



**Portage County  
Community Health  
Improvement Plan  
2017-2018  
Annual Report**

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This report provides an annual update on the progress made in Year 2 of implementing the strategies of the 2016-2019 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The collective responsibility for improving the health of the people of Portage County is shared by all community partners. We would like to offer specific recognition and appreciation for the commitment of the 128 Community Health Improvement Partners listed on the following page in initially developing the 2016-2017 CHIP and in implementing it throughout the first and second years. The accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned will continue to inform the development of the third and final year of work on this plan, as well as development of the next 3-year plan to follow, in addressing the changing health needs of the Portage County community.

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# Executive Summary

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The 2016-2019 Portage County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) detailed the goals and objectives for the community’s health improvement priorities, outlining a plan of action through 2019. The CHIP was developed in partnership with the community to respond to the health priorities identified by the 2016 Community Health Assessment (CHA). This report provides a detailed synopsis of the progress (accomplishments and barriers encountered) throughout the second full year of implementation. The successes outlined herein are encouraging and warrant pride in and among our community and partners. Likewise, the barriers encountered and lessons learned will guide us in our collective vision to continue to improve efforts to address the identified health priorities in the county, moving forward into Year 3 implementation of this CHIP and beyond.

## Overview

Year 2 Action Steps are presented in the following tables, with notations of activities performed and information reported by community partners throughout the second year of implementation from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2018. Comprehensive notes of reported activities can be found in the CHIP quarterly progress reports located on the Portage County Health District website at <http://www.portagehealth.net>.

A ★ in the following tables indicates that Portage County has met or exceeded the target/s for that Action Step. 21 out of 34 (61.8%) of the CHIP Action Steps have been determined to have met this designation for Year 2.

Additionally, a color-coding system to indicate the completion status at the level of each of the five overall priorities has been created. The method of designation was as follows: The number of Action Steps in a priority area that received a ★ was divided by the total number of Action Steps in that priority, to yield a percentage indicator of completion. A score of 70 to 100 percent was given a green indicator. A score of 50 to 69 percent was given a yellow indicator. A score of below 50 percent was given a red indicator. The legend below indicates these determinations for each color used.

Legend:	
	A score of 70 to 100%
	A score of 50 to 69%
	A score of below 50%

A new Community Health Assessment conducted at the termination of this three-year CHIP plan in 2019 will allow evaluation of the impact and outcomes associated with these identified priorities and activities, and will initiate a new health improvement planning process focused on sustaining the achievements made and identifying new ways to continue to meet the changing needs of our county and its health.

For more information about any of the agencies, programs, and services in this report, please contact:

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## Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL)

Year 2 Action Steps		Accomplishments	Barriers
★	Implement Mindful by Sodexo and other Healthier Hospital Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer “kids eat free” healthy lunch program</li> <li>• 7 farm markets sponsored at UH Portage</li> <li>• Mindful program also implemented across KSU campuses</li> </ul>	
★	Partner with Portage Park District to implement various programs/policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched Parks Rx program and distributed materials to multiple partners</li> <li>• Expanded programming and partnerships with UH Portage, WIC, Sequoia, SOAR clinic, and others</li> <li>• Morgan Park added nearly 4 miles of trails including an ADA accessible trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No funding secured for creation of pump track</li> <li>• Slow start in receiving contacts for evaluation of Parks Rx program</li> </ul>
★	Implement Complete Streets Policies within the City of Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding wider bike lanes and new sidewalks, centered around South Water Street</li> <li>• Bike lanes and sidewalks to be included in all future street renovations</li> <li>• Pursuing Safe Routes to School, following assessments</li> <li>• Pursuing city ordinance requiring bike riders to wear a helmet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking issues in downtown area</li> </ul>
	Develop a Portage County Obesity Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike rodeo held in partnership with PCHD, Ravenna Elks and Ravenna PD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODH MCH grant removed funding, and alternate funding sources not identified</li> <li>• New “HEAL Coalition” has not been formed, and participants not determined</li> </ul>
	Implement the Prescription for Health Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOAR clinic exploring implementing a social needs assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No objectives were completed</li> </ul>
★	Incorporate families and children into community physical activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Kids Running Series w/ 47 participants</li> <li>• KIDS Camp for overweight kids w/ 30 participants</li> <li>• KSU cooking classes w/ 57 participants</li> <li>• Sequoia summer camps w/ 60 participants</li> <li>• Sequoia Youth Performance Club w/ 20 participants</li> <li>• Additional activities and programs at Sequoia</li> </ul>	
	Implement a Healthier Choices Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEOMED student project - school children adverse effects of sweetened drinks campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of funding- need to revise action step</li> </ul>
★	Increase nutrition/physical education materials being offered to patients by primary care providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigated EMR systems, usage, screening requirements</li> <li>• Determined provision of local resource referral info is most useful focus moving forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited # of PCPs contacted</li> <li>• Time, knowledge, and resources for screenings limited for PCPs</li> </ul>
	Expand the Personal Improvement Program (PIP) in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secured speakers and Ravenna Schools superintendent approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of funding, resources, time, volunteers</li> <li>• Program not implemented</li> </ul>
★	Implement postpartum weight loss educational program at WIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributed 296 “Healthier You” brochures</li> <li>• Referred 39 moms to “Mothers in Motion” program</li> <li>• Partnership with Portage Park District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited participation in Facebook group</li> </ul>



## Increase Mental Health Services

	Year 2 Action Steps	Accomplishments	Barriers
★	Increase awareness and accessibility of available mental health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educated multiple schools of different districts on mental health services and programs</li> <li>• Numerous trainings and presentations on mental health services to area schools, agencies, etc.</li> <li>• May – Mental Health Month: eblasts, newspaper articles, social media posts, Streetsboro library display</li> <li>• Continually advertise services and crisis text line</li> </ul>	
★	Increase the number of primary care physicians screening for depression during office visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigated EMR systems, usage, screening requirements</li> <li>• Determined provision of local resource referral info is most useful focus moving forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited # of PCPs contacted</li> <li>• Time, knowledge, and resources for screenings limited for PCPs</li> </ul>
★	Expand evidence-based suicide prevention and bullying programs targeting youth and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held Mental Health Round Table for school counselors and administrators w/ 31 attendees</li> <li>• Presentations to school superintendents, and school staff trainings</li> <li>• Commissioners approved funding from sales and use tax for drug prevention education specialists and case managers in school districts</li> <li>• Crisis intervention training for educators</li> <li>• Programming expanded to additional schools and grade levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in youth suicides</li> <li>• Teacher attitudes about mental health, and concerns regarding limited time and resources</li> </ul>
★	Increase mental health first aid trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 mental health first aid trainings provided by MHRB, Coleman Professional Services, Kent State University, and Hiram College to local organizations and the general public, with 131 total participants trained</li> <li>• Project DAWN added to MHRB/Coleman trainings</li> </ul>	
★	Increase awareness of trauma informed care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted community training with police, probation and correction officers, and juvenile detention staff</li> </ul>	
	Establish a youth-focused community center at the former Mantua Center School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After-school program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders determined location at Crestwood Middle School, with capacity for 30 students and volunteer support from teachers, church members, and Hiram College staff; but have not yet implemented the program. (Plan to start December 7, 2018.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding and liability concerns with some potential partnering programs</li> <li>• Still legally pursuing lease on Mantua Center School building for community center</li> </ul>



## Decrease Substance Abuse

Year 2 Action Steps	Accomplishments	Barriers
★ Develop and implement a community based comprehensive plan to reduce alcohol and drug abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual conference held 10/31/17 w/ over 225 attendees</li> <li>Next annual conference scheduled for 10/23/18</li> <li>Numerous community awareness events and presentations delivered to the public</li> <li>Family Conference on Addiction w/ 75-100 attendees</li> <li>Monthly OhioCAN Portage Project planning mtgs</li> </ul>	
★ Increase treatment options for those with substance use disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UH Portage hired an addictionologist, &amp; expanded treatment services through several grants</li> <li>Increased # of Narcotics Anonymous meetings</li> <li>Additional treatment service facilities begun, including: Groups Inc., HOPE Recovery Village, and expanded services at AxxessPointe</li> <li>Increased recovery housing by 18 apartment units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulties in establishing a MAT clinic at Townhall II</li> </ul>
★ Implement and increase prevention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug prevention programming implemented in every school district in Portage County, w/ 3941 students served 2017-2018 (an over 20% increase from the 3253 students served in 2016-2017)</li> <li>Commissioners approved funding from sales and use tax for drug prevention education specialists and case managers in school districts</li> <li>Additional programs including: KSU Recovery Ally training, Say it Straight, Body Safety, tobacco lessons, and family classes on addiction</li> </ul>	
★ Implement and increase harm reduction initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KSU GIS project – mapping drug activity</li> <li>Needle exchange programs toured &amp; researched</li> <li>Increased Deterra pouch availability and distribution throughout the county</li> <li>Recovery Outreach Team formed</li> <li>Project DAWN program continues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needle exchange programs require substantial funding- further discussion needed</li> <li>Drug drop off box at NEOMED police station prevented</li> </ul>
★ Increase the number of health care providers screening for drugs and alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigated EMR systems, usage, screening requirements</li> <li>Determined provision of local resource referral info is most useful focus moving forward</li> <li>UH reviewing PCP prescribing practices, establishing protocols, building info into EMRs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited # of PCPs contacted</li> <li>Time, knowledge, and resources for screenings limited for PCPs</li> </ul>
Advocate for substance abuse and criminal justice issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoingly advocating with representatives for Medicaid expansion</li> <li>Investigating issue of inmates in Portage County Jail inability to receive addiction treatment medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jail medical clinic resistance to, and assertion they are not required to, provide MAT</li> </ul>
Implement a tobacco and smoke free policy on Kent State University campuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobacco and smoke free policy implemented and in effect on campus</li> <li>Tobacco 21 ordinance passed in Kent City</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student resistance</li> <li>Enforcement/compliance issues</li> </ul>



# Increase Access to Healthcare

Year 2 Action Steps	Accomplishments	Barriers
<p>Increase community education on health insurance opportunities/utilization and support the implementation of Pathways Model or HUB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued researching and discussing Pathways model being utilized for maternal and child health in Summit County and Mahoning County.</li> <li>NEOMED SOAR clinic – student exploring implementing a social needs assessment, with information and resource provision/referrals</li> <li>AxessPointe has CHWs, and is working with KSU on social determinants of health assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of funding</li> <li>Difficulty in determining most appropriate model for Portage County. Need to further explore possibility of home contacts to decrease hospital readmittance rates</li> </ul>
<p>Support collaboration between local universities and healthcare agencies through other social service agencies and graduate opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three university liaisons identified for agencies to contact regarding potential projects</li> <li>NEOMED and AmeriCorps Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC) program</li> <li>Kent City Health Department continues as an academic health department in collaboration with KSU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Portage County agencies have yet contacted any of the liaisons regarding potential projects</li> <li>Policy difficulties in pairing students with projects within UH Portage</li> </ul>
<p>★ Increase transportation through a county transportation plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation Needs Assessment completed, and action/intervention plan created</li> <li>Training was held w/ 31 participants from 20 health/social service agencies, on how to assist clients with transportation needs</li> <li>JFS working with partners to increase NET awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MCH funding is no longer available – may need to revise this action step accordingly</li> </ul>
<p>Develop an Access to Care Coalition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community health resource and capacity assessment was developed</li> <li>Windham free clinic was opened</li> <li>Coalition expanded through incorporation of Transportation Coalition membership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Windham free clinic reduced operating hours and in danger of closing due to lack of use</li> <li>Coalition met only twice – need further targeted strategy development and implementation</li> </ul>



# Increase Injury Prevention

	Year 2 Action Steps	Accomplishments	Barriers
★	Increase the use of safe sleep practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>146 Portage County residents were educated on Safe Sleep practices and provided pack n' plays</li> <li>Continued training and follow-up with community partner agencies</li> <li>Collaboration with UH Portage birthing center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cribs for Kids funding pulled from Portage County due to high county health ranking scores – need to find alternate funding</li> </ul>
	Implement a Safe Kids Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial coalition development discussion meetings held, and potential partner list compiled and invited</li> <li>NEOMED student group assisted with development of gun safety educational materials, distributed along with gun locks at community events</li> <li>Sequoia Safety Around Water program w/ 100 participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coalition has not been created</li> </ul>
★	Implement Safe Routes to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe Routes Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan have been completed</li> <li>Kent Schools identified for initial programming, to be coordinated with Kent City HD and city engineers walkability assessment and Complete Streets endeavor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned as one of the first initiatives of the Safe Kids Coalition, not yet created</li> </ul>
	Expand the evidence-based fall risk reduction program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter sent to PCPs promoting MOB programming</li> <li>MOB classes held in Aurora by PCHD, and in Rootstown by Sequoia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lengthy wait for updated MOB curriculum – fewer classes offered than in 2017</li> </ul>
★	Expand the child passenger safety program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ohio Buckles Program Coordinator site visit of PCHD Car Seat Program reported excellent program with no changes needed</li> <li>121 convertible car seats and 35 booster seats distributed</li> <li>5 car seat check events conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional funding resources needed</li> </ul>
★	Expand activities of Safe Communities fatal crash review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated with local organizations to review fatal crash reports and identify trends</li> <li>Consistently increase public awareness through media releases and community awareness events</li> <li>Only 5 total fatal crashes in Year 2 (down from 9 in Year 1)</li> <li>New program – teens through juvenile court with minor violations must complete additional driver safety training</li> </ul>	
	Expand activities of child fatality review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborated with local organizations to review child fatality reports and identify trends</li> <li>Collaborated with UH Portage regarding education and services offered to new parents</li> <li>Gun awareness programs and provision of gun locks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to expand media releases and other public awareness efforts</li> <li>Further assessment of specific population rates needed to identify trends</li> </ul>