

Community Health Improvement Workgroup Newsletter

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Community Health Improvement Plan 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>

Addressing Disparities in Maternal and Child Health

On May 20th, the Maternal Child Health Advisory Group (MCH-AG) met for their spring quarterly meeting. Highlights included a presentation from Roc Family Teleconnects, for which the MCH-AG is an advisory body. Roc Family Teleconnects is based on the evidence-based program Family Connects, which is a light-touch universal RN visit for infants with up to 3 follow-ups for emergent needs until the child is 6 months old. Roc Family Teleconnects has been piloting this program with Tele-medicine RN visits at Golisano Children's Hospital through AHP, through Rochester Regional Health, Jordan Health, and nine independent practices. They recently expanded the model to include Community Health Workers and Behavioral Health Specialists.

Dr. Katrina Korfmacher also presented to the MCH-AG on some important resources for renters, including protocols on disinfectant in light of COVID-19, a renter repairs guide, and a link to the EPPI (Eviction Prevention Pilot Initiative) 2.0 resources for covering pandemic-related

loss of income for renters in the form of back-rent and upcoming rent. The resources shared by Dr. Korfmacher can be found below:

Healthy Home Resources, including 2-page renters repairs guide

- <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/environmental-health-sciences/community-engagement-core/projects-partnerships/healthy-homes/resources.aspx>

Renter arrears resources and health-risk of eviction, eviction prevention materials/resources, leveraging the health system to share this information

- <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/EvictionPrevention/>
- <https://www.tenantdefense.org>
- www.thehousingcouncil.org

Improving Mental Health and Well-Being

As part of our goal to “facilitate supportive environments that promote respect and dignity for people of all ages”, we had committed to finding new audiences for Youth Mental Health First Aid. Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence based training that is for adults who work with or are in contact with children and it teaches them how to identify crises and mental health struggles and how to appropriately respond. The two target audiences identified by the CHIW were foster parents and R-Center employees. The R-Center employees will be trained in a private training session with about 20 participants on June 28th. The foster parents and employees with the foster care office will be forwarded training announcements as they become available to the public. Many of them have already attended the public trainings as individuals.

Other Updates

At the most recent CHIW meeting we had a guest presentation from John Cullen, Professor of Clinical & Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Clinical & Translational Science Institute. In his presentation, he described the process that the Community Advisory Council used to determine regional health priorities for research for the Finger Lakes Region. One of the documents they used in the process was our Community Health Needs Assessment from 2019. Other documents reviewed for priorities included the Regional CHA conducted by Common Ground Health, the RMAPI policy agenda, and Rochester 2034. The top five priorities for health research were determined to be: Improving housing access, promoting well-being to prevent mental and substance use disorders, violence prevention, policy change to decrease re-incarceration, and chronic disease preventive care and management. Thank you to John Cullen for walking us through the process and presenting the research agenda.

To learn more about these initiatives or any of the CHIW activities, please feel free to contact Rachel_allen1@urmc.rochester.edu.

Events and Announcements

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.

June 6-12 is the American Hospital Association's Community Health Improvement Week

The theme of CHI Week 2021 is "Reflect, Renew, Rise Together". Follow for updates on the AHA website or on twitter.

<https://www.aha.org/center/community-health-improvement-week> Share your CHI Week activities and respond to our themed questions on social media using #CHIWeek. Follow @ahahospitals and @communityhlth for CHI Week updates!

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 June 8th from 1-2pm and will be conducted panel-style. 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/.

Grants

Greater Rochester Health Foundation: Responsive Grants

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation announced that they are now accepting their 2021 Responsive Grants: Call for Ideas. Information on this grant opportunity can be found at https://thegrhf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-Responsive-Call-for-Ideas_Final.pdf.

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/>.

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>