

ALLEN COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH
IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2014-2016 Report

April 2017

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Introduction

This is a report for the 2014-2016 Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). While the CHIP is community driven and a collectively owned health improvement plan, Allen County Public Health is charged with providing administrative support, tracking and collecting data, and preparing the annual review.

The activities and collaborative efforts with community partners will be reflected in this report. You will find the summary of the CHIP Action Plan on page 2, followed by a report on each action step on the following pages. While not every action step was achieved as originally intended due to competing priorities and changes in personnel, you will note that there is much to celebrate in the changes that have taken place in our community in order to improve the health of Allen County residents.

A copy of the 2014-2016 Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan can be found at this [link](#). The plan outlines the MAPP (Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnerships) process that was used to determine health priorities, the community partners involved, and the best practices chosen to work on priorities.

Mission and Vision

Vision: To improve the quality of life for residents of Allen County

Mission: Create a sustainable environment that promotes and supports the health and well-being of Allen County.

Value Statements:

- Enhance awareness and understanding of factors that contribute to the well-being of Allen County.
- Foster leadership collaboration to promote an aligned vision for improving Allen County.
- Mobilize community action and partnerships to build capacity for emerging opportunities.
- Emphasize the use of evidence based practices and interventions to promote effective outcomes.
- Commit to the prudent use of community resources in order to avoid redundancy and maximize results, outcomes and communication.

Overarching Approach:

- Continuing awareness
- Collaborative alignment
- Comprehensive action

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Action Plan Summary

Priority Area 1: Increase Wellness

Action Step Recommendations

To work toward **increasing wellness and reducing risk factors for chronic disease**, the following action steps are recommended:

1. Develop infrastructure for wellness activities and secure funding for prioritized initiatives
2. Increase businesses implementing formalized breastfeeding policies*
3. Increase businesses providing comprehensive wellness programs & insurance incentive programs to their employees*
4. Implement Ohio Hospital Association's Healthy Hospitals Initiative
5. Implement a county-wide school wellness council*
6. Implement a food policy council*
7. Implement a healthy housing initiative

Priority Area 2: Improve Maternal and Infant Health

Action Step Recommendations

To work toward **improving maternal and infant health**, the following actions steps are recommended:

1. Establish a maternal and infant health task force
2. Increase 1st trimester and preconception care*
3. Explore opportunities to implement The Pathways Model*

Priority Area 3: Improve Mental Health and Decrease Substance Abuse Issues

Action Step Recommendations

To work toward **decreasing mental health and substance abuse issues**, the following actions steps are recommended:

1. Increase the number of primary care & specialty health care providers who screen and make referrals for depression during office visits
2. Increase the number of ER physicians and primary care providers who screen for alcohol and drug abuse
3. Implement evidence based substance abuse prevention programming for young children and their parents*

Priority Area 4: Increase Access to Care

Action Step Recommendations

To work toward increasing **access to care**, the following actions steps are recommended:

1. Increase public transportation
2. Increase physician recruitment for primary care and mental health providers
3. Increase cultural competence
4. Increase community education on health insurance opportunities and utilization

* Indicates Best Practices, or Evidence-based or promising strategies.

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PRIORITY AREA 1: INCREASE WELLNESS

Goal 1: Develop infrastructure for wellness activities, and secure funding for prioritized initiatives.

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Through collective impact, a sustainable community health collaborative can align initiatives to improve health in three priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce depression and suicide, drug dependency and overdose deaths • reduce risks related to poor birth outcomes and infant mortality • increase wellness and reduce risk for heart disease and diabetes
<i>Community Data</i>	For more information regarding community health in Allen County, see the Allen County 2016 Community Health Profile .
<i>Action Steps in the 2014-2016 Plan</i>	Create a long term plan for wellness initiatives Collaborate with agencies to implement the plan

RESPONSIBLE GROUP/AGENCY: ACTIVATE ALLEN COUNTY

<i>Primary Contact</i>	Activate Allen County Sustainability Committee - representation from Allen County Public Health, Ohio State University Lima, and Partnerships to Improve Community Health
<i>Other participating organizations</i>	<p>Allen County Commissioners</p> <p>Allen County Public Health</p> <p>Allen Economic Development Group</p> <p>City of Lima</p> <p>Health Partners of Western Ohio</p> <p>Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission</p> <p>Lima Family YMCA</p> <p>Lima Memorial Health System</p> <p>Mental Health and Recovery Services Board</p> <p>NOW Marketing</p> <p>Ohio Northern University</p> <p>St. Rita's Health Partners</p> <p>The Ohio State University, Lima Campus</p> <p>Trinity United Methodist Church</p> <p>United Way of Greater Lima</p> <p>West Central Ohio Regional Healthcare Alliance</p> <p>West Ohio Community Action Partnership</p> <p>West Ohio Food Bank</p>

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	Additional agencies participating in work groups and coalitions
<p><i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i></p>	<p>The Activate Allen County partnership was established in 2009, and was first named “Sustainable Allen County,” with the mission to improve the quality of life of Allen County residents through the creation of a sustainable environment. This group applied for and received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control, called Pioneering Healthier Communities. The collaborative work that resulted from this grant led to applying for, and receiving two additional CDC grants: the Community Transformation Grant, from 2012-2014, and the Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) grant, from 2014-2017. These grants focused on creating environments that support healthy eating, active living, and tobacco free living. A Sustainability Committee for Activate Allen County was convened in the Fall of 2015 to develop a plan to continue coordination of population health activities that would continue after the PICH funding would come to an end.</p> <p>Changes to the action plan</p> <p>The goal was broadened to “Develop an infrastructure for a <i>community health</i> coalition that is supported by local resources and exists to influence and improve the culture of health and wellbeing for all in Allen County. The vision addresses root causes to promote well-being and quality of life.”</p> <p>In May 2016, a consultant from Community Initiatives assisted the Activate Allen County Leadership Team with developing a “Starter Charter” for the collaborative. The Sustainability Committee developed a proposed budget for locally resourced staff to coordinate Activate Allen County activities, along with a proposed structure of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An executive council of health CEOs and community leaders who will provide vision and resources. • A steering committee will be responsible for administration. • Work groups and collaborations will continue to be the “change agents” for population health activities in Allen County. <p>Local funding has been secured to support two staff positions and AAC will become an initiative (program) under the Lima Allen County Chamber Foundation when the CDC grant ends in September or 2017. Planning and organizational structuring continues.</p>
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<p>Infrastructure development for Activate Allen County will continue through 2017-2018, and will serve as the backbone support organization to align initiatives in the priority areas of the Community Health Improvement Plan.</p>	

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PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE WELLNESS

Goal 2: Increase businesses implementing formalized breastfeeding policies.

<p><i>Expected Outcome</i></p>	<p>Breastfeeding provides health benefits to mothers and infants, including reduced rates of breast and ovarian cancer for women, fewer ear infections, lower respiratory tract infections, and gastrointestinal infections for children, and lower likelihood of childhood obesity, type 2 diabetes and asthma.</p> <p>Breastfeeding promotion programs are likely to reduce health disparities, and breastfeeding workplace programs increase initiation, duration, and exclusivity of breastfeeding</p>
<p><i>Baseline community data (2014 CHA or as indicated)</i></p>	<p>Baseline data: Unavailable</p>
<p><i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i></p>	<p>Survey employers about current breastfeeding policies and provide education and sample policies. Assist workplaces with implementing workplace policies.</p>
<p>RESPONSIBLE GROUP</p>	
	<p>Lima YMCA: Partnerships to Improve Community Health Allen County Public Health: Allen County Creating Healthy Communities Program Allen County Public Health: Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program Partner businesses</p>
<p><i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i></p>	<p>Between 2014-2016, twenty-two businesses and organizations adopted breastfeeding policies. In 2016, the worksite breastfeeding support and policy development work was combined into an overall workplace wellness program called the Activated Business Challenge. This was created with the assistance of the Allen County Workplace Wellness Collaborative. Breastfeeding support for employees and visitors is included within this program. See the CHIP Increase Wellness Objective #3.</p> <p>Businesses interested in supporting a breastfeeding-friendly workplace may visit the Activate Allen County website or contact the Allen County WIC office for resources: 419-224-8200.</p>

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Worksite Breastfeeding support will be included in the Activated Business Challenge as described in the Increase Wellness Goal 3.



Access to a sink, chair, and small refrigerator provides support for working mothers who want to continue breastfeeding when they return to work; this supports better infant health and fewer sick days. This space was set up for nursing mothers at DTR Industries in Bluffton.

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PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE WELLNESS

Goal 3: Increase businesses providing comprehensive wellness programs and insurance incentive programs to their employees

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Employee wellness programs will reduce employee risk of chronic disease, including heart disease and diabetes.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	Allen County adults diagnosed with diabetes: 12%; Ohio rate: 11%. The age-adjusted death rate for coronary heart disease in Allen County from the 2012-2014 measurement period was 136.2 per 100,000. The rate in Ohio was 124.3 per 100,000, and the Healthy People 2020 target is 103.4 per 100,000. (CDC)
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect baseline data on businesses and organizations offering comprehensive wellness and insurance incentive programs to employees. 2. Host a wellness summit to educate businesses about the benefits of implementing worksite wellness 3. Increase the number of businesses/ organizations that initiate wellness and/or insurance incentive programs or upgrade their current programs to best practices.

RESPONSIBLE GROUP: ALLEN COUNTY WORKSITE WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE

<i>Primary Contact</i>	West Central Ohio Regional Healthcare Alliance (WCORHA)
<i>Other participating organizations and/or contacts</i>	<p>Allen County Public Health - Creating Healthy Communities Program</p> <p>Lima YMCA - Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH)</p> <p>St. Rita's Health Partners</p> <p>Lima Memorial Health System</p> <p>Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Allen County Educational Service Center Employee Wellness Program</p>
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<p>In 2014, an employer survey was developed and sent to Allen County employers. Twenty-one surveys were returned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48% did not have a worksite wellness program. • 30-40% of those without a worksite program indicated that they are interested in having a wellness program. • 42% of respondents had less than 30 employees. <p>Wellness programs for businesses included: "Wellness as a Business Strategy" – offered through St. Rita's Health Partners Foundation's Business Council in the Fall of 2014. WCORHA sponsored a WELCOA spokesperson at the Lima/Allen County Safety Council in May, 2015 on the importance of worksite wellness programs.</p>

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In the Fall of 2015, a Worksite Wellness Collaborative team was formed to develop strategies to engage local businesses. In partnership with the PICH grant, the team launched [the Activated Business Challenge \(ABC\)](#) and Worksite Wellness Tool-Kit in September 2016.

Resources and information are provided through the Activate Allen County website. New branded materials have been developed for this purpose, including television and radio spots. Application windows for businesses to accept the “Activated Business Challenge” are open 2 different times throughout the year, and participants/champions will be recognized 2 times per year through the Chamber Breakfast Awards and possibly the annual Gala Awards dinner. A total of thirteen businesses submitted applications during the first round of competition.

2017 – 2018 PLANS

The Collaborative will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to promote the ABC, review and promote the annual activities that will be included in the ABC (local 5Ks or other challenges), oversee the Award & Recognition structure, and monitor the Employer Toolkit to ensure it stays current with timely content. Future plans also include an evaluation of how the Creating Healthy Communities initiatives and resources can best be utilized to assist local businesses in developing workplace wellness programs.



Fall 2016 Activated Business Challenge Award Winners



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PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE WELLNESS

Goal 4: Implement Ohio Hospital Association’s Healthy Hospitals Initiative

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Reduce risk for heart disease and diabetes for Allen County residents.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	Allen County adults diagnosed with diabetes: 12%; Ohio rate: 11%. The age-adjusted death rate for coronary heart disease in Allen County from the 2012-2014 measurement period was 136.2 per 100,000. The rate in Ohio was 124.3 per 100,000, and the Healthy People 2020 target is 103.4 per 100,000. (CDC)
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Rita’s Health Partners and Lima Memorial Health System will explore opportunities to align with the Ohio Hospital Association’s Good 4 You initiative. • Create a focus group to set the parameters for the Good 4 You Initiative. Consider setting parameters in the following priority areas: balanced menus, healthy beverages, breastfeeding, healthier vending • Create an action plan and begin implementing the Good 4 You Initiative in at least one priority area
<i>Primary Contacts</i>	St. Rita’s Health Partners (SRHP) Lima Memorial Health System (LMHS)
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<p>Both Lima Memorial Hospital Systems and St. Rita’s Health Partners initiated and engaged in several opportunities that aligned with OHA’s Healthy Hospital Initiatives and Good 4 You by encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy eating for all employees and those who visit the hospitals.</p> <p>The following were initiatives that occurred during the 2014-2016 time period:</p> <p>1) <u>Healthy Menus, Vending, Beverages, and Meetings</u></p> <p>SRHP began offering balanced menus in the Café at a low cost –employees and community members enjoy tasty meals that are 500 calories or less for \$3.25, offered daily. St. Rita’s shifted options away from high sugar drinks to water and healthy hydration, and provides healthier options in the vending machines (25% of snack offerings meet healthy food standards and 50% of beverages meet healthy beverage standards). Instead of donuts for special meetings, fresh fruit, yogurt and granola bars are offered. The Café has eliminated fried foods; and signs help guide employees/visitors to healthy options.</p> <p>LMHS did an internal vending and menu campaign called Well Aware, focused on the nationally recognized vending program of the 35/10/35 rule. This advanced to Mindful by Sodexo, which transformed all vending and menu (inpatient and outpatient) healthy eating criteria</p>

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2) Support for breastfeeding

St. Rita's is a part of Ohio Hospital Association's First Steps for Healthier Babies and has been designated a Three Star hospital. Some of the efforts included: having a designated breastfeeding room, available breast pumps, supportive policies and a breastfeeding support clinic for the community, led by a lactation consultant.

LMHS implemented the 'Breast Feeding and Breast Milk Storage' policy, and is also a part of the First Steps for Healthier Babies program.

3) Employee wellness

St. Rita's continued a wellness program that was initiated in 2013 that encourages healthy behaviors to address wellness for mind, body and spirit. Positive results and outcomes in addressing key health risk factors were realized, and St. Rita's continues to support ongoing efforts. Wellness options were offered to employees, such as: free on-site biometric screenings, wellness assessments, tobacco free credit, nutrition educational workshops/classes, on-site fitness center open 24/7 free of charge with a designated full-time personal trainer, on-site fitness classes, safe and secure bicycle parking, exercise/fitness lunch and learns, EAP program available 24/7, stress management and resiliency training workshops, on-site health management programs, exercise/nutritional challenges, weight management programs, and designated indoor/outdoor walking paths.

In coordination with the internal wellness program, LMHS was able to offer an onsite Farmer's Market. Healthy vending, beverage, and menu education and expansion continues with Mindful by Sodexo. Weight Watchers @ Work has become very successful, reaching a 500 pounds lost milestone. An improved onsite Farmers Market was offered June through October. The THRIVE wellness program offered challenges and education including the Better Bites Challenge, Operation Gratitude Candy Give Back, and Thanksgiving Feast This vs. That.

4) Tobacco

Both hospitals are committed to continuing their tobacco free campus policies.

By creating an environment and offering healthy options and encouraging healthy lifestyles people are enjoying healthier food, exercise and choose healthier options, and are supported in breastfeeding.

2017-2018 PLANS

Healthy workplace initiatives will continue through the Allen County Worksite Wellness Collaborative (see Improve Wellness Goal #3).

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PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE WELLNESS

Goal 5: Implement a county-wide school wellness council

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Create environments for youth that support active living, healthy eating, and tobacco prevention
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	3 rd graders measured as overweight or obese: 39.3%, Ohio, 35% (2010 - ODH) Youth (9 th – 12 th grade) current smokers: 13%; Ohio 15% High school youth physically active at least 60 minutes per day on 5 or more days per week: 55%; Ohio - 48%
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	Collaborate with the 9 school districts in Allen County to create a county-wide school wellness council. Initiate wellness policy revisions at 2 local school districts, and have the new policies accepted by the school board.
<i>Primary Contacts</i>	Lima YMCA - Partnerships to Improve Community Health & St. Ritas's Health Partners Allen County Public Health - Creating Healthy Communities Program
<i>Other participating organizations and/or contacts</i>	Participating schools include: Bluffton Local Schools, Delphos Jefferson Schools, Delphos St. Johns, Elida Local Schools, Lima City Schools, Shawnee Local Schools, Spencerville Schools, St. Rose Catholic School
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	Changes to the Action Plan: In 2015 the action steps were revised to collaborate with school districts in Allen County to promote healthy school environments that support schools with creating or adopting improvement plans for improving active living, healthy eating, and tobacco prevention. Activated School Challenge Partnerships to Improve Community Health and St. Rita's Health Partners, through Activate Allen County, have collaborated with five (5) school districts in Allen County to participate in the Activated School Challenge. Each school will create and adopt Improvement Plans for improving physical activity, physical education and/or nutrition opportunities for students. Tobacco Free School Policies* The Creating Healthy Communities Program worked with Delphos Jefferson and Delphos St. John's on their tobacco policies. Both schools implemented a 100% Tobacco Free School Policy in 2016. The policies cover school grounds and are enforced at football games at their shared stadium in Delphos.

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Safe Routes to School

Elida and Spencerville both completed sidewalk projects in 2016. The Creating Healthy Communities program provided educational materials to incorporate into the school curriculum as well as school-wide materials (posters, safety videos, teaching cards, etc.). Bike racks were provided to both schools to accommodate increased bike traffic. Both schools also participate in Walk/Bike to School events annually.

School Orchard

The Creating Healthy Communities Program collaborated with Lima City South Middle School to plant a fruit tree orchard (10 trees) to enhance all of their other projects/initiatives to provide healthier food options to the students. Books were provided for classroom libraries, science teachers, and school libraries to incorporate fruit tree topics into the curriculum.

**Strategy likely to reduce health disparities*

2017-2018 PLANS

Continue with the Activated School Challenge, and support the Ohio Tobacco Free Alliance strategic plan for prevention of youth tobacco use.



Above: Participating Activate School Challenge school representatives; fruit trees ready to plant at Lima South Middle School; new sidewalk at Spencerville Schools (Safe Routes to School).

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PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE WELLNESS

Goal 6: Implement a Food Policy Council

<i>Expected Outcome</i>	Improve access to healthy food for Allen County residents, improving quality of life and reducing the risk for heart disease and diabetes; as well as improving economic and environmental sustainability.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	<p>Allen County adults diagnosed with diabetes: 12%; Ohio rate: 11%.</p> <p>The age-adjusted death rate for coronary heart disease in Allen County from the 2012-2014 measurement period was 136.2 per 100,000. The rate in Ohio was 124.3 per 100,000, and the Healthy People 2020 target is 103.4 per 100,000. (CDC)</p> <p>Adults eating fruit or drinking 100% juice 2 or more times per day: 22%</p> <p>Adults eating vegetables 2 or more times per day: 26%</p>
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	Implement a food policy council, develop a strategic food policy plan, and address objectives identified by the council.

NAME OF GROUP: ALLEN COUNTY FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

<i>Primary Contacts</i>	<p>Allen Soil and Water</p> <p>Allen County Commissioners</p> <p>Lima YMCA - Partnerships to Improve Community Health</p> <p>Allen County Public Health - Creating Healthy Communities Program</p> <p>Allen County Chamber of Commerce</p>
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<p>The Allen County Food Policy Council was established in 2014.</p> <p>An Allen County Food Assessment was completed in January, 2015. 15 groups and 17 individuals were represented on the council when it was established. A Council Action Plan was compiled January 2015. On April 22, 2015, council members met with representatives from the USDA. Media coverage raised awareness of the council.</p> <p>Food Policy Council activities have included the following from 2014-2016</p> <p>Healthy Happens Here (Small store program)*- 7 active stores have been established in Lima to offer fresh produce and healthier options.</p> <p>The Mobile Produce Bus* started out on a bus route in 2014 by the West Ohio Food Bank. The bus is no longer running; instead, the Food Bank now organizes and completes "food drops" where residents do not have to purchase produce and other products. They can obtain it for free at these designated times and locations. Contact the West Ohio Food Bank for more information.</p>

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The **Downtown Lima Farmers Market** was re-established after some time not in the community and is held throughout the summer months at Trinity Park in Lima, with a focus on local vendors and fresh foods (about 10 consistent vendors). It is supported through the Chamber of Commerce, St. Rita's Health Partners and Allen Soil and Water Conservation District.

Aquaponics is led by the Lima Allen County Neighborhood Association, and is currently successfully raising lettuce and tomatoes to sell at the Farmers Market and to Chief (local supermarket). Plans are in the works to expand the size of the current system and to use the system as a way to teach skills to community members.

The culinary teachers and students at Apollo Career Center and Lima City Schools lead **"Cooking for Change."** This program is geared to teaching basic cooking skills to community residents through cooking demos and hands on experience workshops held throughout the county.

Land Use/Land Bank studies are currently ongoing concerning how to use vacant land that will be available in the future and considering if some of that land could be for food production

**Likely to reduce health disparities*

2017-2018 PLANS

The Food Policy Council will update their Action Plan, apply for grant funding to support ongoing projects, and consider the need or opportunity for a commercial interest in the downtown Lima area.



Food Policy Council meeting with USDA representatives



Farmer's Market, Lima



Healthy Happens Here Corner Store Initiative: Seven stores are offering healthier options

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PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE WELLNESS

Goal 7: Implement a Healthy Housing Initiative

<i>Expected Outcome</i>	Affordable quality housing affects the overall health and well-being of individuals and families, and is likely to reduce health disparities. It can impact rates of childhood asthma, adult depression and suicide, drug use and overdose deaths, and postpartum depression.
<i>Baseline community data 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	Over half (53.6%) of Allen County renters spend 30% or more of their household incomes on rent (2010-2014, American Community Survey). 31.1% of Allen County housing stock is rated fair or below average quality (2013, LACCA Community Assessment).
<i>Action Steps in the 2014-2016 CHIP</i>	Implement a healthy housing initiative: 1. Identify agencies/organizations to work together to identify housing issues that are impacting personal health. Identify what policy or legislative changes are needed. 2. Create a coordinated campaign of planned strategies and define interventions and resources. 3. Begin addressing strategies identified and implementing policy changes.

NAME OF GROUP: ALLEN COUNTY HOUSING CONSORTIUM

<i>Primary Contact</i>	Allen County Regional Planning Commission
<i>Other participating organizations and/or contacts</i>	The Allen County Housing Consortium represents community stakeholders with the common interest of improving/integrating housing opportunities within Lima and Allen County. Twenty-four agencies representing for-profit/non-profit housing entities, financial institutions, realtors, City and County officials, planning professionals and local service providers.
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	The Allen County Housing Consortium estimated that more than 4,200 households and some \$9 million dollars are expended annually to subsidize housing in Allen County. 2014-2015 Highlights The Consortium examined the various criteria by which 14 distinct agencies establish minimum standards for safe and sanitary housing. The Consortium worked to standardize the definition of safe, sanitary, secure, habitable homes, and worked collaboratively to develop a checklist to assess standard housing quality. The checklist targeted common criteria deemed essential to basic safety and security issues.

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The checklist issues specifically targeted include:

- operational water
- functional plumbing
- sewage disposal
- structural operations of windows
- doors foundation
- safe electrical services
- fixed and permanent heat sources
- free from insect and rodent infestations
- trash accumulation/removal
- free from mold, and
- operating smoke detectors.

The various agencies reviewed the checklist as to its applicability to use in each of the agencies inspection/approval processes. Privacy and duplicative work were cited as potential obstacles to the integration of such. In 2015, the group worked on the development and approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between stakeholders and the development and integration of a public education program. The Coalition sought endorsements from local stakeholders.

2016 Highlights

- Created a private funding stream to alleviate homelessness for vulnerable populations that cannot stay in the shelters (St. Rita's Health Partners & Lima Memorial Hospital part of a private stream.)
- Increased funds for rent assistance in the county through Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) funding under the County's Community Housing Impact Preservation Program. TBRA was included/secured in the amount of roughly \$44,500 to assist households needing housing based on 60% of area income.
- The Consortium continued its attempts to secure organizational acceptance of a checklist attesting to minimum standards for safe and sanitary housing across 14 different housing agencies.
- The City of Lima partnered with The WODA Group, Inc. and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to submit a plan to renovate the historic First National Bank & Trust Building located in the Central Business district to create new office space and 42 affordable housing units in the downtown. The project costs are estimated at \$15.7M.
- The County developed the Allen County Land Bank. The Land Bank demolished 2 unsafe single family residential dwellings. Under the leadership of the County Treasurer, County agencies worked collaboratively to submit a Neighborhood Improvement Program grant and secured \$4.5 million in funding to support an

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	<p>estimated 300 future demolitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Consortium received 40 letters of endorsement on adopting Housing Quality Standards. <p>Recent collaborations on housing issues cited the Housing Quality Standards Agreement as a means to take further action on a nuisance house. Over 750 Housing Quality Standards Checklists were submitted to the Housing Consortium; however, most of the checklists did not indicate major problems with the rental units as most tenants feared retribution/eviction from their landlords. Inspection training was requested by several agencies as necessary for both agency staff and landlords.</p>
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The Allen County Housing Consortium will work on plans to minimize homelessness, institute landlord licensure, and increase quality of housing.

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PRIORITY AREA: IMPROVE MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

Goals: Establish a Maternal and Infant Task Force;
 Increase 1st trimester and preconception care;
 Explore opportunities to implement the Pathways Model.

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Reduce infant mortality, and preterm and low birth weight births in Allen County.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant mortality in Allen County is 7.5 per 1,000 live births, compared to 7.4 per 1,000 in Ohio • Low birth weight rate in Allen county: 9.4% of Allen County births, compared to 8.6% in Ohio (ODH Information Warehouse, 2010) • 79% of Allen County mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester, exceeding 73% of Ohio mothers (2014).
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary):</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a multi-disciplinary task force and develop goals and objectives to be addressed by the task force. 2. Enlist primary care & OB/GYN offices to incorporate components of preconception health into existing local public health and related programs. 3. Expedite the process of enrolling pregnant women in Medicaid. 4. Research the community Pathways Model.

NAME OF GROUP: MATERNAL INFANT TASK FORCE

<i>Primary Contact</i>	Allen County Public Health
<i>Other participating organizations and/or contacts</i>	Lima Memorial Health System St. Rita's Health Partners Health Partners of Western Ohio West Ohio Community Action Partnership Allen Metropolitan Housing Authority Dr. William Scherger Lima YMCA, Partnership to Improve Community Health Allen County Public Health, WIC Program Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Lima UMADAOP

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<p><i>Summary of 2014-2016 Activities, including changes to the action steps and rationale for change,</i></p>	<p>The Maternal-Infant Task Force was formed in December of 2014. Representatives from the above listed organizations attended and agreed to participate in activities aimed at achieving the goals established in the CHIP Plan. The Task Force was divided into sub-groups to address the following areas: breastfeeding; Safe Sleep; Early and Consistent Prenatal Care; and Implementing Intervention Program(s), such as The Pathways Model. In mid-2015 a new sub-group was formed that addressed getting opiate-addicted pregnant women into local substance abuse treatment.</p> <p>The full Task Force and/or the sub-groups have consistently met throughout 2015-16. Major accomplishments include: establishing a screening referral process for OB offices to connect with Medically-Assisted Treatment Centers for treatment of opiate-addicted pregnant women; hosting a program for area OBs on the importance of Folic Acid and Progesterone in early prenatal care; and increasing the screening of families for their safe sleep needs, and distributing Pack ‘N Plays to families in need of a safe sleep environment for their infant.</p> <p>Intervention programs were evaluated, but Allen County currently has at least two home-visiting programs, Caring for Two and Help Me Grow, that already provide a majority of the services that programs such as The Pathways Model offer, specifically identifying high-risk pregnant women and enrolling them in home-visiting for monitoring, education and referral to needed services. No new interventions have been implemented by the Task Force.</p>
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- The Maternal-Infant Task Force will focus on the following activities:
- * Increasing the number of OBs that are aware of the local Medically-Assisted Treatment opportunities for opiate-addicted pregnant women.
 - * Continue to provide Safe-Sleep spaces for families that need them.
 - * Develop interventions for pregnant women and their partners that smoke; develop general prevention programming for youth around making positive health choices.

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

PRIORITY AREA: IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND DECREASE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Goal 1: Increase the number of emergency department and primary and specialty health care providers screening for alcohol and drug abuse

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Fewer Allen County residents will misuse alcohol, prescription and illegal drugs.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	17% of Allen County adults report excessive drinking, compared to 10% of adults in the United States. Allen County adults who misused prescription drugs increased from 2% in 2009 to 10% in 2014.
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect baseline data on the number of emergency department and primary and specialty care providers that currently screen for drug and alcohol abuse, and at what ages. 2. Determine which screening tools/models are being used. 3. Introduce a Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment model (SBIRT) to physicians' offices and hospital emergency room. 4. Pilot the model with one primary care physician's office and the hospital emergency room. 5. Increase the number of Emergency Department and primary care and specialty physicians using the SBIRT model by 25% from baseline.

GROUPS INVOLVED

<i>Participating organizations</i>	<p>Mental Health and Recovery Services Board</p> <p>St. Rita's Professional Services</p> <p>Lima Memorial Professional Corporation</p> <p>Health Partners of Western Ohio</p>
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<p>The St. Rita's Behavioral Health Institute team is screening all of their patients using the SBIRT tool and receive consults hospital-wide. St. Rita's began offering partial hospitalization/intensive outpatient behavioral health services for patients with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and addiction. St. Rita's has partnered with Coleman Professional Services and implemented navigators in the Emergency Department and inpatient units to address referrals and linkage for mental health and addiction services.</p>
	<p>The SBIRT Screening tool is used at Lima Memorial Professional Corporation at visits with patient to screen for mental health related issues. If the patient has a positive screening, the provider will conduct a thorough assessment and provide the necessary referral for further treatment. Referral patterns are tracked and trended to identify any increases in what specific mental health issues may be increasing or decreasing in the service area.</p>

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	<p>Implementation of screening tools has been difficult, the needed resources and staff to adequately screen patients and intervene when necessary has presented a unique challenge for primary care offices. This has been an ongoing opportunity for providers and offices to improve the process.</p> <p>Training of staff, increased time in fast-paced environments, and connection to resources are all concerns that require review, resources and planning.</p>
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2017-2018 PLANS

This goal will continue through the work of the Opiate Epidemic Community Coalition and local health system initiatives.

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

PRIORITY AREA: IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND DECREASE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Goal 2: Increase the number of primary and specialty health care providers screening and making referrals for depression during office visits.

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Reduction in the rate of suicides and percentage of adults who attempted suicide.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	Suicide (age-adjusted rate) in Allen County is 11.1 per 100,000 (2012-2014). The Healthy People 2020 target is 10.2 per 100,000. 4% of Allen County adults considered attempting suicide.
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect baseline data on the number of primary care, specialty care providers and OBGYNs that screen and make referrals for depression and/or mental health issues during office visits. 2. Increase the number of primary care physicians and OBGYNs using the screening tool.

GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED:

	<p>Mental Health and Recovery Services Board</p> <p>St. Rita's Professional Services</p> <p>Lima Memorial Professional Corporation</p> <p>Health Partners of Western Ohio</p>
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<p>The tool used is the PHQ2&9 - an initial 2 question screening, that includes 7 additional questions if further intervention is indicated.</p> <p>All St. Rita's Primary Care Physicians are screening for depression in their practices.</p> <p>At the end of 2015 St. Rita's imbedded behavioral health specialists into several primary care offices (1 psychologist and 1 LISW) providing easy access for intervention and referrals. St. Rita's has partnered with the Orthopedic Institute of Ohio to offer depression screenings on teenagers receiving a sports physical, and resource referrals for those indicating a need for intervention. St. Rita's has also worked with OB practices to use the depression screening tool for patient visits.</p> <p>The LMHS-affiliated physicians' offices use the screening at visits with patients to screen for mental health related issues. If the patient has a positive screening, the provider will conduct a thorough assessment and provide the necessary referral for further treatment. Referral patterns are tracked and trended to identify any increases in what specific mental health issues may be increasing or decreasing in the service area.</p>

2017-2018 PLANS

Develop baseline data to understand trends and strengthen programming around screening, treatment and prevention.

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

PRIORITY AREA: IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND DECREASE SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Goal 3: Implement evidence based substance abuse prevention programming for young children and their parents

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Positive behavior intervention and supports are likely, reduce depression and suicide, and reduce drug use and overdose deaths, and reduce health disparities.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	21% of Allen County youth use marijuana; the Ohio rate is also 21%. 22% of high school youth were defined as binge drinkers (2014) Ohio rate = 16%
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	Provide PAX training to elementary teachers (goal of 150) Educate local agencies working with children (goal of 10 each for years 2 and 3) about PAX Kernals, and evaluate programs.

GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED

<i>Primary Contacts</i>	Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Partnerships for Violence Free Families (PVFF)
<i>Other participating organizations and/or contacts</i>	14 participating elementary schools
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<p>PAX teaches students self-regulation, self-control, and self-management in context of collaborating with others for peace, productivity, health and happiness. PAX is not a classroom management program, but it assists with managing classrooms. PAX Good Behavior Game is the combined science from PeaceBuilders, Good Behavior Game & other studies.</p> <p>239 teachers in 14 elementary schools in Allen County have been trained to implement PAX in the classroom. The game teaches students to “flip on” their internal focus switch, required for any learning. It teaches students how to work toward valued goals, and teaches them how to cooperate with each other to reach those goals. Students learn how to self-regulate during both learning and fun, and learn how to delay gratification for a bigger goal.</p>
	The PAX at Home Program supports the PAX Good Behavior Games being facilitated in the schools by certified teachers. The PAX at Home Program teaches parents of the children in PAX Classrooms six core principals, “Kernels” taught through games, that can help children regulate their behaviors. Taught in 15-minute segments, the games are shared

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

	<p>with parents at the schools through personal presentation, an informational handout and take-home tools to help the parents implement the games at home. Since program inception in 2015, PVFF have served 104 parents at seven local school setting through Allen County including Perry, Allen East, Bluffton, Liberty, Unity, Freedom Elementary Schools and Golden Bridge Academy.</p> <p>Parent evaluations completed at the end of each lesson ask</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the PAX game direction was easy to understand• If they planned to use the PAX game at home with their kids at home• What their favorite PAX game has been since they started the program <p>Evaluations have been extremely positive and parents have expressed the usage of the strategies in later conversations.</p>
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2017-2018 PLANS

PVFF will continue to expand the PAX at Home Program to reach all PAX Schools.

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE

Goal 1: Increase public transportation for Allen County Residents

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Access to public transportation offers mobility and independence, especially for students, the elderly, the disabled, and residents with limited incomes, providing transit to medical appointments, work and school.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	Total ridership, including demand response passenger trips and Americans with Disabilities Act passenger trips: 2014: 337,332 2015: 352,527 Source : Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission: 2015 Annual Update Comprehensive Operational Analysis & Management Plan, FY 2015-2019
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a survey to gather public input on identifying gaps in transportation services. 2. Invite community stakeholders to attend a meeting to discuss transportation issues in Allen County. 3. Create strategies to address gaps and increase efficiency in transportation. 4. Address strategies to increase the use of public transportation and reduce stigma. 5. Facilitate follow-up surveys to gauge the public's response to strategies that have been addressed.

GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED:

<i>Primary Contact</i>	Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Allen County Regional Transit Authority (RTA)
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to action steps, if applicable, and rationale for change</i>	<p>Regional Planning Commission (RPC) staff completed the analysis of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) fixed route and complementary paratransit ridership surveys in August 2014. The report can be found at this link. RPC staff met with the 6 largest Transportation providers and a mixed loading of client consumers in May thru August. RPC solicited responses to a transportation needs survey in July 2014; staff completed analysis of the surveys in September 2014. The report generated 6 general recommendations based on 15 strategies and 40 objective targets.</p> <p>Committee meetings open to the public were held July thru December. Public meetings were held in December 2014 and January 2015. The full report is at this link.</p> <p>In January 2015, RTA created a fixed route to the Heart Institute and Occupational Health, running every hour for 12 hours, Mon-Fri. Additional routes have been started in coordination with ODJFS with routes to several employers. All vehicles have wheelchair capacity. All buses have bike racks.</p>

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2014-2016 Report

In April, 2015, RPC and RTA staff reviewed RTA fixed routes and shelters and the shelter permitting processes with City of Lima officials. RPC and RTA staff reviewed ADA accessibility standards and concerns over non-accessible shelters with representatives of the local vendor and City of Lima officials. ADA modifications were made to existing shelters.

In January, 2016, the RTA integrated a new bio-diesel bus and applied for another 35' biodiesel bus tapping available Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership Program (OTPPP) funds. Also in January the RPC and RTA reviewed aspects of Executive Order 12898 which speaks to low-income and minority populations and supports Title VI of the Civil Rights Act by looking at disproportionate impacts on low-income and minority populations in terms of what an agency does, how it does it, and the policies that are adopted.

In April, 2016, the RPC and RTA developed the Draft RTA Comprehensive Operational Analysis for 2015. The system statistics for 2015 were finalized and reflected ridership of more than 350,000 persons and that the RTA provided 102 hours of service each week day and 1,500 miles of service. Saturday service provides 600 miles of service over 46 hours. There was no Sunday service. April also saw an update for the coordination of paratransit services across Allen, Auglaize, Mercer and Van Wert counties. The report provided insights as to the annual accomplishments made since 2013 and identified capital rolling stock needs of each of the agencies. Both Plans were finalized in May. The Plans are available at these links: [Comprehensive](#) & [Coordination Plan](#).

In April and May, 2016, the RTA initiated a formal review of its finances due to a loss of federal FTA JARC and New Freedom program funding as well as Marimor School contracts and whether placing a levy on the ballot was feasible. A survey was prepared by Burgess & Burgess; 123 survey respondents indicated a positive impression of RTA and saw the Agency as a valuable resource in the community.

In June, 2016, RTA modified Route 7, the Marimor/P&G route, which has been changed to serve more of the businesses in that area including Nickles Bakery, US Plastics, Lima Pallet, Metokote, etc. The route was changed from a 30 minute route to a 60 minute route because of increased length and increased boarding and alighting activities. Currently, the route only runs 4 hours in the morning and 6 hours in the evening to accommodate those that need to get to work. Changes were also made to several routes including the extension of Route 3 to serve Bio-Life located on Baty and SR 309; while, changes to Route 8 extended services to the Orthopedic Institute, the Heart Institute and Bob Evans Factory. RTA reported that 4 of 6 Light Transit Vehicles (LTVs) arrived with the remaining 2 expected in the July all acquired with FTA 5310 Program funds.

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

In August, Route 9 - the new Apollo Route began and services follow Ft Amanda Road Shawnee Road to Breese and into the Ft. Shawnee Industrial Park before returning along the same route back to the Transfer Center. The route provides services to Safety City, the Apollo Career Center, Shawnee Industrial Park, Central Business Park, S & S Volvo and Shawnee Business Park on an hourly basis from 6:20 AM to 10:00 PM. Overall, in 2016 the fixed route system added 2 trips per day, added 13 hours per day and increased mileage by 69.6 miles per day.

In September, 2016, two modified vans (MV-1) were integrated within the transit fleet to support long distance trips to Dayton, Columbus, etc., for its demand response clients. RTA worked with Activate Allen County to develop a No Smoking Policy. RTA is offering incentives for its employees to quit smoking and to help them quit smoking. The No Smoking Policy will begin January 1, 2017 whereby the terminal will be a No Smoking facility. The No Smoking Policy will also include passengers on Transit Agency property.

In October, 2016, a survey of the ACRTA fixed route ridership was conducted. In all, 279 surveys were submitted. The survey indicated that the majority of ridership was female (53%), non-white (57.5%) and between the ages of 25 and 54 (58%). Only 4 of 10 (39%) survey respondents over the age of 25 reported that they had taken or completed college coursework. Respondents indicated that half (49%) suffer some physical limitation when attempting to use the bus, that nearly 2 in 3 do not own a car (64%) and that 71% do not have a valid Ohio Driver's License. When examining income 87% of respondents reported incomes of less than \$30,000 per year.

2017-2018 PLANS

The 2017-2018 plan will focus on improving pedestrian access to the fixed route system, an adopted capital development plan, and will continue to provide public feedback into the planning process ridership.

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE

Goal 2: Increase cultural competence

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Some groups of people are not as healthy as others are because of where they live, their income or education, or how they are treated because of their racial or ethnic backgrounds. Implementing cultural competency training, practices, and policies can assist with improving health outcomes.
<i>Baseline community data, if available</i>	23% of Allen County adults with incomes below \$25,000 rated their health status as excellent, compared to 52% of Allen County adults with incomes of \$25,000 or more.
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform local businesses, organizations and health care providers on county demographics and the importance of being culturally competent. • Identify action steps to take to help organizations to adopt culturally competent policies or practices. •

GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED:

<i>Primary Contact</i>	Allen County Public Health
<i>Other participating organizations and/or contacts (if applicable)</i>	<p>American Cancer Society St. Rita's Health Partners Family & Children First Council United Way of Greater Lima Ohio Northern University Allen County Family and Children First Council</p>
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some CHIP members began attending the Social Justice Committee • The Cultural Competence Subcommittee organized a survey for CHIP agencies: agency practices related to cultural competence; 10 responded • The Subcommittee felt that a CHIP objective focusing on 'cultural competence' may not be the most effective approach, rather supporting cultural awareness and cultural competence and health equity within the context of other CHIP objectives might be more manageable • The Subcommittee identified some "next steps" towards increasing cultural competence/health equity awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim for meaningful demographic data through the 2017 Community Health Assessment survey process

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there questions that can be asked about trust with providers• Reach out to populations we are trying to reach and listen, and let people have a say in what will be happening• Use focus groups to complement the survey data
	<p>Community activities since the group met include the following:</p> <p>Focus groups were coordinated through the West Central Ohio Health Ministries Program focusing on health issues of concern and barriers to care</p> <p>The United Way has started a community engagement process of interviewing groups experiencing greater needs, including health needs, developed by the Harwood Institute</p> <p>The 2017 Community Health Assessment was planned to oversample the African American population to allow for data analysis by race, which was not available in recent assessments.</p>
2017 – 2018 PLANS	
Cultural competence/health equity will be incorporated into each of the upcoming CHIP priorities/strategies.	

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE

Goal 3: Increase physician recruitment for primary care and mental health providers

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Allen County residents will have the preventive and proper medical services they need to live healthy lives.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	Three census tracts in Lima (136,148, and 138) have been designated as Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas The ratio of Allen County primary care physicians to residents is 1,516:1; Ohio's ratio is 1,332:1. Allen County is a designated Mental Health Professional Shortage area.
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan</i>	Develop a marketing strategy focused on recruiting primary care physicians and mental health care providers.

GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED

<i>Participating organizations</i>	Coleman Behavioral Health; St. Rita's Health Partners, Lima Memorial Health System, Chamber of Commerce
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 activities, including changes to the goal and/or action plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleman Behavioral Health and Lima Memorial Health Systems have partnered to recruit general practitioners. • The Chamber of Commerce provides opportunities to engage spouses of physicians recruited to our area. • In order to increase access to care, St. Rita's has had a robust recruitment program that seeks physicians and providers for primary care, mental health and other specialty services as identified with the community assessment. St. Ritas's has opened new primary care offices and expanded primary care services to include two local school based clinics using advanced providers. They have recruited and hired one psychologist and one LISW to provide mental health services within the primary care setting. • Working from the Community health needs assessment a medical staff development plan is created for LMHS. Working from that plan the provider recruitment team works diligently to fulfill the needs identified in the both the staff development plan and the community health needs assessment. • In August, 2016, Community Health Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center, based in Freemont, OH, opened a clinic in Lima • Health Partners of Western Ohio opened a new opiate treatment center in December, 2016

2017-2018 PLANS

Recognizing that recruiting primary care and mental health providers is an ongoing need in the community, this goal will continue to be addressed separately by the local health organizations.

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

Below: Health centers have been established at Bath (and Elida) schools; new providers have joined the community; Community Health Services opened in Lima, and Health Partners of Western Ohio opened a new facility that includes opiate treatment on N. Main St. in Lima.

POSTED ON [AUGUST 25, 2016](#) BY [LIMA NEWS](#)

St. Rita's establishes health center at Bath schools

NEWS, TOP STORIES



Courtesy of the Lima News



**MEET
& GREET
PROVIDER
EVENT**



Ann Pohl; Blessing Nollah, DO; Cheryl Nagy

Lima Memorial Health System recently hosted a Meet & Greet Provider Event at the Shawnee Country Club. Lima Memorial was pleased to welcome 27 Providers to its Medical Staff and / or Physician Corporation. The event provided a great opportunity for those in attendance to network and get to know our newest members of the LMHS Family.



From left to right: Munir Ahmad, MD; Sumon Nandi, MD; Shannon Wesley, DO; Noufal Jajeh, MD; Linda Kerr, CNP; Christine Rodriguez, CNP; Kha Tran, MD; Masroor Abro, MD; Gina Marquis, CNP; Lorina Zenz, CNP; Ufuoma Onyemachi, MD; Emily Blackmore, CNP; Eric Miller, DPM; Jaber Alanzi, MD

Photos courtesy of Lima Memorial Health Systems

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

Community Health Services Opens in Lima

Posted: Aug 17, 2016 1:41 PM EDT

By Andrea Henderson, Multimedia Video Journalist



Community Health Services opened their doors earlier this month at their newest office on Lima Memorial's campus.

Courtesy of Your Hometown Stations

POSTED ON [DECEMBER 5, 2016](#) BY [LIMA NEWS](#)

Health Partners of Western Ohio opens new center in Lima

Facility will offer opiate treatment

By John Bush - jbush@civitasmedia.com



Pharmacy employees work on the new computer system inside the new Health Partners of Western Ohio facility located at 1550 N. Main St., Lima.

Craig J. Orosz | The Lima News

Courtesy of the Lima News

Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan

2014-2016 Report

PRIORITY AREA: INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Goal 4: Increase community education on health insurance opportunities and utilization.

<i>Expected outcome</i>	Increase the percentage of Allen County residents who have access to health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicaid.
<i>Baseline community data, 2014 CHA or as indicated</i>	Allen County adults who have no health care coverage: 11%.
<i>Action steps in the 2014-2016 plan (summary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of resources available to help consumers navigate the Health Insurance Marketplace and to enroll for Medicaid • Number of Federal Navigator grantees available to provide an in-person resource for educating and enrolling community members in health insurance plans • List of opportunities for employee to become certified application counselors • List of physicians that accept Medicaid patients

GROUPS INVOLVED

<i>Primary Contacts</i>	<p>St Rita's Health Partners</p> <p>Lima Memorial Health Systems</p> <p>Health Partners of Western Ohio</p> <p>Allen County Public Health</p>
<i>Summary of 2014-2016 Activities, including changes to action steps and rationale, if applicable</i>	<p>This goal was developed to assist with enrolling consumers through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or expanded Medicaid. During the 2014-2016 period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Rita's applied for and received funding for a Federal Navigator, and has certified application counselors. • Health Partners of Western Ohio has certified application counselors at the Gene Wright Health Center clinic. • Allen County Public Health navigators were trained through the Susan G Komen patient navigation program. • Various agencies in the community assist with Medicaid applications. <p>In 2015, representatives from the partner agencies met several times to discuss issues with applying for health insurance and the challenges of utilizing health insurance. The group promoted services that assist residents with signing up for health insurance through a Federal Navigator (St. Rita's) or with certified application counselors (Health Partners of Western Ohio and St. Rita's Health Partners).</p>

2017-2108 PLANS

This work will continue separately through local organizations in Allen County.