
2014

**Tarrant County
Community Health
Improvement Plan
Annual Report**

Because Health Matters...



**TARRANT COUNTY
VOICES FOR HEALTH**



Dear Community Partner,

January 2014 launched the beginning of putting the Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in action. The CHIP illuminates four priority issues (Education, Environment, Healthcare Access and Partnerships) affecting Tarrant County. Our community has come together to address these priorities. The implementation of this improvement plan was made possible by the drive, diligence, and support from the Tarrant County Voices For Health (TCVFH) Advisory Council (formerly the MAPP Steering Committee) and other key stakeholders. The collaborative effort has moved diligently toward improving health and wellness in Tarrant County communities.

As we discover more along this journey, we look forward to working with the community to make healthy people the foundation of our thriving community and further advancing the Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH) mission of safeguarding the community's health. Thank you for your continued contributions to this wonderful community health improvement process.

We appreciate you taking the time to read this annual report for an update about what is happening in Tarrant County. The report will also provide information on how you can help to assure a healthy community. Please join us in making Tarrant County healthier by sending your information to TCVFH@tarrantcounty.com and contacting Yvette M. Wingate at 817-321-5318 if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veerinder Taneja". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Veerinder (Vinny) Taneja MBBS, MPH
Director, Tarrant County Public Health



Dear Community Partner,

What an exciting year! The bar was set high and the call to action was answered. The community has come together collectively in many amazing ways to implement the Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Daily, we learn more and more about how to best serve our community. We are building partnerships that did not previously exist and strengthening old ones. The CHIP has truly left the pages as intended and the partners are using it to improve the lives of those they serve.

Your ongoing trust and support is greatly appreciated as I lead you through this implementation process. Allow me to encourage you to keeping rowing steady as we navigate many uncharted waters. Although there have been some unforeseen obstacles, we are working diligently to address them successfully. We will continue to move toward making Tarrant County healthier for all who live, learn, work and play here.

Please join me on this awesome journey as small steps equal big changes.

Yours truly,

Yvette M. Wingate, MPA
Coordinator, Tarrant County Voices For Health
Health Equity Coordinator, Tarrant County Public Health

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The implementation of the 2014 Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan from January 2014 – December 2014 has been a strong collaboration of dedicated individuals and organizations working tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of the Tarrant County community. THANK YOU!

TCVFH Coordinator and Author:

Yvette M. Wingate, MPA Health Equity Coordinator, Tarrant County Public Health

TCVFH Advisory Council:

Sam Adamie, RS Environmental Specialist, Tarrant County Public Health
Cha'ssem Anderson, AICP Transit System Planner, Fort Worth Transportation Authority
Amanda Applon Office of Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, Precinct 1
Patricia Baughman Health Promotions, JPS Health Network; Advisory Committee Member, Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association
Lou K. Brewer, RN, MPH, PhD Director, Tarrant County Public Health
Roy Charles Brooks Commissioner, Tarrant County Commissioners Court, Precinct 1
Tracie Bryant, MPH Community Volunteer
Leslie Casey Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC); Project Manager, FitWorth
Susan Cherry, MSN, RN, CNS Clinical Instructor/Lead for Community Health Nursing & BSN traditional, University of Texas at Arlington - College of Nursing
Mary Ann Contreras, RN Injury Prevention/Trauma Outreach Coordinator, JPS Health Network
Elizabeth Trevino Dawson, DrPH Chief Executive Officer, North Texas Area Community Health Centers, Inc.
Resheemah L. Davis, MA Vice President of Operations/Community Development, YMCA of Metropolitan Fort Worth
Kathie Eddleman Health & Physical Education Assistant Director, Fort Worth Independent School District
Leslee Erickson, MS, RN Community Volunteer
Suze Etienne, MPH, RT Dallas Fort Worth Hospital Council Foundation
Shannon Fletcher Executive Administrator – Policy, Programs and Outreach, Office of Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, Precinct 1
Linda Fulmer, MEd Executive Director, Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration
Bill Gilmore Assistant Director, City of Arlington Parks and Recreation
Paulette Golden, MS, RN, CCAP Injury Prevention/Trauma Outreach Coordinator, Texas Health Resources Fort Worth
Stacey Guillen, MBA, CCRP Oncology Program Coordinator, Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth; Vice President, Hispanic Wellness Coalition
Margaret Galvez, MPH, BSN, RN Community Health Manager, Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth

Marcela N. Gutierrez, LMSW	Community Engagement Manager, Texas Prevention Institute–Center for Community Health
Ginny Hickman, LMSW-AP	Assistant Vice President of Community Health Outreach, Cook Children’s Health Care System
Sandy-Asari Hogan, MPH	Doctoral Student, University of North Texas Health Science Center
Lee Javed	Community Volunteer
Marilyn Jones	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, United Way of Tarrant County
Mina Kini, MSW, MS	Director of Diversity & Inclusion, Texas Health Resources
Richard Kurz, PhD	Dean, UNTHSC School of Public Health
James Lawrence, AIA, LEED_{AP}	Associate, Callison
Jenny Lee, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine; Director, <i>The GoodNEWS Lifestyle Program</i> ; Faculty Associate, Texas Prevention Institute, University North Texas Health Science Center
Opal Lee, MS	Board Chair, The Community Food Bank of Fort Worth
Wendy Macias, Ph.D.	Associate Professor, Texas Christian University, School of Strategic Communication, Bob Schieffer College of Communication
John A. Menchaca, M.D.	Physician, Private Practice
Neda Moayad, DrPH	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Research Associate, Behavioral and Community Health, UNTHSC School of Public Health
Rafael Munoz	Youth Development Specialist, World Vision
Robert M. Munoz, Ed.D.	Vice President of Continuing Education Services, Tarrant County College District
Andy H. Nguyen	Commissioner, Tarrant County Commissioners Court, Precinct 2
Melissa Oden, D.HEd., LMSW-IPR, MPH, CHES	Professor-In-Practice Consultant, Health Education Resources Network
Heather Pacchetti, RD, LD	WIC Area Coordinator, Tarrant County Public Health
Sylvia Alonzo Rawlings, RN	Director, Rural Health Outreach Program and Pre-Nursing Academy, University of Texas at Arlington - College of Nursing
Glenda Redeemer, MSN, APRN	Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention Division, Tarrant County Public Health
Georgi Roberts	Health Physical Education Director, Fort Worth Independent School District
Debra L. Rockmore, MPH	REACH & RISE Mentoring Program Director, YMCA Metropolitan of Fort Worth
Kelly Rodriguez	Assistant Precinct Administrator, Office of Tarrant County Commissioner Andy Nguyen, Precinct 2
Jamie Schield	Coordinator, North Central Texas Planning Council
Mamie Sharrieff, AA	Community Volunteer
Christopher Simmons	Graduate Student, University of North Texas Health Science Center
Betsy Slonaker	Administrative Assistant, Health Planning & Policy Division
Gala Stafford	Parent Liaison, Young Men’s Leadership Academy and Dunbar Middle School

Rev. Kyev P. Tatum, Sr.	President, Fort Worth Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Executive Director, Green Trimble Tech Brilliant Bulldog Center
Meri “Mo” Tesfay	Office Administrator, Office of Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, Precinct 1
Patsy Thomas	President, Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County
Larry Tubb, MBA	Senior Vice President, Cook Children’s Health Care System; Executive Director, The Children’s Center on Health
Misty Wilder	Program Manager Healthy Start Outreach/Consortium, Catholic Charities Fort Worth
Kendra J. Wilson, MS	Graduate Research Assistant, Texas Prevention Institute-Center for Community Health

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vision, Shared Values and Priority Areas	1
Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan	2
Background	2
Community Health Improvement Plan Implementation	3
Moving from Planning to Implementation	3
Priority Area 1: Education	3
Priority Area 2: Environment	4
Priority Area 3: Health Care Access	6
Priority Area 4: Partnerships	6
Next Steps	7
Are You the Missing Partner? How to Use the Tarrant County CHIP	8
General Levels of Action	8
Suggestions by Community Sector	9
Appendix A: Glossary of Terms	11
Appendix B: References	12

Vision

Empowered people living healthy in a vibrant and safe community.

Shared Values

- **Trust:** We value a community where trust is fostered, barriers removed and participation increased.
- **Respect:** We value a community where the right of all to enjoy a healthy and flourishing community is respected.
- **Equity:** We value a community where all people have access and opportunity abounds.
- **Health:** We value a community where all people are empowered to make healthy choices.
- **Safety:** We value a community where all people can enjoy safe and clean neighborhoods, parks and schools.
- **Education:** We value a community where health education is abundant.

The 2014 Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) included the following data-driven priority health issues:

Priority Area 1: Education

Goal 1: Progressively influence living and working conditions that will have a positive impact on the health and behavior of individuals and communities.

Goal 2: Develop effective learning opportunities in knowledge, attitude and skills for Tarrant County residents to live in holistic wellness.

Goal 3: Improve educational, career and vocational opportunities for adolescents.

Priority Area 2: Environment

Goal 1: Engage Tarrant County residents to increase awareness of opportunities for healthy and safe environments.

Goal 2: Improve walkability surrounding Tarrant County elementary school neighborhoods.

Goal 3: Create a more livable community for all throughout Tarrant County.

Priority Area 3: Health Care Access

Goal 1: Enhance access to high quality health care through health literacy.

Priority Area 4: Partnerships

Goal 1: Develop collaborative tools to share critical knowledge among key stakeholders and partnerships to assure a comprehensive approach to improving public health.

Goal 2: Foster effective community partnerships and strategic alliances across the Tarrant County community.

Goal 3: Increase access to resources across Tarrant County through engagement of key stakeholders in the Tarrant County community to create collective impact.

TARRANT COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Background

Our health is affected by where and how we live, learn, work and play. In order to develop the most suitable strategies, it is key to understand the factors that impact health. Tarrant County Public Health partnered with several segments of the local public health system to collectively work through a strategic community health planning process to improve the public's health in Tarrant County, TX. The two-year improvement process included the development of the community health assessment (CHA) and the community health improvement plan (CHIP).^{1,2} Table 1 indicates the Core Public Health Functions for which the CHA and CHIP were aligned with.

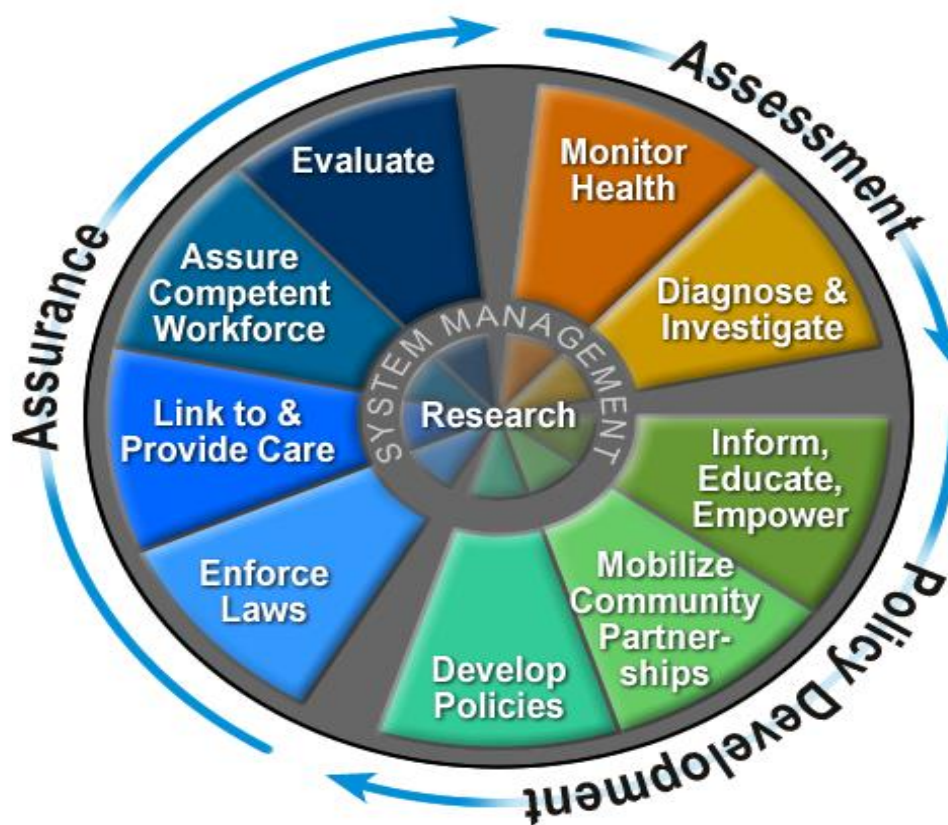


Figure 1: The Cyclical Nature of the Core Public Health Functions

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ten Essential Public Health Services

The findings of the CHA informed the development of the CHIP. The purpose of the CHIP is to prioritize public health issues and address them through achievable goals, objectives and strategies that the local public health system can utilize to improve the health of the Tarrant County community.³ It is a guide for individuals and organizations to identify possible best practice methods with measurable indicators that may produce healthy, sustainable outcomes. The CHIP outlined four priority areas: education, environment, health care access and partnerships. It has involved county-wide implementation of the action plan along with effective monitoring and evaluation of key indicators.

Annual reports and a community health assessment in 2018 will evaluate if implementation of the action plan produced any significant change in the health status of Tarrant County residents. A revised CHIP will be developed following the evaluation and assessments.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Moving from Planning to Action

The CHIP serves as a vision for the community's health. It has provided a model for organizations to leverage resources, align with their organizational priorities and strategies,⁴ expand partners and maintain compliance of the Affordable Care Act of 2010.⁵ In January, 2014, Tarrant County Voices For Health (TCVFH) began implementation of the community health improvement plan. In March, 2014, the Tarrant County CHIP Debut was debuted to the community and the Advisory Council was established. The event was a huge success due to the great amount of participation and support from the local public health system. There was a lot of useful information shared, which created excitement about making Tarrant County Healthier for all who live, learn, work and play here.

The Tarrant County CHIP is “designed to be a broad, strategic framework for community health, and should be modified and adjusted as conditions, resources, and external environmental factors change.”⁶ Planning efforts to align various aspects of the four priority areas are ongoing. The holistic approach involving the seven dimensions of health and well-being – physical, mental, intellectual, social, spiritual, occupational, and environmental- are part of that strategic alignment. Therefore, many partners from the multiple sectors have volunteered to be accountable and take the lead on or assist with the successful completion of several goals and objectives. However, given the early stages of implementation, there has been no progress evidenced to date regarding health indicators. The following will describe the implementation activities and results from January 2014 to December 2014, which are also available online at the TCVFH website.

PRIORITY AREA 1: EDUCATION

This priority addresses health education, chronic disease prevention, food insecurities, healthy lifestyles, civic engagement by youth and adults and academic and vocational opportunities.

Goal 1: Progressively influence living and working conditions that will have a positive impact on the health and behavior of individuals and communities.

Objective 1.1: By October 2014, engage the community to participate in the political process to address obesity, nutrition, physical activity and sexually transmitted diseases.

- TCVFH produced the *Guidelines for Starting a Community Garden* developed by the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association.
- Distributed 100 brochures at Carnaval de Salud event held at Tarrant County Public Health (76104) on October 4, 2014.

Objective 1.2: By December 2015, educate the community on economical methods to increase access to affordable, nutritious foods and decrease food insecurities.

- Developing a class to address food insecurities by combining a nutrition class with a couponing class.
- Current partners include Get Fit. Eat Smart. (lead) and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Tarrant County

Objective 1.3: By January 2017, engage the community residing in food deserts to participate in community gardens through education on the value of locally-sourced fruits and vegetables and local ordinances related to open space land usage.

- Unable to move forward due to lack of commitment from the partners in the local public health system.

Goal 2: Effective learning opportunities in knowledge, attitude and skills for Tarrant County residents to live in holistic wellness.

Objective 2.1: By October 2017, provide to individuals, families, organizations, and communities structured health and wellness enhancement education opportunities to improve knowledge, literacy, attitudes, skills and competencies related to health promotion, disease prevention and a positive, healthful lifestyle.

- Established community partnership to facilitate, support and promote the GoodNEWS Education Initiative.
- Lead partner - Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine – University of North Texas Health Science Center

Goal 3: Improve educational, career and vocational opportunities for adolescents.

Objective 3.1: By October 2019, improve access to academic opportunities by decreasing the high school dropout rate and increasing enrollment in colleges, universities and vocational institutions by 5%.

- Established a Chess Club at Johnson 6th Grade Center in Everman ISD beginning in September 2014.
- Current partners include Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, Precinct #1 and Tarrant County Public Health.
- Number and type of root causes for high school student dropouts in identified areas –
 - Everman ISD and Fort Worth ISD
 - 10 root causes - poor self-image, depression, inability to make new friends, drug/alcohol problems, negative peer pressure, abuse, poor academic skills, and family and financial difficulties⁷
- Number of college and vocational readiness programs in local high schools – 70 out of 79 high schools as identified on 17 of the 20 ISDs website in Tarrant County

PRIORITY AREA 2: ENVIRONMENT

This priority addresses healthy and safe environments, air quality, walkability, safe routes to school and complete streets policy.

Goal 1: The local public health system will engage Tarrant County residents to increase awareness of opportunities for healthy and safe environments.

Objective 1.1: By October 2014, communicate the benefits of improving air quality and increasing walkability.

- Developed a Bike and Walk to Work Brochure
- Distributed 50 brochures at Carnaval de Salud event held at Tarrant County Public Health (76104) on October 4, 2014.
- Did not distribute in other zip codes identified by the Environmental Workgroup due to lack of commitment from partners in the local public health system.

Objective 1.2: By January 2015, increase by 10% awareness of health benefits of improved air quality and walkability.

- Unable to move forward due to lack of commitment from the partners in the local public health system.

Goal 2: Improve walkability surrounding Tarrant County elementary school neighborhoods.

Objective 2.1: By December 2014, increase awareness of the multiple benefits of safe routes to school efforts.

Objective Completed

- Number of stakeholders – 5
 - Tarrant County Public Health(Co-Lead Partner), Texas Christian University – Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences (Co-Lead Partner), City of Fort Worth Police Department, Eastland Neighborhood Association and Christine C. Moss Elementary School
- Number of presentations conducted – 2

Objective 2.2: By August 2019, increase by 10% safe routes to school programs.

- Number of stakeholders – 8
 - Establishing a Walking School Bus Program at Christine C. Moss Elementary School. Co-lead partners are Texas Christian University: Harris College of Nursing & Health Sciences and Tarrant County Public Health; Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, Precinct 1, City of Fort Worth Police Department, City of Fort Worth Animal Control, Fort Worth Independent School District, Fort Worth Blue Zones Project
- Number of educational meetings conducted – 3
- Number of participants (International Walk to School Day Event on October 8, 2014)
 - 93% of 400 students participated
 - Kids were more energetic throughout the day
 - 75 parents/grandparents walked with children
 - 28 parents signed up to learn more about establishing a walking school bus program at the school
- Number of unsafe behaviors identified in targeted neighborhood – 10 (including infrastructure, environment, speeding drivers, unsafe street crossing, etc.)
- Number of promotional activities conducted – 1 (International Walk to School Day Event)

Goal 3: The local public health system will create a more livable community for all throughout Tarrant County.

Objective 3.1: By December 2019, improve by 10% access to multimodal mobility through the implementation of a Complete Streets Policy.

- Unable to move forward due to lack of commitment from the partners in the local public health system.

PRIORITY AREA 3: HEALTH CARE ACCESS

This priority addresses quality health care, health literacy, Affordable Care Act, English as a Second Language (ESL) courses and prescription label legislation.

Goal 1: Enhance access to high quality health care through health literacy.

Objective 1.1: By October 2014, increase by 10% knowledge and involvement of community providers and consumers on implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Objective Completed

- TCVFH partnered with North Texas Area Community Health Centers, Inc., United Way of Tarrant County and Tarrant County Public Health
- Number of collaborative meetings – 10
- Number of individuals in the partnership – 35

Objective 1.2: By December 2017, improve health care access through health literacy by incorporating a health component in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

- University of North Texas Health Science Center doctoral students developed a program proposal entitled, *Healthcare Enhancement for LEP Populations (HELP)*.

Objective 1.3: By August 2019, improve the ability of those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) to understand the typed directions on their prescription label through the passage of legislation.

- Unable to move forward due to lack of commitment from the partners in the local public health system.

PRIORITY AREA 3: PARTNERSHIPS

This priority addresses strategic communication plan, cross-sector funding network and effective community partnerships.

Goal 1: Develop collaborative tools to share critical knowledge among key stakeholders and partnerships to assure a comprehensive approach to improving public health.

Objective 1.1: By February 2015, establish a workgroup to develop a communication plan to increase knowledge sharing of collaborative efforts, local public health issues and community health data within Tarrant County.

- Number of stakeholder perspectives represented across the work group (e.g.: nonprofit, hospital, public health, business, faith, etc.) –
 - Established a workgroup led by Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration. Current partners include: Texas Christian University- Bob Schieffer College of Communication, Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks' Office, Precinct #1, Tarrant County Commissioner Nguyen's Office, Precinct #2, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth Independent School District and Tarrant County Public Health
- Number of meetings conducted - 4
 - The first meeting has been conducted in August 2014.
- Texas Christian University- Bob Schieffer College of Communication students developed three communication plan proposals for the Partnership Task Force to review.

Goal 2: Increase access to resources across Tarrant County through engagement of key stakeholders in the local public health system to create collective impact.

Objective 2.1: By August 2015, create a cross-sector funding network to jointly pursue funds development opportunities for shared goals.

- Number of stakeholder perspectives represented across the work group (e.g.: nonprofit, hospital, public health, business, faith, etc.).
 - Healthy Tarrant County Collaboration (Lead Partner), Texas Christian University- Bob Schieffer College of Communication, University of Texas at Arlington-School of Architecture, Tarrant County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks' Office, Precinct #1, Tarrant County Commissioner Nguyen's Office, Precinct #2, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth Independent School District and Tarrant County Public Health, YMCA of Greater Fort Worth, Baylor All Saints Hospital, Strong Families Coalition, Senior Citizen Centers of Tarrant County, Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County, JPS Health Network, Texas Health Resources, North Texas Area Community Health Centers
- Number of meetings conducted – 9
- Number and type of funds development opportunities reviewed – 3
 - CDC REACH Grant, Building Health Planning Coalitions, BUILD Health Challenge

Objective 2.2: By December 2016, jointly pursue two fund development opportunities

- Number of fund development applications completed and submitted – 1
 - Building Health Planning Coalitions

Goal 3: Build effective community partnerships and strategic alliances across the community.

Objective 3.1: By July 2016, improve partnering relationships to identify and solve health problems.

- Unable to move forward due to lack of commitment from the partners in the local public health system.

NEXT STEPS

The Tarrant County Voices For Health Advisory Council, including the core agencies, partners, stakeholders, and community residents, will continue to review and prioritize strategies, develop or revise specific action steps, assign lead responsible parties as needed, and identify available resources for each priority area. Ongoing engagement of community partners will occur through interactive quarterly meetings. An annual CHIP progress report will demonstrate how well the local public health system is doing what it said it would do and will guide the implementation planning of the upcoming year.

ARE YOU THE MISSING PARTNER?

HOW TO USE THE TARRANT COUNTY CHIP

General Levels of Action

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A RESIDENT OF TARRANT COUNTY?

Become an educator!

Educate your family, your friends, and your coworkers about important public health issues. Inform anyone you can get to listen about the possibilities outlined in this Community Health Improvement Plan. This document is for all of us to use together.

Take Action/Get Involved!

Whether you hold a neighborhood meeting about safety, or present the idea of a walking school bus to a group of parents – remember that every effort makes a difference toward improving the health of our community.

Inspire change!

Here are some simple steps on how to get involved and make a difference:

- Pick up the phone and start making some calls. Maybe environment is the issue that you care most about. Go back to the report, look at the potential partners and start reaching out. Find out how you can support the agencies that are involved in making sure this plan gets carried out.
- Maybe food security is most important to you and your family. Participate in your community garden or if your neighborhood does not have an established garden, visit the Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association website and get the information you need to establish your own neighborhood garden.

This plan was not developed to sit on a shelf and collect dust in the offices of the agencies involved in putting it together and supporting it. This plan should be where you can get to it easily and often.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OR PARTNER?

Listen!

Review the plan and see how much of your strategic planning reflects the desires of the community you are serving.

Innovate and Partner!

Maybe you can address some of the interventions discussed in the plan; maybe you already are working on some of the pieces, but need a partner to help complete or enhance the program?

Think about what other agencies you can engage in successfully implementing some of these interventions.

Suggestions by Community Sector

The Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan is not a plan solely for government action. It is a plan for the entire local public health system—all those institutions with a stake in a healthy population. The efforts of organizations and individuals from numerous sectors of the community will be necessary to achieve the long-term and intermediate goals related to the CHIP. Suggestions for how different sectors of the community can use the CHIP are listed below:⁸

Health Care Systems

- Plan for use of Medicaid 1115 Waiver funds
- Plan for Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefits initiatives
- Incorporate strategies into organizational strategic planning
- Lead your organization and the health care industry in responding to the health needs of the Community

Health Care Professionals

- Identify important health issues and barriers that exist for your clients and use strategies to make changes
- Share the information in this plan with your colleagues
- Lead your peers in advocating for actions that will improve the health of the community

Health Plans

- Educate employers and other health insurance purchasers about the benefits of preventive health care and responding specifically to the health needs of the community

Legislators and Policy Makers

- Understand and promote priority health issues in the community
- Adopt policies that align with health improvement needs and goals in this plan

Government Agencies

- Understand and promote priority health issues in the community
- Identify barriers to health in the community and make plans for action
- Invest in programs, services, and policy changes that will support the health needs of the community

Community Planning and Transportation Agencies

- Identify health challenges and goals in this plan that relate to community planning and development
- Work with health officials and government agencies to employ the goals in the course of planning and building areas of new and re-development

Employers

- Understand priority health issues and goals in this plan and how they apply to your workforce
- Change your work environment and augment your benefits plans to support healthier employees
- Educate your management team and employees about the link between employee health and work productivity

Community-Based Organizations

- Understand and promote priority health issues among the audiences and stakeholders you serve
- Align activities and outreach efforts with health improvement needs and goals in this plan
- Advocate for changes that improve health when interacting with policy makers and legislative officials

Faith-Based Organizations

- Understand and promote priority health issues among the community members you serve
- Talk to members about the importance of wellness and connect them with resources
- Create opportunities for your organization and members to take action to support the strategies in this plan

Philanthropy

- Understand and promote priority health issues among the communities you serve
- Support the health issues and goals in this plan when considering allocation of funding resources

Child & Adolescent Education

- Understand and promote priority health issues and goals in this plan and incorporate them as educational lessons in health, science, social studies, and other subjects
- Create opportunities to take action at schools to support the recommendations in this plan that impact students, faculty, staff, and parents

Higher Education

- Understand and promote priority health issues and goals in this plan when designing research studies or projects with the community
- Incorporate the health priorities, barriers, and solutions as educational lessons for students in health, science, education, sociology, and community service subjects
- Create opportunities to take action at institutions to support the recommendations in this plan that impact students, faculty, and staff

Source: Adopted from the Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan, 2014, Retrieved from http://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/public-health/PH-TCVFH/Documents/2014_Tarrant_County_Community_Health_Improvement_Plan_-_Final.pdf

BE A PART OF THE PLAN AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR EFFORTS!

Tarrant County Voices for Health wants to know how you use the goals and information in this plan. Please contact us to share your story.

Tarrant County Voices For Health

1101 South Main Street

Fort Worth, TX 76104

P: 817-321-5318

F: 817-321-5323

E: TCVFH@tarrantcounty.com

W: [Tarrant County Voices For Health](http://TarrantCountyVoicesForHealth.com)

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Built Environment: man-made surroundings that include buildings, public resources, land use patterns, the transportation system, and design features.

Complete Streets: streets that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP): a community-wide, collaborative strategic plan based on a community health assessment that sets priorities for health improvement and engages partners and organizations to develop, support, and implement the plan.

Cultural Competence: a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system or agency or among professionals that enables effective interactions in a cross-cultural framework.

Evidence-based Method: a strategy for explicitly linking public health or clinical practice recommendations to scientific evidence of the effectiveness and/or other characteristics of such practices.

Goals: identify in broad terms how the efforts will change things to solve identified problems.

Health Equity: achieving the highest level of health for all people.

Health Disparity: differences in health status among distinct segments of the population including differences that occur by gender, race or ethnicity, education or income, disability, or living in various geographic localities.

Health Literacy: the degree to which individuals can obtain, process, and understand the basic health information and services they need to make appropriate health decisions.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP): persons who are unable to communicate effectively in English because their primary language is not English and they have not developed fluency in the English language.

Objectives: measurable statements of change that specify an expected result and timeline, objectives build toward achieving the goals.

Performance Measures: the changes that occur at the community level as a result of completion of the strategies and actions taken.

Priority Areas: broad issues that pose problems for the community.

Strategies: action-oriented phrases to describe how the objectives will be approached.

Social Determinants of Health: the circumstances in which people are born; grow up, live, work, and age, as well as the systems put in place to deal with illness.

Walkability: a measure of how friendly an area is to walking.

Source: Adopted from the Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan, 2014, Retrieved from http://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/public-health/PH-TCVFH/Documents/2014_Tarrant_County_Community_Health_Improvement_Plan_-_Final.pdf

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

- ¹ Ahmed, F., (2013). *Tarrant County Community Health Assessment*. Y. M. Wingate (Ed.). , Retrieved from http://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/public-health/PH-TCV FH/Documents/2014_Tarrant_County_Community_Health_Improvement_Plan_-_Final.pdf
- ² Wingate, Y. M. (2014). *Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan*. Retrieved from http://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/public-health/PH-TCV FH/Documents/2014_Tarrant_County_Community_Health_Improvement_Plan_-_Final.pdf
- ³ Stanford School of Medicine. (n.d.). SMART Goals Template. Retrieved from <http://med.stanford.edu/>.
- ⁴ Health Resources in Action. (2012). Strategic Planning Department. Retrieved from <http://hria.org/services/health-improvement-planning.html>
- ⁵ The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/law/index.html>
- ⁶ Wingate, Y. M. (2014). *Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan*. Retrieved from http://access.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/main/public-health/PH-TCV FH/Documents/2014_Tarrant_County_Community_Health_Improvement_Plan_-_Final.pdf
- ⁷ Cheong, P. F. (2012). United Way Tarrant County Community Assessment Update. Retrieved from https://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/sites/default/files/Community%20Assessment%20Update%202012_Aug%2016.pdf
- ⁸ Bexar County Community Health Improvement Plan, 2012, Health Collaborative, adapted.