

HEALTH AND WELL BEING ISSUE PROJECT TEAM VISION STATEMENT

We support these values by:

1. Providing access to high quality bio-psychosocial healthcare.
2. Providing choices including social opportunities, recreational activities and cultural amenities.
3. Providing access to high quality services and supports for life-long family care.

Rationale:

Health and well being are basic goals of society. Meeting health and well being needs is a personal, family and social responsibility, and is essential to sustaining a successful community.

The community must support personal and family responsibility, initiative and independence. Dependence on public assistance must be minimized. Barriers to self-sufficiency must be identified and eliminated.

Community-wide planning and coordination of health and well being resources should occur when and where appropriate. We should maximize quality, access and availability while minimizing cost. We must be able to quickly identify and meet needs without being wasteful. Finally, our community must be committed to assisting and providing for those who are truly dependent and those who are temporarily unable to care for themselves.

GOAL #1

Provide access to high quality bio-psychosocial healthcare.

Rationale:

The health of a community is defined by the health of its people. In order to protect and improve the health of our community, we need to value all forms of health: mental, dental, physical, environmental, and spiritual.

Strategies:

1. Promote healthy lifestyles through life-long educational programs, occurring as needed/where needed throughout our community.
2. Integrate mental health, substance use prevention, medical care, law enforcement and education systems.
3. Promote diverse health care technologies that foster prevention, high quality treatment and quality management of chronic diseases.

Implementation/Funding:

- Encourage tobacco free environments. Set and enforce local policies that publicly funded buildings will be smoke-free (minimal cost). Enforce a community wide youth possession ordinance (minimal cost). Promote cooperation among local community partners such as Northeast Colorado Health Department, Sterling Regional Med Center, Logan County Family Connections, Logan County Extension, law enforcement, school districts and other community partners.

- Fluoridate our community water systems where feasible. (Grant funding is available for equipment needed. The average estimated cost for fluoridation is thirty-one cents per person per year, which would save an average \$50 per person per year in oral health costs.)
- Improve immunization rates, increase access to parenting education and improve participation in preventative health care by coordinating City and County efforts with the services available through community partners including but not limited to those mentioned above. (Grant Funding available)
- Promote literacy in our community. An individual's health status is affected by the ability to communicate in written and verbal forms. This should be implemented by working closely with the Education Issue Project Team.
- Establish local substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation facilities. An advisory council needs to be established to look at enhancing existing services offered in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency. This council should not only include representatives from the agencies listed above but also parents and other private community groups (specifically teenage children 12-16 years of age).
- Work to improve interagency communication and contributions to a comprehensive public assistance system. This would require primarily human capital and could be implemented by developing a "community health service coordinator".
- Develop insurance alternatives to increase the availability and affordability of care. This could be facilitated by a task force, which would investigate all possible alternatives such as pooling of employer groups and self-funded employers direct contacts with health care providers.
- Increase awareness of and access to alternative medicines. This could be achieved by having a clearing house for information coordinated by an entity such as "community health service coordinators".

Possible funding sources could include licensing permits and user fees.

GOAL #2

Provide choices in social opportunities, recreational activities and cultural amenities.

Rationale:

Social, recreational and cultural activities promote the health and well being of the citizenry. They contribute to economic stability by attracting and retaining the population.

Strategies:

1. Develop, if feasible, a family leisure pool for the use and benefit of our community.
2. Expand development of bike and pedestrian paths.
3. Develop facilities and programs that promote cultural arts and conventions.
4. Develop other social opportunities.

Implementation/Funding:

- Complete and support the City of Sterling feasibility study for the funding and building of the community pool.
- Complete implementation of the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan while coordinating/developing a community wide pedestrian and bicycle plan that utilizes all funding sources, including but not limited to Department of Corrections workgroups and the Colorado Department of Transportation Enhancement funds.
- Form a Task Force representing all the cultural and fine arts organizations of the community to:
 - Develop coordinated scheduling and promotion of arts, cultural, recreational activities and athletic events.
 - Promote artistic, cultural and recreational activities.
 - Explore the feasibility of improvements to cultural/convention facilities.
- Have regular community sponsored block parties to promote citizen involvement and to help them get to know their neighbors (Contact the City of Brush for how they implemented block parties.)

GOAL #3

Provide access to high quality and affordable services and supports for life-long family care.

Rationale:

A community must have an adequate quantity of high quality dependent care options so other family members can fulfill employment commitments. Employers must have access to reliable work force. High quality care leads to higher literacy rates in children and future employees, more productive employees and lower poverty rates.

Strategies:

1. Create public awareness on family care issues and how the availability and quality of care impacts the community.
2. Monitor the needs for non-traditional care such as 24 hour, 7 day a week care, “sick” care, and inter-generational care.
3. Increase the quality of available care by investing in providers through training, education and increased salary and benefits.
4. Develop a quality rating system that allows consumers to understand the quality of the care they are purchasing.
5. Continue childcare resources and referral through Family Connections and create a similar system for adult care so those families needing care can learn what is available in our community.

Implementation/Funding:

- Plan annual focus groups with employers and care providers utilizing the Logan County Child Care Pilot, the Interagency Council for the Elderly and the Chamber of Commerce. (No additional funding is necessary)

- Establish a resource database of all care providers and make it available at the Public Library. Develop a community resource guide through an entity such as the Logan County Design Team. (\$2,000 per year to maintain)
- Increase provider salary and benefits through additional government subsidies such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) reform, utilization of enterprise zone tax credits, increased donations from private business and organizations and increased consumer fees. Tie increased salary and benefits to completion of specific training, environmental quality rating scales, and other means of demonstrating competent care.
- Utilize funding available through the Logan County Child Care Pilot, foundation grants and other public and private funding opportunities to provide scholarships and bonuses for providers demonstrating excellence. (\$30,000 per year)
- Establish an adult care resource and referral agency in an existing government funded facility. This could be incorporated into the Community Health Service Coordinator position.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS:

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