

Caroline County Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan: Project Overview

Rappahannock Area Health District

Summary: The Rappahannock Area Health District (RAHD) will be conducting its next Community Health Assessment (CHA) and related Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in Caroline County in 2020. The Community Health Assessment is a systematic examination of the county's health status indicators, which is used to identify key problems and assets within a community. Completing a CHA has many benefits, as it can help inform community-decision making, prioritize health problems, and facilitate partnerships across agencies. The priorities identified in the CHA are then used to develop the CHIP, a plan to improve population health outcomes and work to eliminate inequities in the community.

The assessment and planning tool to guide this process is known as MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships). The MAPP framework was developed by the National Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (NACCHO), and is widely used nationwide for Community Health Assessment work. The process follows a series of 6 Steps:

1. Organizing for Success and Partnership Development
2. Establishing vision and values statements
3. Collecting data through the 4 MAPP Assessments
4. Using data to identify strategic issues
5. Formulating goals and strategies to address prioritized issues
6. Action Phase: an ongoing cycle of planning, implementation, and evaluation

Community and Partner Engagement: Community and partner involvement is essential for an effective health assessment and improvement project. RAHD will serve as a facilitator and will guide the group through the MAPP process, and it hopes to build a diverse, representative Steering Team to help oversee the initiative. Throughout the process these groups will work to engage community members and partners to reflect on the overall health and well-being of the community, identify the most salient issues impacting health in Caroline County, and create a plan to address these prioritized issues.

Timeline:

January 2020	RAHD conducts partner outreach and engagement Key Stakeholder Meeting: Jan. 29th, 2020 from 12pm-2pm at the Caroline Community Services Center. This meeting will provide an overview of the CHA/CHIP process as well as an opportunity to ask questions and indicate interest in participating in this initiative. Registration is available at https://tinyurl.com/caroline-cha
February 2020	Steering Team Meeting 1; Visioning; Form Subcommittees as needed
March-July 2020	Conduct assessments and collect data
August 2020	Identify strategic issues; Write CHA
September-November 2020	Formulate goals and strategies
December 2020 and beyond	Write CHIP; Implement strategies; evaluate progress

Questions? Please contact Allison Balmes-John, Population Health Coordinator, at allison.balmes@vdh.virginia.gov or Dr. Brooke Rossheim, District Health Director, at brooke.rossheim@vdh.virginia.gov.