

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) outcomes and
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 underlying drivers of reducing disparities: optimal birth spacing, access to 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 stigma reducing language, connecting target audiences to Mental Health First Aid Courses, and exploring opportunities for hospital involvement in 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

Last newsletter, we shared that the RASE Commission's full report had been released mid-March and is available to read at

<https://rocrase.com/report>. At the May CHIW meeting, we will be presenting nine policies from the report to select a few that best align with the CHIW's priority areas and scope of work. Some examples of recommendations from the RASE report include: funding training and recruitment of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as doulas and make doulas available as a public health service, creating an Ombudsperson Office for Monroe County where residents can report discrimination in health care and be advised of their rights and paths forward, with a diverse advisory board. Another policy recommendation was to establish Health Committees in both the Monroe County Legislature and the Rochester City Council that would be charged with reducing health

disparities for community members that are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

Our next quarterly Maternal Child Health Advisory Group Meeting is May 20th, 2021 from 9:00-10:30am. This meeting will focus on housing, one of our three priority areas in maternal child health, along with birth spacing and institutional racism. We will be discussing local housing resources available for providers to refer their clients to, and the RASE commission's recommendations from the housing subcommittee. We will select a few policies that the MCH-AG would like to promote or advocate for from these policies.

Improving Mental Health and Well-Being

The CHIW has an ongoing stigma-reduction initiative to create supportive document that share resources with patients who visit the emergency departments for health issues related to substance use. We are working with the hospital systems, health department, and community members with lived experiences to create patient-centered and non-stigmatizing documents through thoughtful language change.

In April, we confirmed with Rochester Regional Health that they will be using the document that we created as an addition to the discharge resources provided to patients when they present with a substance use related issue in the Emergency Department. We also provided the document, which contains local resources for treatment, and peer recovery groups to social workers at Strong and Highland to use as needed.

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

Citizen Public Health Training

New York State has released a citizen public health training course, free and open to the public at <https://www.ny.gov/programs/citizen-public-health-training-program>.

Co-Design Workshop

The Greater Rochester Health Foundation will be hosting a virtual training in human-centered design from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Friday, May 21. Information on the training will be released on their website at <https://thegrhf.org/grants/responsive-grants/>.

Webinars

HANYS Webinar Series

HANYS Webinar series: Turning the Tide: Understanding and Eliminating Minority Health Disparities has an upcoming webinar titled "Black and Latinx Mental Health Disparities: Experiences with Telemental Health

Services. This panel-style webinar will be offered May 11th and registration can be found at 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 has updated their community health indicators with 2018 data from Rochester RHIO (Regional Health Information Organization). Updated maps and data on smoking, obesity, and diabetes can be found at: <https://rochealthdata.org/community-health-indicators-2018/>

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>