



Forces of Change Assessment

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

Purpose

The Forces of Change Assessment aims to answer the following question: “What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?” and “What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?”

Process

The internal MAPP team at the Evanston Health and Human Services Department identified a list of about 200 community leaders who should participate in the Forces of Change Assessment. Attached to the invitation for the Forces of Change Assessment meeting was the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, where participants were asked to identify their perceptions of health issues in Evanston. The internal MAPP team reviewed the responses to the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment, and narrowed down the Forces of Change Assessment to focus on three themes: social, economic, and political.

During the assessment, participants were randomly placed in one of three rooms for a breakout session. There were three breakout sessions in total, each of which focused on one of the categories and lasted about 20 minutes. Participants were asked the question: “What trends, factors or events do you perceive may occur in the next five years that will affect the community’s health?” Participants were given three post-it notes, and were asked to identify three forces that are affecting, or will affect, public health in Evanston in the upcoming years within that category. Participants placed one idea on each post-it, and then placed the note on a larger white board, grouping similar ideas together. The three most popular ideas were further discussed by the group, as attendees identified the specific impact each force would have on public health in Evanston, and potential opportunities that could occur as a result of these forces. The process was then repeated for the remaining two categories. A total of 78 Evanston leaders participated in the meeting.

Results

Listed below are the top 9 forces that were identified in each category, along with the impacts and opportunities that were discussed.

Social

Theme	Impact	Opportunity
<u>Cultural Competency</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language barriers impacts health education, as Evanston is a diverse community • Language barriers impact access to advocates and service organizations • Social customs have impacted eating habits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More culturally-specific interventions in all service organizations
<u>Mental Health</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less people are accessing mental health programs • Closing of C4 (Community Counseling Centers for Chicago) will affect access to mental health care greatly • Stigma • Both over access and underutilization of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common assessment tools amongst mental health providers in Evanston • Improved referral protocols in Evanston for mental health (need to collaborate, as Evanston has many social service organizations) • Better integration of public health services and mental health services • Bringing the safety, emergency preparedness, and community into mental health discussions
<u>Technology</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over engagement with technology creates sedentary lifestyle • Cyberbullying • Data sharing privacy issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergenerational programs with high school students working with the elderly population on technology • Apps and community videos to engage youth • Cyberbullying education campaigns at an earlier age

Economic

Theme	Impact	Opportunity
<u>Affordable Housing</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School enrollments in Evanston have increased because families are doubling up • Lack of low-income housing in Evanston • Gentrification: low-income families are priced out of Evanston 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain low-income housing (land trust model) • Changing Evanston's zoning ordinance for low-income housing • Forcing developers to set aside a certain number of units for low-income housing, and not letting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts mental health and homelessness 	them “buy out” of this rule (as is done currently)
<u>IL state funding cuts</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall cutback on all services (health, social, and public domain) Social service organizations are attracting less talent because of job and wage cuts. Movement from public to private sector Less focus on preventative services Decrease in quality of services Uncertainty in government funding makes it hard to plan within our organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with organizations for joint grant applications Increased public-private partnerships Community organizing for future state elections—there is not enough community organizing in Evanston Finding grants from private organizations, not just government Can lead to more solidified, focused programs Coordinate all lobbying and funding requests to the state, and engage FBOs. Sending an agenda of what needs to happen in Evanston, and sending that to the state as priorities
<u>Employment</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affects everything: access to care, housing, food, insurance Lack of quality jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for minimum wage increases in Evanston, and state-wide Two-generation initiative programs Job training programs at the high school
<u>Access to care</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affects epidemiological outcomes A lack of knowledge of resources People may not understand how Medicare model works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigators available at the library, PEER services, Erie, etc. Community health asset map “211” number of seniors More school-based health centers, such as ETHS Universal fare cards Data information sharing hub for Evanston providers Increasing knowledge with resources such as HIRCULES desk at the library

Political

Theme	Impact	Opportunity
<u>Civic engagement</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disengagement in politics by residents Lack of knowledge of resources by residents Causes a waste of resources Decisions are made without 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology as a low-cost, high-impact way to reach a large group of people Partnerships and collaboration Voting on the weekend in Evanston

	<p>everyone's opinions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an overload of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill for automatic voter registration through driver's license registration • Create a city action website to organize information
<p><u>Increasing health awareness</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead is still an issue with a large negative health impact on children • Air/water and environment are being compromised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health as a major priority of City Council • ETHS: Using high schoolers as health educators