

Community Health Improvement Workgroup Newsletter

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Community Health Improvement Planning Background

The Monroe County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is the strategic plan for addressing priority areas identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and in-line with the goals of the New York State Prevention Agenda. The CHIP is a county-wide plan developed by the Community Health Improvement Workgroup (CHIW) to improve the health of the community with goals, objectives, and interventions. The Monroe County CHIP has two primary focus areas for 2019-2021:

1. Addressing disparities in maternal and child health (MCH)
2. Improving mental health and well being

Our MCH goal of reducing racial, ethnic, economic, and geographic disparities in maternal child health outcomes, and promoting health equity for maternal and child health populations is the work of the Maternal Child Health Advisory Group (MCH-AG). The MCH-AG identified three primary drivers of reducing disparities: optimal birth spacing, safe and affordable housing, and the elimination of institutional racism.

Our second priority centers on improving mental health by focusing in two key areas: building well-being and resilience, and facilitating supportive environments that promote respect and dignity for people of all ages. Areas of work include eliminating stigmatizing language, connecting target audiences to Mental Health First Aid Courses, and exploring opportunities for community wealth building.

The full CHIP can be accessed at

<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/MediaLibraries/URMCMedia/community-health/health-policy/Final-CHIP-2019.pdf>

CHIW Announcement

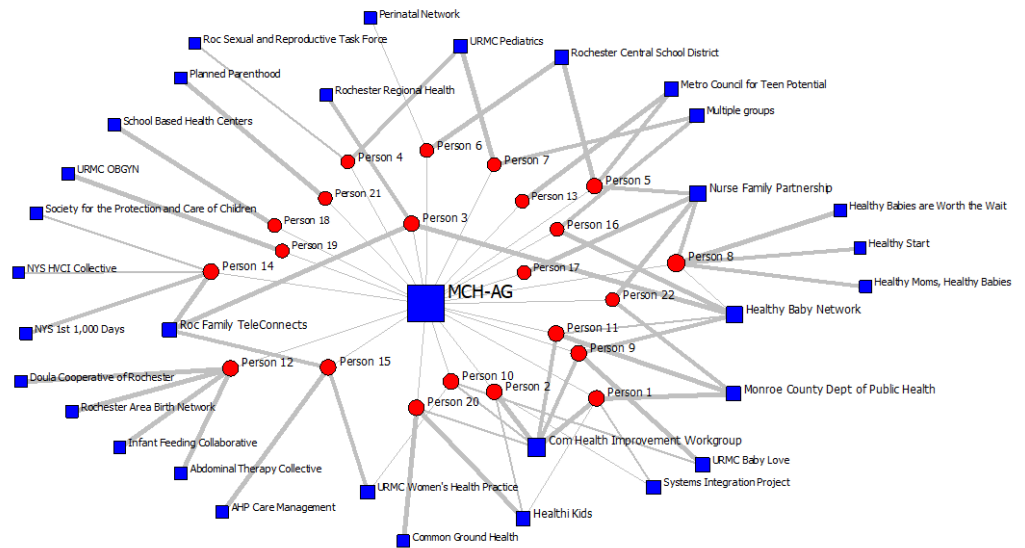
Rachel Allen, who has been coordinating the Community Health Improvement Workgroup since 2018 with Dr. Theresa Green through the Center for Community Health and Prevention, will be leaving to join the clinical research team at Wilmot Cancer Institute. Rachel's last day falls before the next CHIW meeting, but she wishes the CHIW the best of luck with the upcoming Needs Assessment process. She would like to thank the CHIW members for their collaborative spirit and all the work we've gotten done in the last 3 years!

CHIW Meetings

- Upcoming CHIW Meeting: July 12, 3:30 – 5:00
- August CHIW Meeting cancelled – Happy Summer!
- MCH-AG Meeting: August 16, 9:00 – 10:30

Addressing Disparities in Maternal and Child Health

The Maternal Child Health Advisory Group will be meeting next in August, 2021 for their quarterly meeting. This group, which has been meeting since 2019 comprises over 40 members and several organizations. Recently, we conducted a survey of the MCH-AG membership to create graphically represent the reach of the group. Many members are also members of other maternal and child health focused groups, and we wanted to see the locations and strength of the partnerships that already exist to better develop the role of the MCH-AG and avoid duplication of work. The analysis representing our network is shown below.



The thickness of the lines indicate the depth of the involvement of the MCH-AG member with the connecting partners, with wider lines representing higher levels of collaboration. We are fortunate to have this group serve as an advisory body for the CHIW and for the local pilot program Roc Family TeleConnects.

Improving Mental Health and Well-Being

As part of our goal to strengthen opportunities to build resilience and well-being across the lifespan, we are supporting local wealth-building initiatives. Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative has been working on poverty reduction initiatives, including the Employer Pledge, which University of Rochester, Rochester Regional Health, and Monroe County leadership have all signed. The pledge covers best practices for employers to address three areas: hiring, retention, and promotion, and signing it is a commitment to a \$15 minimum wage. Theresa and Rachel met with Aqua Porter, the Director of RMAPI, and discussed the employer pledge and the region-wide efforts to raise minimum wages for healthcare workers. Aqua Porter will be presenting about RMAPI's recent victories in recruiting large local employers to sign the employer pledge and raise their minimum wages at the next CHIW meeting on July 19th.

Events

Apply to become a member of the Roc Food Policy Council!

The charge of the Roc Food Policy Council (FPC) has been approved by City Council, and the FPC is now recruiting for members. Learn more about membership, the Rochester FPC bylaws, and apply to be a member at www.rocfoodpolicy.org. Please feel free to share and forward this opportunity. Applications are due on July 30th, 2021.

Webinars

HANYS Webinar Series: Understanding human behavior to address COVID-19 health Disparities. This continuation of the HANYS COVID-19 health disparities webinars will be offered July 13th from 1-2pm and will be conducted panel-style. The upcoming webinar is titled “Community Health Workers and Covid-10: Rising to the Challenge”. This series of presentations on health equity will continue to be offered by HANYS and University of Albany through December 2021 on the second Tuesday of each month.

https://www.hanys.org/events/health_equity/webinars/.

New York State Public Health Association

NYSPHA’s Summer Webinar season has already begun! The next webinar is titled “Respect: Health Literacy and Cross-Cultural Communication”. These webinars are free to NYSPHA members and \$10 for non-members. Register and see upcoming events at <http://nyspha.wildapricot.org/webinars>.

Data

RocHealthData

RocHealthData recently added a map series of local COVID-19 vaccination rates by census tract. This data can be accessed at <https://rochealthdata.org/covid-19-vaccination-rates/>.

Prevention Agenda Dashboard

As we approach the next Community Health Needs Assessment, reviewing the areas of concern where Monroe County has not met the state targets or the Prevention Agenda goals is an important step. To review this data, head to

https://webb1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_program=%2FEBI%2FFPHIG%2Fapps%2Fdashboard%2Fpa_dashboard&p=ch&cos=26.

What is the CHIW?

The Community Health Improvement Workgroup (CHIW) is a collaborative group that meets monthly to advance the Community Health Improvement Plan's priorities for Monroe County, NY.

The CHIW, composed of representatives from local hospitals (University of Rochester Medical Center's Strong Memorial Hospital and Highland Hospital, Rochester Regional Health's Rochester General Hospital and Unity Hospital) and the Monroe County Department of Public Health are committed to working collaboratively with the residents and institutions of Monroe County, to improve the health of our community. Every three years, through a process mandated by the Affordable Care Act, and the New York State Department of Health, non-profit hospitals and the health department conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to determine areas of community health concern. With community input, we prioritize community health needs and develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to address the most pressing issues of our community.

The mission of the CHIW is *“To improve the health and wellness of individuals and families of Monroe County by addressing prioritized needs and inequities through sustainable systems change built on collaboration and supported by shared resources.”*

For more information, see <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/community-health/health-policy/current-policy-initiatives.aspx>