



Community Health Improvement Plan Annual Progress Report, 2019

Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County

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Introduction

This is the annual review report for the 2017 – 2022 Okeechobee County Community Health Improvement Plan. The activities and collaborative efforts of the Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County and community partners will be reflected within the report. This document will serve as a progress review of the strategies that were developed and the activities that have been implemented. While the CHIP is a community driven and collectively owned health improvement plan, the Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County is charged with providing administrative support, tracking and collecting data, and preparing the annual review report.

Overview of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

The Okeechobee County Community Health Advisory Team (CHAT) was charged with the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Okeechobee County. The CHAT came together to better understand the current and emerging public health needs of Okeechobee County and to outline a plan for community health improvement. The process of assessing, prioritizing and planning to address the needs in the community was facilitated by the Health Council of Southeast Florida. The product of this process is the CHIP, a model for strategic health improvement in the community. The CHAT met during February – December 2016 to create the Plan for Okeechobee County. The CHAT worked in the months previous to extensively review the data contained in the Community Health Assessment in preparation for the development of the CHIP. The health priorities addressed in this plan emerged from the review of the data and the input and discussions of the CHAT. It is important to note that the qualitative data reflects the sentiments of other key stakeholders, including consumers and providers.

Top Health Priorities

- Youth High-Risk Behavior
- Senior Wellbeing
- Healthier Okeechobee

The CHAT worked to identify the root causes of the top health priorities in an effort to ensure the CHIP plans for action to address the priorities in an appropriate and effective manner. The Plan that follows details the goals, objectives and action strategies that were developed to address the community's health priorities.




Okeechobee County's CHIP is the product of much collaboration, brainstorming, review and discussion by many dedicated individuals. It is a thorough and executable plan that can be used in the community's health planning activities in the coming years.

STRATEGIC ISSUE AREA	GOAL
Youth High-Risk Behavior	1. <i>Increase Educational Attainment of Children ages 11-19 in Okeechobee County</i>
	2. <i>Contribute to a decrease in the number of teenage pregnancy in Okeechobee County</i>
	3. <i>Contribute to a decrease in the rate of sexually transmitted diseases in Okeechobee County</i>
	4. <i>Contribute to a decrease in tobacco use, substance and alcohol abuse in Okeechobee County</i>
Senior Wellbeing	1. <i>Improve related quality of life and wellbeing of all senior citizens in Okeechobee County</i>
	2. <i>Improve support for family and caregivers living in Okeechobee County</i>
Healthier Okeechobee	1. <i>Improve the health of residents by increasing the utilization of preventive health services.</i>
	2. <i>Improve mental health of Okeechobee County residents through prevention and increased access to services.</i>
	3. <i>Promote healthy lifestyle to Okeechobee residents to decrease chronic diseases exacerbated by a sedentary lifestyle and poor diet.</i>

Summary of CHIP Annual Review Meeting

Current CHIP implemented starting July 2017. The annual review of progress will be completed by June 30th of each year and the committee will work to have annual meetings conducted prior to the annual progress report update due by March of year.




* Status indicators are as follows:

-  = Little to no movement towards objective target
-  = some progress towards meeting the objective target
-  = reached or surpassed objective target


Strategic Issue Area #1: Youth High Risk Behavior

Strategy: Collaborate with community partners to increase outreach to parents, students and residents to support students' learning opportunities, using evidence based research to address teen pregnancies, the rate of sexually transmitted diseases and cigarette use substance and alcohol abuse in our community's youth.


Goal 1.1: Increase educational attainment of children ages 11-19 in Okeechobee County

Why this is important to our community:					
In the 2014-2015 school year, the graduation rate in Okeechobee County was 65.9%, considerably lower than the state of Florida's 77.8%. The CHAT recognizes that increasing educational attainment will provide youth with improved life outcome. People who complete more years of education have better access to health insurance, medical care, and the resources to live healthier lifestyles.					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance/success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given (This information may be available in your quarterly reporting tool)
Decrease absenteeism rates from 11.2% to 9.7% by 2020	Okeechobee County School District Data	11.2%	9.7%		The absenteeism rate is currently 7.64%
Increase the rate of middle school students promoted from ___% to ___% by 2020	Okeechobee County School District Data	Unknown	Unknown		Data unknown
Increase high school graduation rates from 65.9% to 75.9% by 2020	Okeechobee County School District Data	65.9%	75.9%		Graduation rate is at 80 %


Goal 1.2: Contribute to a decrease in the number of teenage pregnancies in Okeechobee County

Why this is important to our community:					
Okeechobee's teen birth rate (mothers ages 15-19) of 48.2% was more than double the rate of Florida's 21.9% in 2014. It's important to note that the rate of repeat births to mothers ages 15-17 in Okeechobee, 21.1%, is also substantially higher than the state rate of 7.3%. Having children in the teen years has been linked with increased medical risks and emotional, social, and financial costs to the mother and the children.					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance/success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given
By 2020, decrease the rates of births to mothers aged 11-19 by 2%	Florida's Vital Statistics Reporting System	17%	46.2%		Educational Outreach at OCSAC's Friday Night Done Right events

Goal 1.3: Contribute to a decrease in the rate of sexually transmitted diseases in the community

Why this is important to our community:					
the rate of chlamydia, gonorrhea and infectious syphilis in the county increased from 350.0 per 100,000 in 2014 to 501.4 per 100,000 in 2015. The CHAT aims to promote reproductive health education, outreach and access to services for the youth of Okeechobee to decrease the incidence of sexually transmitted infections and their complications among this population.					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance /success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box)**	**An explanation of the status given
Decrease the rate of sexually transmitted diseases aged 15-19 (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Infection Syphilis) in the community from 66 (2.4% in rate) to 61 (2.2% in rate) by 2020.	Florida Department of Health, Bureau of STD Prevention and Control	1.45%	2.2%		Educational Outreach at OCSAC's Friday Night Done Right events.




Goal 1.4: Contribute to a decrease in cigarette use, substance abuse in the community

Why this is important to our community:					
Tobacco use by all ages creates immediate and long term adverse health outcomes. The younger youth are when they begin using tobacco, the more likely they are to become addicted. Tobacco use among youth can lead to cardiovascular damage, reduced lung function and retardation of lung growth which leads to other comorbidities.					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance/success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given
By 2020, decrease the rate of middle and high school students who report currently using cigarettes by 1%	Florida Health Statistics Okeechobee Youth (Ages 11-17)	5%	2.7% middle sch 9.6% High school Total 6.15%		Florida Tobacco Free Partnership conducts monthly meets to address community's needs, participate in outreach education at OCSAC's Friday Night Done Right events.



Strategic Issue Area #2: Senior Wellbeing

Strategy: Improve access to care for seniors and provide support for their caregivers are deemed extremely important to improve the overall health of the community. Increasing providers' knowledge of home health and hospice care programs available in the community will assist them in making timely and accurate referrals for seniors to improve their health outcomes.

Goal 2.1: Improve health related quality of life and well-being for all senior residents of Okeechobee County.

Why this is important to our community:					
<p>Maintaining a healthy lifestyle during all stages of life is important. The Okeechobee County Community Health Advisory Team (CHAT) recognizes that seniors in the County encounter barriers to maintaining a long, healthy life and require extra attention.</p> <p>Of the total population in Okeechobee County, 39,398 residents, 17.2% are age 65 or older. A healthy lifestyle and balanced diet consisting of fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables is essential to maintain good health and prevent chronic disease development. For individuals and families living in poverty, access to fresh, affordable and nutritious food is often a barrier to maintaining health. In 2014, 13.6% of the Okeechobee County residents living in poverty were 65 years or older. The CHAT acknowledges that seniors living in poverty in Okeechobee County often lack access to affordable and fresh foods, and that food insecurity is an ongoing concern.</p>					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance/success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given (This information may be available in your quarterly reporting tool)
Increase physician referral to home health services by % by 2020.	Number of referrals to Home Health Care by hospitals and physicians	Unknown	Unknown		Data Unknown
Increase referral rates from physicians and hospitals to Hospice by 10% by 2020.	Rate of admission to Hospice Care in Okeechobee County.	Unknown	Unknown		Data Unknown
Increase calls, referrals and database visits received by 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast from seniors (65+) living in Okeechobee County by 7%	211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Okeechobee Reports	Unknown	Unknown		Data Unknown 211 Flyers are handed out at monthly food truck event.



Goal 2.1: Improve health related quality of life and well-being for all senior residents of Okeechobee County.

Why this is important to our community:					
Increasing providers' knowledge of home health and hospice care programs available in the community will assist them in making timely and accurate referrals for seniors to improve their health outcomes. These referrals will also improve the overall health and well-being of caregivers taking care of spouses and family members living in Okeechobee County. Many individuals often forgo their personal wellbeing when providing care for others, which affects the health of the community as a whole.					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance/success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given (This information may be available in your quarterly reporting tool)
Increase the number of attendees at family and caregiver support meeting from 322 to 450 by 2020.	Number of meetings and attendees at support meetings	Unknown	Unknown		Data Unknown
Create a digital support group for families and caregivers to utilize and receive services by 2020	Unique users/members registered with digital support group.	Unknown	Unknown		Data Unknown



Strategic Issue Area #3: Healthier Okeechobee

Strategy: The Okeechobee County Community Health Advisory Team (CHAT) acknowledges the myriad of factors that affect a person’s overall health and well-being. CHAT members agree that improving the health of County residents would require an increased use of preventative screening, improved access to mental health, and the continued promotion of healthy lifestyles to prevent disease.





Goal 3.1: Improve the health of residents by increased utilization of preventative health services, detection and treatment of risk factors for chronic diseases

Why this is important to our community:					
In 2014, the age-adjusted rate of hospitalizations from or with coronary heart disease in Okeechobee County was 882.5 per 100,000, which was significantly higher than the State rate of 299.4 in the same year.					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance/success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given (This information may be available in your quarterly reporting tool)
Decrease the age-adjusted rate of hospitalizations from or with coronary artery disease from 0.88% (882.5/100,000) to 0.80% (802.5/100,000) by 2020.	County level data from the US Census Bureau	.88%	.80%		Increase education and outreach importance of preventative care, update 211 and make easily changeable for new businesses.
Decrease the age adjusted rate of new malignant neoplasms (cancer) cases from 0.58% (586.5/100,000) to 0.55% (550/100,000) by 2020.	County level data from the US Census Bureau	0.58%	.55%		Increase education and outreach importance of preventative care, update 211 and make easily changeable for new businesses.

Goal 3.2: Improve mental health of Okeechobee County residents through prevention and increased access to care.

Why this is important to our community:					
<p>The CHAT identifies the shortage of primary care and mental health providers as a barrier to accessing care for residents in the County and plans to overcome it by improving the collaboration and cooperation of the health providers currently serving the community. Having providers join forces and communicate with one another will assist in fostering improved outcomes for residents of Okeechobee County. Proper screening and referrals, promoted by physician alliances, will facilitate residents getting the care and medical interventions they need in a timely manner.</p>					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance/success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	**(See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given (This information may be available in your quarterly reporting tool)
By 2020, organize an Okeechobee Mental Health Provider Network	Okeechobee CHAT group Mental Health Subcommittee	N/A	N/A		Okeechobee CHAT group Mental Health subcommittee is created a Mental Health provider directory. School system obtain grant from the Florida Behaviro Network to implement the Mental Health System of Care for Children in Okeechobee County; provides various seminars and events for Okeechobee families.
By 2020, decrease emergency room visits related to mental health ICD-10 codes by __%	Florida Agency on Health Care Administration	Unknown	Unknown		Data Unknown Okeechobee CHAT Mental Health subcommittee obtained and review preventible hospitals stays by ICD10. SFBN providing 5 mental health counslors in Okeechobee County public schools. Opiod Crisis Taskforce Helathcare Subcommittee developing 'warm handoff' pilots for Baker Act clients. New Horizon's provides case management, Moblie Crisis unit and Short term Residential rehabilitation treatment program to residents.

Goal 3.3: Promote healthy lifestyles to Okeechobee County residents to decrease chronic disease exacerbated by sedentary lifestyles and poor diets.

Why this is important to our community:					
Education on the importance of eating healthy and exercising at all stages of life can empower the community to have the knowledge and tools needed to create healthier lifestyles. This plan will also include working with local agencies to improve the opportunities residents have to access affordable, fresh food and exercise safely in their community.					
Objective	Indicator	Current Level	Target	Status	Explanation of Status*
Objectives listed in the CHIP	**this is the space for the indicator used to measure performance /success**	**current value of the indicator as of last reporting**	**Target value set within the CHIP**	** (See box below for explanation)**	**An explanation of the status given (This information may be available in your quarterly reporting tool)
By 2020 be prepared to adopt a sidewalk improvement and walkability plan	City/County's adoption of a plan	N/A	N/A		County adopted sidewalk improvement plan, City in progress.
Increase enrollment in eligible individuals and households in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by 2% by 2020.	SNAP participation data, County level data from the US Census Bureau	Unknown	Unknown		Data Unknown Access Buck implementation of Fresh Buck program at local produce market. TCFB/HSCEF providing a benefits navigator 1/wk to Okeechobee at United Way – better location for Senior than FCHC. FCHC providing several benefits navigators to clients and community. Education to Sr. Service on SNAP assistance and eligibility.
Decrease the percentage of youth in community who are overweight or obese by 10% by 2020.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey	N/A	N/A		Data Unknown Healthy recipes handed out a monthly mobile food truck event, DOH Sponsorship of school board 5K event, 5210 messaging in the school system and to early learning centers, Access Bucks program – working on kitchen for healthy cooking classes. Education in community.
Decrease the percentage of adults in community who are overweight or obese by 10% by 2020.	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey	N/A	N/A		Data Unknown Healthy recipes handed out a monthly mobile food truck event, DOH Sponsorship of school board 5K event, 5210 messaging in the school system and to early learning centers, Access Bucks program – working on kitchen for healthy cooking classes. Education in community.

Revisions

No current updates have been made to the original version.

Accomplishments

Accomplishments will be highlighted after the annual review meeting to be held by June 30th of each year.

Goal	Objective	Accomplishment
Improve mental health of Okeechobee County residents through prevention and increased access to care	By 2020, organize an Okeechobee Mental Health Provider Network	Okeechobee CHAT group Mental Health subcommittee is created a Mental Health provider directory. School system obtain grant from the Florida Behavior Network to implement the Mental Health System of Care for Children in Okeechobee County; provides various seminars and events for Okeechobee families.
How it's important for our community: Partners are key to the success of the Consortium. By aligning and coordinating efforts across various partners and sectors, efforts and improvements in health are amplified. With over 350 partners from various sectors – government, health, academic, nonprofit, and private – the Consortium is better positioned to tackle various health issues collaboratively to ensure residents live longer and healthier lives.		

Conclusion

The CHIP serves as a roadmap for a continuous health improvement process for the local public health system by providing a framework for the chosen strategic issue areas. It is not intended to be an exhaustive and static document. We will evaluate progress on an ongoing basis through CHIP implementation reports and routine discussion by community partners. We will conduct annual reviews and revisions based on input from partners and create CHIP annual reports by March of each year. The CHIP will continue to change and evolve over time as new information and insight emerge at the local, state and national levels.

By working together, we can have a significant impact on the community's health, improving where we live, work and play and realize the vision of a healthier Okeechobee County.

Appendices

Appendix A: Annual CHIP Review Community Meeting – *meeting to be conducted by June 2019.*

1. **Agenda**
2. **Meeting Minutes**
3. **Sign-in Sheet**

Appendix B: Comprehensive List of Community Partners

Key Participating Partners

- *211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast*
- *CASTLE*
- *Department of Children and Families (District 19)*
- *Florida Department of Health in Okeechobee County*
- *Okeechobee County School District*
- *Okeechobee Healthy Start Coalition*
- *Hospice of Okeechobee, Inc*
- *Early Learning Coalition*
- *Okeechobee County Senior Services*
- *CareerSource Heartland*
- *City of Okeechobee*
- *Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network*
- *Department of Juvenile Justice*
- *Okeechobee Substance Abuse Coalition*
- *Children’s Home Society*
- *Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Office*
- *City of Okeechobee Police Department*
- *FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities*
- *Okeechobee Board of County Commissioners*
- *Quit Doc Research and Education Foundation*
- *Okeechobee County Shared Services Network*
- *Martha’s House – Domestic Violence Shelter*