Kent County

Community Health Improvement Plan

ECONOMIC SECURITY REFERS TO THE ABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS OR HOUSEHOLDS TO COVER THEIR ESSENTIAL NEEDS (SUCH AS HOUSING, FOOD, CLOTHING AND HYGIENE, AND EDUCATION) SUSTAINABLY AND WITH DIGNITY

Economic Security

Health and wealth are closely linked. Economic disadvantage affects health by limiting choice and access to things like proper nutrition, safe neighborhoods, transportation, and other elements that define an individual's standard of living. Whereas economic prosperity provides people with resources that can be used to avoid or buffer exposure to health risks and protect people from chronic stress.

The following pages contain strategies from the Community Health Improvement Plan workgroup to address issues related to Economic Security in Kent County

Economic Security

Goal 1: Improve wealth-building potential of those who live in rental housing units

Strategy 1: Establish system for private landlords to report on-time rent payments to credit bureaus to improve the credit scores of tenants

Metric: Identify sources to ascertain the average credit score of tenants in Kent County and the rate of on-time payments

Compared to White households, Black and Latinx households are about twice as likely to rent and to lack a decent credit score.

Economic Security

Goal 2: Enhance accessibility and affordability of childcare

Strategy 1: Work with local stakeholders in the childcare arena to increase awareness of subsidies available to families to support payment for childcare

Metric: Increase childcare subsidy use by parents/providers in Kent County by 10%

The annual cost of high-quality childcare can exceed the cost of tuition at Michigan's public universities.

Economic Security

Goal 3: Reduce monthly costs for Kent County families and ease the burden of unexpected expenses

Strategy 1: Increase utilization of public benefits that provide assistance with food access, utility payments and other essential needs.

Metric: Percentage of eligible individuals enrolled in available programs.

1 in 4 people in Kent County were unable to pay for housing, utilities, food, or medical care in the past year

MENTAL HEALTH IS A STATE OF EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING RESULTING IN PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES, FULFILLING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PEOPLE, AND THE ABILITY TO ADAPT TO CHANGE AND TO COPE WITH CHALLENGES.

Mental Health

Mental health is essential to a person's wellbeing, healthy family and interpersonal relationships, and the ability to live a full and productive life. Mental health also plays a major role in people's ability to maintain good physical health

The following pages contain strategies from the Community Health Improvement Plan workgroup to address issues related to Mental Health in Kent County

Mental and Behavioral Health

Goal 1: Ensure community members know who to contact for mental health needs

Strategy 1: Update the Kent County Mental Health Crisis Brochure on a quarterly basis and ensure that it is translated into the five most common languages spoken in the county

Metric: Monitor distribution and use of the brochure

40% of Kent County adults who report frequent poor mental health days are not currently receiving any mental health treatment

Mental and Behavioral Health

Goal 2: Increase community engagement to expand awareness of mental health resources

Strategy 1: Develop culturally and linguistically appropriate behavioral health resource kits and distribute them to geographic areas and populations who have not historically been engaged through outreach activities

Metrics: Number of resource kits distributed, number of QR codes scanned and referrals generated by race/ethnicity and geographic area when possible. Surveys to collect feedback on the usefulness of the distributed materials.

1 in 4 Kent County adults have some form of diagnosed depression

Mental and Behavioral Health

Goal 3: Ensure Social Workers, Nurses & Nurse Practitioners, Psychologist, peer support specialists and other mid-level providers working with special populations in Kent County MI have knowledge and skills in trauma-informed care.

Strategy 1: Offer low cost continuing education to providers of mental health & behavioral health services on trauma-informed care and working with special populations.

Strategy 2: Seek out training opportunities and promote availability & awareness to those who require CEUs for continued licensure.

Metrics: Number of trainings hosted, Number of participants attending the trainings, Number of trainings promoted in the quarterly email.

Recommendation 1:
Providers of mental health and behavioral health services should be trained in trauma-informed care and how to work with special populations such as LGBTQ+, Refugees, and Youth.

Recommendation 2:
When offering continuing education to providers, promote training to positions outside of therapists and counselors such as peer support specialists, community health workers, health coaches, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, school counselors, etc.

Mental and Behavioral Health

Goal 4: Assist middle school, high school and college students in exploring a career in mental and behavioral health professions

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Strategy 1: Work in conjunction with GRAAHI's Pathways to provide therapists and other mental health professionals to share with students their educational background, skills and knowledge needed in their line of profession.

Strategy 2: Connect with the Kent Intermediate School District to determine their efforts to engage students in mental health and behavioral health careers

Strategy 3: Connect with Central Michigan University and other universities / colleges in the area to learn what they are doing to promote mental and behavioral health fields to students

Metrics: Number of students who attend a presentation on mental health/behavioral health professions, number of schools who promote career exploration in these professions, number of therapists who volunteer to talk with students about their profession.

Recommendation 1:
When offering career development programs to middle school, high school and college-age students, provide exposure to the mental and behavioral health fields, particularly with students of color.

ACCESS TO CARE REFERS TO THE TIMELY USE OF PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES (SUCH AS PREVENTIVE, DIAGNOSTIC, TREATMENT, AND FOLLOW-UP CARE) TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE HEALTH OUTCOMES.

Access to Care

Access to health services affects a person's health and well-being. Regular and reliable access to health services can prevent disease and disability, detect and treat illnesses or other health conditions, increase quality of life, reduce the likelihood of premature (early) death and increase life expectancy

The following pages contain strategies from the Community Health Improvement Plan workgroup to address issues related to Access to Care in Kent County

Access to Care

Goal 1: Equitable access to care for all who call Kent County home

Strategy 1: Develop and distribute educational materials related to the following: Understanding Insurance, When and Where to Access Care, Different Portals of Care, and Overcoming Barriers to Care

Metrics: Number of materials developed and distributed. Surveys to collect feedback on the usefulness of the distributed materials.

Hispanic and Latino adults in Kent County are 4 times more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic adults

Black adults in Kent County are 3 times more likely to be uninsured than White adults