

Putnam County Community Health Assessment Community Health Improvement Plan 2022 – 2024 Addendums

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) offers an overall view of the health issues in our community; the Community Health Improvement Plan presents how the community will work together to develop and implement evidence-based interventions for two priorities that will be reported to NYSDOH. However, community health improvement planning and implementation is a continuous process that goes far beyond these two priorities. Work on all the top ten health challenges identified in the CHA will continue with community health organizations and the health department's ongoing collaborations. This Addendum section will provide a method of updating the CHIP for the eight health challenges that are not covered in the CHA/CHIP report.

ADDENDUM 1, FEBRUARY 23, 2023: TRANSPORTATION, SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

The issue of limited public transportation was identified as Putnam's top social determinant of health (SDOH) in the CHA report and one of the top ten overall health challenges in the county. Amongst these ten health challenges, the CHIP Steering Committee expressed an urgent need to address deficits in transportation because impacts on residents were noted by all participating partners. The Committee recommended that county health partners explore avenues to address the issue and spearhead advocacy for county-level policy and system changes. To this end, the February 13, 2023 Live Healthy Putnam (LHP) Coalition meeting, hosted by PCDOH, included the Putnam County transportation manager for planned discussion on the topics of transportation access and availability. While recognition of this problem was not new, this meeting initiated a new collaborative focus on analyzing, researching and developing solutions to alleviate the issue. Collaborative community work is beginning with a work group to brainstorm solutions, identify grant possibilities and build broad based support with stakeholders.

As a next step, the LHP Coalition decided to form a community transportation work group, including the County's transportation manager. This group will meet in the first quarter of 2023 and review the county's transportation assessment, identify if updates to the assessment are necessary, brainstorm and research solutions, identify grant opportunities, build broad based support with stakeholders, and advocate for policy and systems level changes to improve equity in access to transportation.