Clermont County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2019

Clermont County, Ohio

A thriving, vibrant, and healthy community to live, play, work, learn and grow!
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Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services
Clermont County Educational Service Center
Clermont County Emergency Management Agency
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Clermont County, Ohio

Our Community
Welcome to Clermont County, Ohio! Located in the southwest portion of the state, Clermont is the westernmost designated Appalachian county in Ohio. While a community of varied heritages, many residents maintain a strong and rich Appalachian culture, particularly in the southeastern portion of the county.

The 2010 U.S. Census estimates the population of Clermont County to be 197,363, with a racial and ethnic distribution of 95.9% white, 1.2% African American, 1% Asian, and 1.9% other. The Hispanic or Latino population is estimated at 1.5% and growing.

Clermont County is comprised of 14 townships with populations ranging from 2,278 to 46,416. The most populated townships, which are largely suburban neighborhoods, are on the western side of the county, bordering Hamilton County and the city of Cincinnati. Agricultural and small residential areas are located in the eastern and southern portions of the county.

Community Health Improvement Plan Process

Local Public Health System Assessment
The process for development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) began in 2012, when numerous stakeholders and community partners came together to assess the status of the local public health system in Clermont County utilizing the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP). This program examines the capacity and performance of the public health system, and identifies areas for improvement to ensure a strong system is in place. Among the outcomes identified were the need for a comprehensive community health assessment and a community health improvement plan.

Clermont County Community Health Assessment
In the spring of 2013, a steering committee, formed as an extension of the NPHPSP stakeholder group, came together to begin work on a Community Health Assessment (CHA). Through implementation of the Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) model, initial work on the CHA began with development of a health indicator matrix. Utilizing this tool, data was collected and a draft report was released in July of 2013. Following a comment period during which the CHA was posted on the CCPH webpage, the final CHA document was published in August 2013.
Forces of Change Assessment

Continuing with the MAPP process, two additional assessments were performed prior to the development of the CHIP. The Forces of Change Assessment was conducted in March of 2014 at a meeting with the public health steering committee. This assessment looked at four areas that typically are considered when thinking about forces of change - political, economic, social and technological. Each force of change has specific threats and opportunities. Within Clermont County, the forces identified, and their threats and opportunities, were as follows:

**Medicaid Expansion**

- **Threats**: lack of providers, insufficient funding, stigma of public assistance, overburdening of healthcare system, lack of permanent funding
- **Opportunities**: increased access to care, increased preventative care, focus on primary care, increased appropriate use of ER

**Funding Sources**

- **Threats**: uncertainty about what will and will not be covered, instability of funding amounts and allocations, voter apathy, impact on families
- **Opportunities**: increased collaboration, decreased duplication of services, increased efficiency, increased initiatives, new funding sources

**Mental Illness**

- **Threats**: lack of services, client refusal of treatment, lack of insurance coverage, impact on families and the community, stigma associated with illness
- **Opportunities**: Mobile crisis team and hotline, collaboration between mental health services and law enforcement, Child Focus services for children

**Drug Epidemic**

- **Threats**: over-prescribing, impact on community, lack of treatment services, cost of treatment, high relapse rate, increased disease risk, impact on children
- **Opportunities**: increased collaboration, formation of task force, Mental Health and Recovery Board services, increased awareness, education for medical professionals

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

The second MAPP assessment conducted by the public health steering committee was the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment. This assessment asked the committee members to consider and discuss the following:

**Quality of Life**

- Considered schools, the healthcare system, recreation, economic opportunities, networks of support, community participation and safety

**Community Assets**

- Identification of assets such as healthcare facilities, schools and universities, fire/police/EMS, daycares, nursing homes, airport and more

**Health Issues**

- Identified health issues including chronic disease, obesity, teen pregnancy, tobacco use, drug addiction, homelessness, mental health, aging population and others

Information from this assessment, combined with data and findings from the CHA, were used to develop a presentation and survey so input on these topics could be obtained from the public.

Community Health Improvement Plan

Input from the community was obtained between April - June 2014. Several mechanisms were utilized to inform the public of their opportunity to provide input, including a press release, website posting, social media messages, and an online survey. In addition, several community focus group presentations were held at township and village meetings, schools, and senior centers throughout the county. Information collected from these presentations and the online survey was collected, and a list of top health issues, identified by the community, was created.
Prioritization of the health issues was conducted by the steering committee through an online survey. Committee members were asked to evaluate each health issue based on the size of the problem, the seriousness of the problem, and the feasibility of the public health system partners positively impacting the problem. Data from the CHA was provided to assist with the evaluation process. A customized Hanlon prioritization method was applied to the committee member responses when the survey closed, and a numeric ranking was generated.

Based on community and steering committee member input, the top four health issues facing Clermont County are:

- Mental Health
- Drug Addiction
- Tobacco Use
- Obesity, Physical Activity and Nutrition

One additional issue, access to care, was considered by the steering committee in the prioritization process. While the group agreed that access to care was an important issue, it was acknowledged that this was a priority being looked at by another group - that being the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce, Agenda for the Future. The Health and Well-Being Subcommittee for Agenda for the Future is currently developing goals and strategies to address the access to care issue, and many of the CHIP steering committee members are included in that process. To avoid duplicating efforts, the CHIP steering committee opted not to include access to care in the CHIP, but will continue to participate in this process through Agenda for the Future and will monitor progress made in this area.

In June 2014, the steering committee reconvened to establish goals, objectives, strategies and activities for inclusion in the CHIP. A work plan was created that outlines the progress and evaluation measures for each of the included activities, and identifies the social determinants of health that were considered when selecting each strategy.

The work plan will serve as an action plan over the next five years, during which progress on meeting the goals and objectives will be monitored. Modifications and updates will be made to the work plan as needed, based on completion of activities, new information, and funding and legislative changes that will impact the community and selected strategies.

Though not an all-inclusive document, the CHIP is intended to provide the community with a look at the many great efforts occurring in our community to address health issues. Take this opportunity to participate in helping us achieve the community’s definition of health, and contribute to fulfilling our vision of Clermont County:

A thriving, vibrant, healthy community to live, play, work, learn and grow!