

# OLMSTED COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**A Collaborative Community Effort Led by: Olmsted County Public  
Health Services, Olmsted Medical Center, and Mayo Clinic**

Effective Date: January 2024



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# Overview

## Summary:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic pausing the Community Health Assessment and Planning (CHAP) process, strategy implementation for the 2021 – 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) began in early 2022 and continued through the end of 2023.

This report highlights the work completed in 2022 and 2023 through the CHIP strategies, along with strategies implemented by other community partners throughout the duration of this CHIP cycle, to address the three community health priorities.

## 2021 – 2023 CHIP Priority Definitions

### Financial Stress

- A condition that occurs whenever household income is less than desired outgo; the difficulty that a household may have in meeting basic financial commitments.

### Mental Health

- Includes emotional, psychological, and social well-being.

### Substance Use

- Individuals currently using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, including marijuana, opioids, and more.

## 2021 – 2023 CHIP Priority Strategies

### Financial Stress

- Education around housing as a social determinant of health (specifically, conditions within a home).

### Mental Health

- Working with school districts to assess/expand student supports around mental health.

### Substance Use

- Build the foundation of a substance use prevention system in Olmsted County.

# About the Community Health Assessment and Planning Process

About the Community Health Assessment and Planning (CHAP) Process:



The CHAP process is about improving the health and well-being of residents in Olmsted County. Every three years the community conducts a health needs assessment to determine Olmsted County's health priorities; formulate a plan to address the needs; and publish an annual progress report. Olmsted County Public Health Services (OCPHS), Mayo Clinic, and Olmsted Medical Center (OMC) engage with diverse partners across our community to lead this process.

The CHAP process has a set of values, developed in 2017, that guide the work:

- **Data Driven:** *The CHAP process uses multiple valid, timely, qualitative, and quantitative data approaches to minimize gaps in understanding our community's needs.*
- **Community Focus:** *The CHAP process brings together a broad community voice through deliberate and authentic community engagement and ensures that all efforts are being implemented with community input.*
- **Collaboration:** *The CHAP process aims to work with multiple partners across all sectors in our community in a deliberate and transparent way to achieve our shared goals.*
- **Actionable and Sustainable:** *The CHAP process fosters a culture of continuous improvement and strive to ensure all efforts are adequately resourced and measurable.*
- **Health Equity:** *The CHAP process is committed to continuously understanding, identifying, and addressing inequities across our community, while also embedding equitable solutions throughout the process.*

The CHIP works toward true community-centered planning, integration, and implementation of strategies to improve our community's health. Since the CHIP is truly the community's plan to improve health, stakeholders and partners are involved in every aspect.

The 2021 - 2023 CHIP:

- Describes the assessment and planning process, including partners involved.
- Provides guidance on improving the 2021 - 2023 community health priorities (financial stress, mental health, and substance use).
- Shares community-level strategies with involvement across multiple sectors of the county.
- Provides indicators to measure for each priority.
- Describes future implementation activities.

CHAP Groups Involved in the Creation of the CHIP:

### **COALITION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH INTEGRATION (CCHI)**

CCHI's mission statement is: *“creating opportunities to coordinate and integrate efficient and effective services across organizations to improve the health and well-being of our community.”* CCHI membership includes OCPHS, Mayo Clinic, OMC, Zumbro Valley Health Center, United Way of Olmsted County, Rochester Area Foundation, Rochester Public Schools (RPS), Blue Cross, Medica, and UCare.

### **CORE GROUP**

Core Group provides direction and oversight of implementation of the CHAP process. This group meets monthly, and members include OCPHS, Mayo Clinic, and OMC. The purpose statement of Core Group is: *“to collaboratively design, implement, and continuously improve the Community Health Assessment and Planning process to support and foster opportunities to improve the health of Olmsted County’s population.”*

### **HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING PARTNERSHIP (HAPP)**

The Health Assessment and Planning Partnership is a group of 20 plus organizations that meet quarterly to ensure the community is aware of the efforts of the CHAP process and enhance community collaboration. The purpose statement of HAPP is: *“to engage and inspire all sectors of the community to continually improve our community’s health through assessment, planning, and implementation efforts.”*

### **DATA SUBGROUP**

The goal of the Data Subgroup is: *“to enhance the assessment and planning process through an integrated approach to identify, monitor, and evaluate community indicators to determine Olmsted County’s community health priorities.”* The group brings together individuals that have expertise in community health indicators, community demographics, program evaluation, and presenting data.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CE) WORKGROUP**

The CE Workgroup supports the entire CHAP process through designing, implementing, and evaluating all efforts focused on community engagement. These efforts have included listening sessions, community dialogues, and the prioritization process. Membership includes OMC, OCPHS, Mayo Clinic, Diversity Council, United Way of Olmsted County, and other community organizations.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING (CHAP) COORDINATOR**

The CHAP Coordinator provides structure and clarity to the workgroups. This full-time position is jointly funded by OCPHS, Mayo Clinic, OMC, United Way of Olmsted County, Rochester Area Foundation, and Zumbro Valley Health Center. The coordinator also serves as a liaison to the Data Subgroup, CE Workgroup, HAPP, Core Group, and CCHI.

## **2021 - 2023 CHIP STRATEGY WORKGROUPS**

The 2021 - 2023 CHIP Strategy Workgroups were formed to implement strategies and initiatives that address the three 2021 - 2023 CHIP priorities identified through community prioritization. In 2019, financial stress, mental health, and substance use were identified as the top community health priorities. The priorities were reaffirmed in early 2021 through Olmsted County COVID-19 Impact Survey data. Workgroups are made up of both community members and community organizations.

## Purpose of the Annual Report

A Note about the 2021 – 2023 CHIP Implementation Plan:

The purpose of the Annual Report is to narrate the work completed from 2022 to 2023. This report highlights work to address the three community health priorities, through both CHIP strategies and other community efforts lead by partners across Olmsted County.

The 2021 - 2023 CHIP is a dynamic plan that is updated as needed. A formal review occurs annually along with the creation of the Annual Report. Changes and revisions are driven by CHIP Strategy Workgroup members.

Monitoring and Evaluating the 2021 – 2023 CHIP:

Monitoring and evaluation of the strategies were considered in tandem with action plans for the 2021 - 2023 CHIP priorities. They are meant to be flexible and dynamic and capture the resources needed to conduct monitoring and evaluation activities.



## 2021 – 2023 CHIP Priorities

### Community Health Priorities

The 2021 – 2023 CHIP priorities are:

- Mental Health.
- Financial Stress.
- Substance Use.



### Community-wide Strategies to Address the Priorities:

During two meetings in June 2022 and September 2023, CCHI members shared strategies they worked on to address the 2021 - 2023 community health priorities. All these projects were started any time after January 2021. While this is not a comprehensive list of interventions, it gives a glimpse of community-wide collaboration and alignment to address the top community health issues.

### Financial Stress

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds used to increase accessible and affordable housing in Olmsted County.
  - [Olmsted County Board of Commissioners approves initial use of almost \\$20 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds | Olmsted County, MN](#)
- Blue Cross reimbursement to clients for housing support and stabilization services.
- Continued efforts of the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing to address housing inequities and increase opportunities.
  - [Coalition for Rochester Area Housing announces multi-year plan and \\$15 million commitment to bridge affordable housing gap in Olmsted County | Olmsted County, MN](#)
- Medica offered utility and food support reimbursements for senior members and grocery discounts for all of their Medicaid members.

- Pandemic rental assistance programs implemented by community partners.
- RPS embedded two housing navigators within their district (with funding from Olmsted County) and offered state-funded breakfast and lunch for all in-person RPS students.
- RPS offered scholarships (made available through a grant) for approximately 30 new social work master's degree. So far seven scholars were funded; the rest will be funded in the future.
- UCare added two housing specialists to support their staff and offer community engagement in housing support.
- UCare expanded their GED support program for members.

## Mental Health

- Medica pre-purchased psychiatry appointments and implemented trauma-informed care training for all of their care coordinators.
- Mind-up curriculum was provided by OCPHS nurses in elementary schools throughout Olmsted County.
- Olmsted County's Human Services Advisory Board developed and shared high-level youth mental health recommendations with the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners.
- OCPHS implemented mental health first aid, brought together human services partners to review the uptick of suicide deaths and ideation, and implemented a syndromic surveillance data dashboard.
- RPS completed a full school district assessment of mental health services completed in the 2022 - 2023 school year and are piloting mental health screenings at schools in the fall 2023.
- The Southeast Regional Crisis Center (SERCC) opened in the summer 2021; the idea to build the SERCC was generated by community partners looking to address mental health in the community.
  - [Southeast Regional Crisis Center \(crisisresponsesoutheastmn.com\)](https://crisisresponsesoutheastmn.com)
- UCare expanded their Intensive Community Based Services program for people with mental illness to include an Olmsted County provider.

## Substance Use

- A letter of support was written by Public Health Services Advisory Board to support the ban of flavored tobacco products. It was sent for a federal initiative.
- Advocacy and implementation of the Tobacco 21 Ordinance in Olmsted County.
- Blue Cross and Medica offer substance use treatment and recovery support for clients.
- Mayo Clinic strategically aligns strategies around the community health priorities, including substance use.
- Medica pre-purchased Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) appointments to facilitate quicker access to services.
- OCPHS developed a Southeast Minnesota Opioid Dashboard, formed the E-cigarette Prevention Initiative Youth Action Council and held a youth e-cigarette prevention summit, and formulated an opioid funds core team to help determine how to spend settlement funds.
- OMC opened a medication-assisted treatment clinic aimed at effectively treating substance use disorder and expanded to add drug and alcohol counseling to their clinic's services.
  - [Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) \(olmmed.org\)](https://olmmed.org)

**The next few sections will highlight goals, strategies, action plans, successes, challenges, and next steps for the workgroups implementing initiatives addressing the three community health priorities.**

## Work Plan for Financial Stress

About the Strategy:

<b>Issue Statement</b>	There is a need to increase financial security, in particular, to those identified populations who are facing highest inequities, including people of color, those who rent their homes, those who make less than \$35,000 a year, and residents 18 - 34 years old.
<b>Goal</b>	Increase financial security for adults who face inequities related to financial stress.
<b>Indicators</b>	<p><b>Headline Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spending greater than 30% of income on housing.</li> <li>▪ Livability wage (still in development for 2022 CHNA).</li> <li>▪ Education level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cost of rent in Olmsted County.</li> <li>▪ Income levels.</li> <li>▪ Financial stress due to rent and mortgage.</li> <li>▪ Homelessness.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy</b>	By the end of 2023, the CHAP process will educate the community around housing as a social determinant of health (specifically, conditions within a home).

Workplan:

Key Activities	Who is Involved?	By When
Workgroup members are finalized.	Financial Stress Workgroup	Q1 2022
Strategy narrowed to focus on “strategies within a home (healthy homes).”	Financial Stress Workgroup	Q1 2022
Two videos created and shared on the importance of radon and water testing.	Lauri Clements and Roz Davis	April 2022
Presentations on healthy homes given to:	Financial Stress Workgroup	Q2 2022

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Services Advisory Board.</li> <li>• Public Health All Staff Meeting.</li> <li>• Public Health Leadership Team.</li> <li>• Olmsted County Environmental Commission.</li> <li>• Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.</li> </ul>		
Nitrate screening at Graham Park.	Lauri Clements and Roz Davis	May 6, 2022
Nitrate screening at Olmsted County Fair.	Lauri Clements and Roz Davis Olmsted County Soil and Water Conversation District	July 28 and 29, 2022
Lead screening collaboration developed to increase the percent of Olmsted County children screened for lead.	OCPHS	September 2022
Home safety assessment around lead updated.	OCPHS	October 2022
Radon and asthma triggers education at Kindergarten Kickoff.	Lauri Clements and Roz Davis RPS	October 27, 2022
Billboard posted at Graham Park encouraging people to talk with their doctor about lead testing.	Roz Davis and OCPHS	November 2022
Creation and publication of a <a href="#">healthy homes website</a> focusing on four core areas: <i>falls prevention, indoor air (asthma and radon), safe drinking water, and childhood lead poisoning prevention.</i>	Financial Stress Workgroup	End of Q4 2022
Creation and release of a new water <a href="#">application</a> that allows for individuals to enter water testing results and learn about treatment options.	Lauri Clements and Roz Davis	End of Q4 2022
Creation and sharing of video on “how to sample your water.” Shared on Olmsted County social media sites.	Lauri Clements and Roz Davis	End of Q1 2023
Nitrate screening at Rochester Farmers Market (Graham Park).	Whitney Baumann	June 24, 2023

Nitrate screening at Olmsted County Fair.	Lauri Clements and Whitney Baumann  Olmsted County Soil and Water Conversation District	July 27 and 28, 2023
Fall Prevention collaboration developed to make a one-stop-shop for all resources for falls prevention for people 55+ and their caregivers.	OCPHS	First draft of website September 2022 Website updates (November 2023)
Healthy Homes Childhood Lead Prevention website page updated to provide more info on blood lead testing, including in multiple languages	Whitney Baumann	August 18, 2023
Childhood Lead Prevention education at Head Start Parent Orientation.	Lauri Clements and Whitney Baumann	September 2023
Data sharing to support falls prevention groups and creation of a data dashboard utilizing local syndromic data related to falls & associated morbidity/mortality outcomes.	OCPHS	End of Q4 2023
Expanding healthy homes education events beyond water to target population.	Lauri Clements and Whitney Baumann	Planned through end of 2024

Successes, Challenges, and Next Steps:

**Successes**

The healthy homes grant is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Environmental Health Services Center provided funding for staffing, allowing the work to get off the ground.

Community partnerships and resources were expanded throughout the last three years.

**Challenges**

A staffing exit required some of the work to be paused until a new staff member was hired.

**Next Steps**

Financial stress will sunset as a CHIP priority at the end of 2023, and access to care will take its place beginning in 2024. However, community organizations will continue to work on addressing financial stress, including increasing affordable housing opportunities, assisting those experiencing homelessness, educating about conditions within the home, and expanding healthy homes work.

## Work Plan for Mental Health

### About the Strategy:

<b>Issue Statement</b>	Improving mental health in the community must address these core dimensions of mental wellness that are negatively impacting mental health: stigma around mental health issues, access to affordable mental health care, and suicide contemplation and attempts.
<b>Goal</b>	Olmsted County residents are able to achieve optimal mental health.
<b>Indicators</b>	<p><b>Headline Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in adolescent suicide attempts and contemplation.</li> <li>• Reduction in deaths by suicide.</li> <li>• Increase in access to mental health care for adults and adolescents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving social connectedness/relationships.</li> <li>• Reducing isolation.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy</b>	By the end of 2023, the CHAP process will work with school districts in Olmsted County to assess and expand student supports around mental health, particularly by expanding SHAPE system use by schools.

### Workplan:

Key Activities	Who is involved?	By when?
Initial workgroup established.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q1 2022
Began building relationships with school districts.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q2 2022
Preparation for meetings with schools occurred, including creation of a presentation about the SHAPE system, reviewing individual capacity, and creation of communication materials.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q2 2022
Met with Stewartville Public Schools about their potential use of the SHAPE system.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup Principals at Stewartville Public Schools	Q3 2022
Met with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII), and Task Force for Global Health (TFGH) about CHIP strategy.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup CDC PHII TFGH	Q3 2022
Met with Olmsted County Child and Family Services (CFS).	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup CFS	Q3 2022

Connected with an Eagan, Minnesota school about their experience using the SHAPE system.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2022
Completed Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis about the project.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2022
Updated SHAPE system presentation to demonstrate local impact.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2022
Created additional communication materials about the SHAPE system.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2022
Reached out to a RPS contact about their interest in joining the workgroup.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup RPS	Q4 2022
Presented to Health Assessment Planning Partnership (HAPP) meeting.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2022
Presented updates to OCPHS all staff meeting.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2022
Reached back out to Stewartville Public Schools to reconsider their interest in using the SHAPE system.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q1 2023
Met with School Linked Mental Health Leaders (Zumbro Valley Health Center, Fernbrook Family Center, and Family Service Rochester) to discuss potential collaborations.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup Zumbro Valley Health Center Fernbrook Family Center Family Service Rochester	Q1 2023
Met with Olmsted County Bridge Collaborative to discuss potential collaborations and school grant resources.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup Olmsted County Bridge Collaborative	Q1 2023
Presented to Olmsted County Human Services Advisory Board.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q1 2023
Reached out to a rural school in Olmsted County about the SHAPE system.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q2 2023
Educated all public and private schools in Olmsted County about the SHAPE system, along with a statewide SHAPE cohort that is available to them.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup OCPHS School Aged Services Team	Q2 2023



Two Olmsted County school districts and one Olmsted County charter school accepted into state SHAPE cohort.	Minnesota Department of Education and Health  Three Olmsted County schools and school districts	Q3 2023
Met with Pine Island Public Schools about the state SHAPE cohort and joined mental health team.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup  Pine Island Public Schools	Q3 2023
Met with RPS about the state SHAPE cohort and discussed joining mental health team.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup  RPS	Q3 2023
Connected Mayo Clinic Director of School Health with Pine Island School cohort team.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup  Mayo Clinic  Pine Island Schools	Q3 2023
Began attending monthly state cohort meetings led by Minnesota Department of Education and Health.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup  RPS  Pine Island Schools  Minnesota Department of Education and Health	Q3 2023
Participated in SHAPE assessment with Pine Island Public Schools cohort team.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup  Pine Island Public Schools  Goodhue County	Q3 2023
Shared updates through OCPHS Newsletter and Olmsted County HHH Newsletter.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup  OCPHS  Olmsted County HHH	Q3 2023
Continue attending monthly state cohort and school meetings.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup  RPS  Pine Island Schools	Q4 2023
Connect cohort teams with additional community partners based on needs.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2023
Determine next update reporting activity for team.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q4 2023
Promote “Stay Connected MN” campaign with Olmsted County schools.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q1 2024



Educate all public and private schools in Olmsted County about the SHAPE system, along with the latest statewide SHAPE cohort.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q2 2024
Determine next steps with Olmsted County school teams as state cohort program finishes.	OCPHS Mental Health Workgroup	Q3 2024

Successes, Challenges, and Next Steps:

**Successes**

- Developed Olmsted County presentations and communications on the SHAPE system for schools.
- Established connections with mental health system experts at local, state, and national levels.
- Reached both public and private schools/districts in Olmsted County regarding the SHAPE system and the state cohort opportunity.
- Currently connected with 2023 - 2024 state cohort teams from RPS and Pine Island Public School District to establish using the SHAPE system locally to enhance school mental health system growth.
- Participated in SHAPE assessment with Pine Island School cohort team.
- This year was the first in five years of the state cohort program to include schools/districts from southeast Minnesota; three schools/districts of this cohort are from Olmsted County.

**Challenges**

- School connections:
  - Finding school champions with capacity to work on school mental health systems and the SHAPE system has been challenging.
- Workgroup capacity:
  - OCPHS staff have multiple responsibilities to balance beyond the CHIP workgroup activities. Current work is manageable between the members, but expansion will be continuously explored as work grows and schools identify more needs that this team can make community connections to address.
- Turnover in school contacts:
  - Changing contacts can delay communication.

**Next Steps:**

- Continue attending state cohort and school mental health team meetings as community partners.
- Aid in identifying additional community partners to connect with schools based on their needs assessment results through the SHAPE system and cohort discussions.
- Coordinate next update reporting strategy.
- Promote “Stay Connected MN” campaign and other state mental health education/awareness materials with Olmsted County schools.

- Communicate next state SHAPE cohort opportunity with Olmsted County schools for year 2024-2025 and determine next steps with schools wrapping up the 2023 - 2024 cohort.

## Work Plan for Substance Use

### About the Strategy:

<b>Issue Statement</b>	A collaborative approach should be taken to address adult binge drinking and youth prescription drug misuse in Olmsted County.
<b>Goal</b>	Reduce substance use among Olmsted County adults and youth.
<b>Indicators</b>	<p><b>Headline Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult binge drinking rates.</li> <li>• Adolescent prescription misuse rates.</li> <li>• Emergency department rates related to alcohol use.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of binge drinking and mental health disorder among adults.</li> <li>• Prevalence of prescription misuse and mental health disorder among adolescents.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy</b>	By the end of 2023, the CHAP process will build a substance use prevention system in Olmsted County.

### Workplan:

Key Activities	Who is involved?	By when?
Reviewed substance use strategy and identification of population issue statements, goal, indicators, and potential expanded workgroup participants.	Substance Use Workgroup	Q2 2022
Discussed strategy with existing substance use provider group: Chemical Dependency Consortium.	Derrick Fritz, CHAP Coordinator Chemical Dependency Consortium	September 23, 2022
Discussed strategy with expanded list of providers and individuals working on substance use.	Derrick Fritz, CHAP Coordinator	September 29, 2022
Scheduled reoccurring meetings with workgroup.	Derrick Fritz, CHAP Coordinator	October 31, 2022
First substance use meeting.	Substance Use Workgroup	December 1, 2022
Identified an organization to lead the Substance Use Workgroup.	MN Prevention and Recovery Alliance	Q1 2023
National Drug Take Back Day.	Mayo Clinic  Olmsted County Sheriff's Office  OMC  Zumbro Valley Medical Society	April 22, 2023

	The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)	
All student substance use presentation at John Marshall High School.	RPS MN Prevention and Recovery Alliance	Q2 2023
<i>Remember our Loved Ones</i> event.	MN Prevention and Recovery Alliance	Q2 2023
Peer Recovery Specialist continuing education training.	Community Pathways to Family Health and Recovery	End of May, 2023
Creation of Rochester Connect: A Sober Social Community <a href="#">Facebook Page</a> .	Substance Use Workgroup	June 30, 2023
Data Profile shared with the Workgroup.	Jenny Passer, OCPHS	July 6, 2023
Identification for strategies the completed for the 2024 – 2026 CHIP.	Substance Use Workgroup	August – November 2023
Know the Truth presentations to three RPS high schools.	MN Prevention and Recovery Alliance	November 2023
Action planning for specific strategies.	Substance Use Workgroup	November - December 2023
Community Forum on Drug Use Education.	Substance Use Workgroup	January 2024
Next Steps identified for youth education strategies.	Substance Use Workgroup	Q3 2024

## Successes, Challenges, and Next Steps:

### Successes

During the first half of 2023, the workgroup was in the “forming stage” of group development. The workgroup was created in December 2022 and a strategy lead, Minnesota Prevention and Recovery Alliance, was identified shortly after. Thus, Q1 and Q2 allowed for workgroup members to get to know each other, share what their organizations currently do to address substance use, and bring people together to discuss emerging substance use concerns in the community. Additionally, during the first six months of 2022, the workgroup spent lots of time identifying gaps in substance use prevention in Olmsted County; these conversations were critical to help narrow down and identify strategies the group could work on.

In July 2023, OCPHS shared a data profile they created with the workgroup. The data profile highlighted specific data and information community organizations and groups can look to in order to identify strategies for the work. Specifically, population indicators were developed because of the work of the data profiles; these are population-level metrics that community partners have agreed to. The goal is that, beginning in 2024, organizations and groups throughout Olmsted County will identify strategies that “feed into” a measurable impact on these population indicators, and, thus, residents’ health and wellbeing. The Substance Use Workgroup was one of the groups to identify and implement strategies to impact these indicators.

During fall 2023, the workgroup prioritized, and action planned for specific strategies the team could work on beginning in 2024.

## **Challenges**

There were two main challenges the Substance Use Workgroup faced in moving the CHIP strategy forward in 2023:

- First, since the population indicators weren't finalized until July, it allowed for a lot of time prior to strategy development. While this was important to better understand gaps in substance use prevention initiatives and to learn more about the specific work agencies within the workgroup were doing, it required patience from members as these population indicators were developed, so strategy identification could eventually begin.
- Second, the workgroup was concerned that the strategies they identify might already be occurring in the community. To help counteract this, subject matter experts, like OCPHS nurses, were invited to the strategy development meetings.

## **Next Steps**

The Substance Use Workgroup will begin implementing their identified strategies in 2024. A more detailed workplan for these strategies is found in the *2024 - 2026 CHIP* document. The strategies identified were:

- Increase drug use education for Olmsted County school staff and families.
- Implement a youth prevention program in Olmsted County schools.

## Conclusion

2023 allowed for strategies to flourish. For example:

- Healthy homes work was expanded.
- School districts in Olmsted County began implementing the SHAPE system.
- Organizations came together to identify strategies to address substance use in the community.

While these strategies were being implemented, work was done to prepare for the next three year CHIP cycle (2024 - 2026). In this cycle, mental health will continue as a priority, substance use will be narrowed to drug use, and financial stress will be replaced with access to (health) care. Despite financial stress no longer being one of the three community health priorities in 2024, community organizations remain committed to addressing the issue, particularly around affordable housing.

More information about the 2024 - 2026 CHIP is found on the [Olmsted County website](#).

## Record of Changes and Updates

Date	Change/Updates Summary	Responsible Person(s)

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