

SPOTLIGHT:

ROBUST COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

ALLEGAN MACC

The Multi-Agency Collaborative Council (MACC) in Allegan County, a program of the Allegan County Community Foundation, has 50 human services and other organizations and serves as a key facilitator and implementer of the Allegan County Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.



Targeted Problem:

Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) and Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) are often viewed as the sole responsibility of Local Health Departments (LHDs). Yet, the health problems and community condition challenges facing communities today require solutions and resources beyond the resources and reach of LHDs.

The Strategy:



The CHNA and CHIP, which are sponsored by Beacon Allegan Hospital, the Allegan County Health Department, and the Allegan County Community Foundation, leverages the knowledge, connections, and data accessible through the MACC. The MACC, in turn, creates opportunities for local organizations to support relevant solution implementation through their Roundtables, which are organized around issues prioritized within the CHNA.

The Results:

MACC Roundtable members improved community conditions related to recent CHIP priorities including:



Access to Medical Care - connected residents to resources; several nonprofits provided transit support.

Food Security - sponsored mobile food markets; coordinated efforts to improve access to food assistance.

Housing: supported the Well & Septic assistance program and home repairs; created a Digital Zoning Atlas; piloted a Community Information Exchange connecting residents to housing resources.

Behavioral Health: expanded access to SUD services, provided walk-in triage services, implemented the Otsego Student Health Center.

Why It Worked:

Engaging the MACC in the CHIP and CHNA processes provided a structure and format for actively involving nonprofits and other sectors in identifying and solving health and social determinants of health.

Success tips:

- **Pursue community involvement**, as health and community issues go beyond just the health department and its capabilities.
- **Leverage existing local resources and interests.**
- **Adapt to issues/needs as they change** or emerge
- **Have space for organizations to connect and share** updates/changes to staffing, funding, programming, etc. to keep each other aware and aligned.
- **Seek out non-traditional partners**, as individuals in the community sometimes have passions that can drive new pathways for change.

Allegan County Health Department

THE PARTNERS

OnPoint (Community Mental Health)

Allegan Area ESA

Perrigo

Community Action Agency Allegan County

Heart of West Michigan United Way

Allegan County Community Foundation

Local Food Pantries

People Helping People

Outdoor Discovery Center

Arbor Circle

Christian Neighbors

Local hospitals

Other local non-profits and businesses

Questions? Contact:
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