



Welcome to the first edition of CHIP Connect, a newsletter to keep you up-to-date on plans to reduce and, finally, eliminate health disparities in our community through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

The CHIP kick off in August offered an opportunity to share the collaborative efforts of about 500 Southern Nevadans in a process that took more than a year. This collaboration has resulted in the first community-wide plan to address health disparities that continue to occur in Southern Nevada.

As part of the development of the CHIP, the team created work groups that ranged from 50 to 100 members and identified three areas of focus to address: (1) Access to Care, (2) Chronic Disease (3) and Policy & Funding. Your time and talent in these endeavors are immeasurable.

Following the CHIP introduction, many of you inquired about participating in one of the work groups or how your agency could adopt aspects of the plan. Please let us know how we can support your community and agency in this work.

Engagement in the CHIP can offer several benefits as we work to achieve the goals of the plan:

- Ability to leverage multiple agencies and stakeholders to meet a specific need
- Ability to refine data to identify specific disparities and risks
- Educational opportunities for your community and agency
- Access to information that shows successes and needs in a specific area
- Networking and nontraditional collaborative opportunities

- Participation in CHIP objectives and actions

Progress continues

Here are some updates on how the CHIP is being put into action by each of the focus area work groups:

1. Access to Care

- a. Healthcare access and navigation - The group is gathering and evaluating data and creating a presentation highlighting expected community improvements and cost savings with the implementation of an Emergency Communication Nurse System. The presentation will be scheduled for late October or early November. More information to follow.
- b. Healthcare workforce resources and transportation - A core group is meeting to review/refine/define access and risk data sets. These data experts will present their findings to the group with a goal of facilitating collaboration on specific action plans addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations and improve the ability of providers to work in areas of need.
- c. Health Insurance - Data is being further refined to determine disparities in insurance sign ups. The findings will be presented at the next insurance group meeting to assist in focused strategies for the next open enrollment and insurance sign up period in November.

2. Chronic Disease: The Chronic Disease Workgroup plans to build on existing prevention and intervention activities occurring in Southern Nevada. CHIP members can learn about two existing community coalitions working in this focus area:

- a. The Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition's (NTPC) mission is to reduce the burden of tobacco usage and nicotine addiction. Coalition meetings offer a platform to network, share ideas, and learn about successes and educating about and advocating for policy change. To learn more about coalition activities. contact Amber Greene for at (702) 948-4160 or agreene@lungs.org or visit the coalition's website at www.tobaccofreenv.org.

- b. Partners for a Healthy Nevada (PHN) is Southern Nevada's Obesity Prevention Coalition and offers networking, information sharing, advocacy and support for activities. General meetings are held quarterly. For a meeting schedule and more information visit: www.getthehealthyclarkcounty.org/phn/index.php.

3. Policy and Funding

- a. Internship opportunities for college and university students to refine data and create community educational resources. Resources will include talking points, flyers and handouts, PowerPoint presentations or videos.
- b. Speakers Bureau with name, area of expertise, and contact information (contact info not visible to public). Requests for subjects and/or speakers can be submitted through the contact us link on the Healthy Southern Nevada website. They are also looking into video messaging.
- c. Policy tracking will begin shortly.

News from our partners

United Way of Southern Nevada is looking for **500 more volunteers** for projects on our Day of Caring, September 30. The event will bring together more than 1,200 volunteers who will complete 99 volunteer projects benefiting 23 nonprofit agencies and 16 elementary and middle schools. There is a volunteer kickoff celebration at Town Square from 7:30am - 8:30am and then volunteers will head off to their sites for either a half day 9:30am - 12:30pm or full day 9:30am - 3:30pm volunteer project. Go to uwsn.org/caring for more information and to register.

Congratulations to Las Vegas CHIPS. The Nevada Public Health Association awarded the CHIPS the 2016 Public Health Program of the Year.

If you have CHIP news, progress or information to be included in the next CHIP Chat, please contact Adele Solomon at solomon@snhdmil.org. Future updates will include:

- Website updates specific to the CHIP
- Meeting notices as scheduled
- Newsletters
- New resources and data refinement

To learn more about the CHIP or how to get involved, contact Adele Solomon solomon@snhdmail.org or 702-401-3720.



Addressing Health Disparities through **Community Health Connections**

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