

Tarrant County Community Health Improvement Plan Progress Report

January 2015 - September 2015



**TARRANT COUNTY
VOICES FOR HEALTH**

TARRANT COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT, JANUARY 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2015

Background

The local public health system continues to work collectively toward making Tarrant County healthier for all. Thus far, there has been no progress seen regarding health indicators as it is still early in the process. Below is a summary of the efforts in each of the four priority areas during January 2015 – September 2015.

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.

- No new updates.
- Will discuss with Tarrant County Voices For Health (TCVFH) Advisory Council if feasible to pursue.

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

- A University of North Texas at Health Science Center (UNTHSC) School of Public Health graduate student collaborated with Tarrant County Public Health (TCPH)-Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Division and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Tarrant County to develop a curriculum including methods from MyPlate.gov.
- The curriculum was piloted at a YMCA in Fort Worth and a Boys & Girls Club in Arlington.
- Target population – 12-14 year old boys and girls
- Total reached - 30

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.

- No new updates.
- Will discuss with TCVFH Advisory Council to identify next steps.

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.

- An African-American church has been identified for Lifestyle Wellness Training addressing depression. The training will be provided to Health & Wellness Ministry leaders.
- Collaborating with a Korean American Research team is looking to assess Asian population. The IRB is in process.
- An oral health assessment tool regarding lifestyle wellness is being developed.
- A potential collaboration around underserved refugees and their families.

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%.

- There have been meetings about how to respond to President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative.
 - My Brother's Keeper Grassroots Network selected five schools of promise to begin to help fill in the need gaps by providing free supplies, support and services to teachers and students in low income schools.
 - My Teacher's Helper Project established to help improve children life outcomes by providing supplies, support and services at no cost to teachers, children and their families attending low income schools across our communities.
 - Partners include: Combined Ministers Unions, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the University of North Texas College of Education and College of Public Affairs and World Vision North Texas US Programs
- World Vision hosted a Youth Engagement Day on July 11, 2015 to promote civic engagement and leadership.
 - 162 youth attended event

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.

- No new updates.
- Will discuss with TCVFH Advisory Council if feasible to pursue.

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

- No new updates as this is contingent on the completion of Objective 1.1.
- Will discuss with TCVFH Advisory Council if feasible to pursue.

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 Successfully Completed**

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

- Two new cohorts from TCU Harris College of Nursing worked on pedestrian safety and established a walking program at C.C. Moss Elementary School.
- Blue Zones Project Fort Worth's Safe Routes to School Workgroup is preparing to apply for a grant from North Central Council of Governments to support one or four campuses on Fort Worth ISD.
 - C.C. Moss Elementary School is one of the four campuses being considered.

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.

- TCPH Environmental Health Division partnered with a student from TCU to develop a brochure regarding the health benefits of complete street policies.
- This is the foundation for what will be presented to city personnel to encourage either the development or expansion of complete street policies.

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 Successfully Completed**

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.

- No new updates.
- Will discuss with TCVFH Advisory Council to identify next steps.

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.

- TCPH partnered with a graduate student from UNTHSC School of Public Health to research feasibility of prescription legislation.

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.

- The Partnerships Task Force has reviewed recommendations from all three communication plan proposals and will combine strategies from each to comprise final strategic communication plan.
- During the Fall 2015 semester, TVCFH and Healthy Tarrant County Coalition will share a communications intern from TCU to improve marketing and branding of both groups.

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.

- A meeting of community partners came together to review a funding opportunity. After much discussion, the Strong Families Coalition (a 90-member agency to address poverty) was identified as the best organization to apply.

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

- Number of fund development applications completed and submitted – 1
 - BUILD Health – Planning Grant would focus on 76010

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.
- Will discuss with Advisory Council regarding next steps.

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 the CHIP. Please contact us to share your story.

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