.com/tillery/>

<http://www.ncl.org/anr/stories/tillery.htm>

HELP

<http://hometown.aol.com/tillery/help.html>

Environmental Justice

<http://hometown.aol.com/tillery/envinj.html>

Healthy Communities Programs

<http://www.ncl.org/NCL/HCI.HTM>

Additional resources are available in the facilitator notes for the “Farmer in the Dell” exercise.

**Author Information**

Laurine T. Charles, MHS  
Coordinator of Academic Affairs  
College of Health Professions  
Medical University of South Carolina  
45 Bee Street  
P.O. Box 250701  
Charleston, SC 29425  
(843) 792-4103 (Phone)  
(843) 792-4024 (FAX)  
[charlelt@musc.edu](mailto:charlelt@musc.edu)

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