



Partnership for a Health GEAUGA  
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Planning Meeting  
September 25, 2014  
Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Brad Welch, Family First Council  
Mary Wynne-Peaspanen, Family Planning Association of NE Ohio  
Anne Anderson, Geauga County Board of DD  
Jessica Boalt, Geauga County Department on Aging  
Bob Weisdack, Geauga County Health District  
Dan Mix, Geauga County Health District  
Deborah O'Connor, Geauga County Public Library  
Britney Ward, Hospital Council of NW Ohio  
Kay Gurtz, Kent State University – Geauga Campus  
Melanie Blasko, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers  
Elaine Maro, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers  
Kathy Malobenski, Ledgemont Schools  
George J. Pogan, Middlefield Care Center  
Betsy Griffin, Starting Point  
Dawn Damante, UH Geauga Medical Center  
Julie Bogdan, UH Geauga Medical Center  
Joanne Randall, United Way Services of Geauga County  
Erwin Leffel, Health District Advisory Council  
Andrea Gutka, WomenSafe  
Angela Daugherty, Family Pride NEO  
Blake Andres, DDC Clinic  
Amanda Andersky, Lake County Free Clinic  
Irene McMullen, Munson Township  
Deanne Brant, Ravenwood Medical Health Center  
Catherine Whitright, Geauga County Resident  
Elbert Whitright, Geauga County Resident  
James Zock, Geauga County Job & Family Services

Handouts:

- Geauga County CHIP/MAPP Agenda
- Work assignment for Forces of Change Assessment

- Work Assignment for Identifying Key Issues and Concerns – Geauga County

Britney Ward, Hospital Council of NW Ohio, chair, started the meeting at 10:05 AM

1. All members introduced themselves and their roles at their respective agencies.
2. Britney Ward reviewed the agenda for the next two meetings
3. Britney Ward reviewed the procedure for the brainstorming session to complete the Forces of Change Assessment. A brainstorming session followed.
  - a. Brad Welch, FFC – Medicaid Managed Care might ease transportation issues for some residents seeking service. Changes in administration at Geauga Transit may also result in transit improvements for those attempting to get to medical appointments
  - b. Deborah O'Connor, GC Library – Winter weather is difficult for travel to medical appointments; salt prices may result in less road care and more difficult winter
  - c. Erwin Leffel, HDAC – increase in the size of the senior population
    - i. Jessica Boalt – Dept Aging - Senior population of Geauga County will grow to 26.5% by 2016; 30% by 2020
    - ii. George Pogan, Middlefield Care Center – population shift will affect school enrollment resulting in smaller class size; possibly school consolidations such as Newbury and Ledgemont face now
    - iii. George Pogan, Middlefield Care Center – more chronic disease as people live longer
    - iv. Jessica Boalt – Dept on Aging – Lack of affordable senior housing;
    - v. Blake Andres – DDC Clinic – very little first place, last place to live in Geauga County; needs more starter homes and retirement homes
    - vi. Deb O'Connor, Library – housing is a political issue; have heard statements like, “If you can’t afford it, don’t live here.”
    - vii. Jessica Boalt, Dept. Aging – senior residents living on fixed incomes have difficulty paying small repairs, let alone expensive repairs like replacing the septic system
  - d. George Pogan, Middlefield Care Center – a needs assessment of the Amish population resulted in home visiting nurses for newly-delivered mothers (114 visits in 2013 resulting in 20 hospitalizations)
  - e. George Pogan, Middlefield Care Center – Accountable Care Organizations model of healthcare delivery could result in better preventive care and a healthier population

- f. Irene McMullen, Munson Twp – water quality from oil and gas activity; potential of algal bloom effect is unknown as there are no standards and no testing is being conducted
  - i. Mr. & Mrs. Whitright, residents – water quality also affected by failing sewage systems; these are very expensive to replace
  - ii. Erwin Leffel & Bob Weisdack, GC Health District - discussed the new sewage regulation that could impact all resident with household sewage systems
- g. Bob Weisdack, GC Health District – requirement for public health accreditation will be costly for department
- h. Erwin Leffel, Thompson Twp – war on terrorism will impact service people returning to County and their jobs
- i. Brad Welch, FFC – legalization of marijuana
- j. Deb O'Connor, Library – proliferation of urgent care centers is good for medical needs
  - i. Kay Gurtz, KSU, many urgent care centers have closed
- k. Mary W-P, FPA NE Ohio, lack of family physicians in Geauga County
  - i. Deb O'Connor, Library – specialization is more financially rewarding than primary care practice; new EHR requirements are forcing physicians out of practice
  - ii. Brad Welch, FFC – Choose Ohio scholarships will pay for education for those entering primary care medicine
  - iii. Blake Andres, DDC – use of medical home model can improve medical care and outcomes for patients
- l. Amanda Andersky, Lake County Free Clinic – the free clinic serves Geauga County providing preventive and wellness services and is a good way to avoid unnecessary ER and specialist physician visits
- m. Jessica Boalt, Dept Aging – non-English speaking population is growing and affects ability to get services and jobs
  - i. Accessing health has become more difficult because of rules
  - ii. Healthcare navigators are supposed to help people get enrolled in Medicaid or private health insurance
  - iii. Lake County General Health District has a navigator
  - iv. UH Geauga Medical Center is working on a grant to provide help under a rural healthcare initiative
- n. Blake Andres, DDC Clinic – many youth are engaged in public health and wellness issues; it would be good to get them involved in this process
- o. Blake Andres, DDC and George Pogan, Middlefield Care Center – the Amish population is doubling about every 20 years; number of children per family size is approx. 5.7 (down from 7.4); marriage age women increased

- from 17 years to 20.5 years; Amish have the same problems as the rest of the population, including chronic disease, substance abuse, mental health problems – AND – a reluctance to seek help from government agencies
- p. Anne Anderson, GC Board of DD – developmental disabilities funding cuts have affected long-term health outcomes; ability to provide care for residents has been hampered
  - q. Britney Ward, HCNO – school report cards have been revised and many schools that have typically has A's are now getting some C's or lower for showing improvement for the lowest performing students
    - i. Kathy Malobenski, Ledgemont Schools – small schools are adversely affected by the school report card changes, because 1 student has larger impact on a small school system than a large system. New rules state than no more than 1% of students can be delayed (held back from grade advancement)
  - r. Kathy Malobenski, Ledgemont Schools – funding for public schools is not working; currently 35% of schools in Ohio are in some sort of fiscal crisis
  - s. Deb O'Connor, Library – need for assistance with children after school and during school closings; we try to provide fresh fruit and juice vending machines; the library is not a baby sitter or a school; resources have been challenged; daycare is expensive – the library is free
    - i. Geauga West branch 58 to 70 children per day after school
    - ii. Bainbridge branch – 25 to 36 per day after school
    - iii. Middlefield branch - 18 to 23 per day; before reestablishment of busing MF was at 50 to 60 per day after school
    - iv. Chardon branch – 20 to 30 per day after school
  - t. Brad Welch, FFC – JFS custody cases, which had been stable for years, have tripled to approximately 80 per year; these children may be placed with relatives or foster parents
    - i. A small discussion of Opiates and other drugs ensued
  - u. Children are suffering a disservice by the requirement that only children with certain risk factors can receive service
  - v. Must be aware of the invisible homeless and poor;
  - w. Geauga is a bedroom community which may result in many resident being totally apathetic to problems that social service agencies face everyday
4. Britney Ward reviewed the homework for the next meeting – Identifying Key Issues. Members were reminded of the availability of paper and online resources for locating the data to complete the key issues, including:
    - a. Geauga County Community Health Assessment data  
<http://www.hcno.org/community/data-indicator.html>

- i. Select and indicator in the drop-down list
    - ii. Select Geauga County 2011
    - iii. Check the 2011 box
  - b. ODH BRFSS data for Geauga County  
<http://geauga.oh.networkofcare.org/ph/>
    - i. Pick a category under Community Health Indicators
    - ii. Select indicators from the category (or change categories)
    - iii. Output will compare Geauga to Ohio, National and peer counties
  - c. County Health Rankings for Geauga, visit  
<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2014/rankings/geauga/country/outcomes/overall/snapshot>  
<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/ohio/2014/rankings/geauga/country/factors/overall/snapshot>
  - d. Geauga Community IMPACT <http://www.gcimpact.com/>
  - e. Communities That Care – Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services  
<http://www.geauga.org/links.html>
  - f. University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment <http://www.uhhospitals.org/geauga/about/community-health-needs-assessment>
  - g. The progress for the Partnership for a Healthy GEAUGA website <http://mapp.geaugacountyhealth.org> contains the following:
    - i. 2011 Geauga County Health Assessment
    - ii. Geauga County Community Themes and Strengths Assessment
    - iii. Geauga County Local Public Health System Assessment
5. Jay Becker, Geauga County Health District presented the finding from the local public health system assessment (LPHSA) that was conducted on April 24, 2014.
6. The remaining scheduled of meetings includes:
  - October 9, 2014 at 10:30 AM
  - October 23, 2014 at 10:30 AM
  - November 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM
  - November 20, 2014 at 10:30 AM
  - A tentative December 4, 2014 meeting at 10:30 AM was scheduled in case we need additional time
  - All meetings are at the Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services