

Okanogan County Coalition for Health Improvement
Meeting Notes
July 30, 2019, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Introduction-All

Attendance- SEE SIGN IN SHEET

Report Out and Debrief-All

- Last Thursday was Legislation Day, which was held in Okanogan County. The conversation was positive and we were given a platform to let Legislation know what was going on. If we do not come together as a community than it is hard to get support from the Legislation.
 - Transportation and access to healthcare are barriers in the county. Eliminating the access to hospitals can be a hindering issue. One of the biggest worries is access in the appropriate amount of time. We were grateful for the positivity in the room. I felt like we represented Okanogan County well. Nobody knows what the answer is, but we are willing to work it out. One mission is to support the healthcare system of the county. Those in the room truly listened and wondered what can we do? Dan Newhouse, Shelly Short and Patty Murray were in attendance. We thought it would just be representatives. Federal legislators were able to hear our concerns. Those of you that were not there our county was very well presented as a unified front.
- An idea is a county-wide survey through the CHI. How do you feel about the CHI coming together and supporting the hospitals? Some of the hospitals held recent town halls. Town Hall from Oroville and Tonasket. 60 in attendance in Tonasket and 35-40 in Oroville.
 - The town hall hosted by Mid-Valley Hospital had numerous community members outside of the district. The community members wanted to hear more from Mid-Valley the services that are provided. We are doing a disservice to the community if community members do not know what services are provided.
 - There are changes specifically in OB. With Confluence Health departing and Family Health Centers not having a full time MD in town it can be difficult. The town hall conversations were more of an opportunity for community members to speak.
- Surveying has been done extensively in Hospital Districts. The survey was more around services. The survey was distributed in English and Spanish. Could we fine tune the survey questions and have a broader community voice?
 - Newsletters are helpful. This could be a great way to partner with current surveys. Paige Bartholomew has the Community Voice Survey data that we could obtain to make sure there is no duplication.
- The Okanogan County Health District is distributing a survey around the perception of substance use. This survey is 5 questions and there are almost 1200 responses. Someone in the field has a different perception than the communities. The responses are different in every age group and parts of the county.
- How do hospitals and other organizations communicate with the community?
 - Some use weekly newspaper, since some community members do not use Facebook. Sometimes communication is difficult because the newspaper chooses to publish.

- Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare and Three Rivers does great on sharing information. Mid-Valley Hospital has an Instagram page. It is important to have a strategy to get media out to others.
- North Valley Hospital did a newsletter. Where did you distribute?
 - Word of mouth; newsletter; bulletin board; Facebook
- It would be easier for the county to have a one-stop shop for information sharing.
- The CHI is a powerful asset and we can find ways to work together to get resources. Streamline information in a more comprehensive way.
- Do you feel like we need a county wide survey? It is still more data but important to not duplicate information.
- Nation-wide there is a problem in economic development and that is where the CHI needs to concentrate.
 - Economically we are trying to get people here.
- **Possible survey questions:**
 - What brought you to Okanogan County? What made you stay?
 - Why do people come here?
 - Where do you get your communications?
 - How could the hospitals be flourishing?
 - **Action:** Email potential survey questions to Kelsey Gust, kelsey.gust@cc-ahp.com
 - The survey answers could be used in the packets that are distributed from real estate agents.
- How could we use the CHI Initiative funding for our county, in collaboration and show partnership? What could we do?
 - Use funds for Economic Development. For healthcare to make it, there has got to be growth.
 - Support the survey and get a buy-in from the community. The CHI wants the community to know they can make a difference.

Round Table-All

- The hospitals are engaging, and changes are being made to improve financial sustainability. These are positive changes and making good things happen.
- Coordinated Care hired a new employee in Wenatchee.
- Okanogan County Community Action Council are expanding services to homeless youth.
- National Night Out is on August 6, 2019.
- Workforce Summit is an opportunity to get together to share services.
- Methow Aero is working on the community initiative grant. Safe Sitters program has started up again.
- There is improvement in c-scans and new equipment that can detect viral and bacterial infections.
- There has been work done on decreasing the number of fatalities before graduation. A set up mock exercise of a car crash from a DUI at the schools.

- Juvenile Detention Center at a county and state level making more effort to work with community-based organizations.
- Okanogan County joined the Mental Health Crisis System this year. This is a transitional period for providers.
- Molina is providing Amazon Prime to all adults in Washington that are on Medicaid through Molina. 3 months of Prime will be provided for 2-day shipping for everyday essentials. Newly incentives with Amazon.
- Action Health Partners celebrated 25 years in business.
- First block party will be Saturday, September 21st 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. Anyone can set up a booth. August 11, 2019 is the Stampede Float and it is free to be in the parade.

Next Steps: Email potential county-wide survey questions to Kelsey Gust, kelsey.gust@cc-ahp.com

Meeting Adjourned