

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLANNING CONSENSUS WORKSHOP



Common Obstacles – Key Observations Perceived System Weaknesses by Essential Service

#1 Monitor Health Status to Identify Health Problems*

Several participants indicated that:

- More promotion and dissemination of existing health assessments and reports is needed
- They had not been informed of health assessments completed in the community, where they could be located, and status updates on those assessments as they were reviewed or updated.

A few participants noted that:

- They were unaware of Florida Charts data reporting and where it could be located
- Additional analyses and reporting of data could be performed at a local level
- Consolidation of data systems could be improved

#2 Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards

Several participants indicated that:

- Collective response to chronic disease issues does not seem as well-coordinated as emergency health response

A few participants noted that:

- Focused community efforts on particular diseases seem to fluctuate widely over time

#3 Inform, Educate, and Empower People about Health Issues

Several participants indicated that:

- Lake County's wide geography can be a challenge to county-wide coordinated activities
- They do not always know where to go for health resources and non-emergency health information

- Information officers do not meet regularly for non-emergency health communication, and staffing is limited or being reduced

A few participants noted that:

- Health planning council services can be limited when funding is unavailable
- They were not familiar with local quality of life reports
- Media can be underutilized as a dissemination resource, and they would like to see more media connection with local communication activities
- Few outlets offer free or reduced cost advertising/promotional services to non-profit or governmental agencies

#4 Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems

Several participants indicated that:

- Focused community efforts on particular issues seem to fluctuate widely over time

A few participants noted that:

- They were unaware of the Community Resource Guide and 211 resources of the county
- Engaging citizens to initiate health behavior changes at an individual level can be challenging

#5 Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts

Several participants indicated that:

- The current local health group structure appears informal, which can cause problems with planning consistency, accountability and implementation
- They were unaware of any community strategic planning or implementation activities being conducted

A few participants noted that:

- There may be lack of community awareness about the public health system and stigma that the health department is the public health system
- There may be silos of information within the system preventing health planning and implementation successes
- There may be lack of engagement or empowerment among citizens to participate in the strategic planning process

#6 Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety

Several participants indicated that:

- Lack of community awareness for health-related laws, regulations, and ordinances can be a challenge to compliance.

A few participants noted that:

- Agencies have differing levels of enforcement authority within the system.

#7 Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Healthcare When Otherwise Unavailable*

Several participants indicated that:

- Navigation through different systems of care can be challenging, both for individuals receiving care and staff of referring organizations.
- Access to healthcare can be a challenge for individuals with lower incomes, migrant workers and those experiencing homelessness.
- The county's wide geography often impacts access to care, because resources are often spaced apart.
- Medical professional shortages often impacts access to care.

A few participants noted that:

- Undocumented immigrants can impact the health of a community, but may not be eligible for health services within the community.
- Individuals with low levels of health literacy can impact the health of a community.
- They were concerned that elimination of access barriers may not always translate into those individuals receiving necessary services

#8 Assure a Competent Public Health and Personal Healthcare Workforce

Several participants indicated that:

- There may be silos of information within the system preventing improvements in the workforce

A few participants noted that:

- They were aware of several healthcare professional workforce shortage areas including dentistry, nursing, and specialty healthcare providers.
- Many healthcare professions are highly regulated and require significant investment in continuing education
- A retiring healthcare professional workforce could lead to additional shortage areas.

#9 Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population-Based Health Services

Several participants indicated that:

- System wide coordination of health services is a challenge to individuals receiving comprehensive care
- A retiring healthcare professional workforce could lead to access to care issues

A few participants noted that:

- Individual practice to group practice operations may be due to technology cost, reimbursement changes and rising expenses
- Identifying tracking outcomes/follow up for some groups was reported as a challenge due to lack of consistency seeking care
- Personal health responsibility is critical to having improved health outcomes

**#10 Research for New Insights
and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems**

Several participants indicated that:

- Funding and staffing resources were a limitation to research capacity

A few participants noted that:

- Additional local research on behavioral and mental health needs would be beneficial to community efforts
- There may be silos of information about best practices and innovations within the system

References

Florida Department of Health in Lake County. (2016, July). Local Public Health System Assessment. Tavares, FL, USA.

***= Essential Services ranked in Quadrant A, activities may need increased attention**