

# Shelby County, Ohio

## Forces of Change Assessment

June 24, 2022

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**For:**

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## Introduction

The Shelby County Forces of Change (FoC) Assessment was completed through the work of the Shelby County Health Coalition. The Coalition consists of community members and community partners representing Shelby County, Ohio. The goal of the Coalition is to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Shelby County to make Shelby County a healthier community.

The Shelby County Health Coalition is following the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process in the development of Shelby County's CHIP. See picture depicting process below:

The MAPP process starts with determining the Coalition's vision. In determining its vision, the Coalition has defined a Health Community as:

“Every community, every individual has an opportunity for better health.

This includes economic, spiritual, social, financial, physical, mental, holistic, environment, and intellectual.”

Four MAPP Assessments are then completed to provide a comprehensive picture of health and what is happening in the community. This report summarizes the FoC Assessment, which is one of these four assessments. The FoC Assessment identifies all the forces and associated opportunities and threat that can affect now or in the future, the community and local public health system. Forces can be trends, factors, or events.

- **Trends are patterns over time**, such as migration in and out of a community or growing disillusionment with government.
- **Factors are discrete elements**, such as community's large ethnic population, an urban setting, or the jurisdiction's proximity to a major waterway.
- **Events are one-time occurrences**, such as a hospital closure, a natural disaster, or the passage of new legislation.

The other three assessments include: the Local Public Health System Assessment, the Community Health Status Assessment, and the Community Themes and Strength Assessment. Information from these four assessments will be utilized to identify strategic issues that will help the Coalition formulate goals and strategies that can be implemented to help improve and make Shelby County a healthier community.



## Methodology

In June of 2022, Shelby County Health Coalition members completed two forces of change surveys to identify potential forces that can affect now or in the future, the community and local public health system. The first survey was more of a brainstorming survey with nine open ended questions. The participants were asked to identify forces that would affect the health of our community, the local public health system, or the healthcare system in the next 3 years. There was a question for each of the following categories:

- 1) social forces
- 2) economic forces
- 3) political forces
- 4) technological forces
- 5) environmental forces
- 6) scientific forces
- 7) legal forces
- 8) ethical forces and
- 9) health inequity.

The second survey took the responses from the first survey and asked the participants to pick the top five forces in each of the nine categories. The results were then tallied and ranked by which forces got the most votes. For those forces that had a tie in the number of votes, the force that had the most number one or higher votes was ranked above the other.

The ranking results were shared with Coalition members at the June 22, 2022 Coalition meeting. Members were asked to narrow the list down further for each of the force categories and identify which forces they wanted to focus on; and, then identify threats posed and opportunities created for each of those forces.

## Results

Below is a the results of the ranking survey along with a summary of the discussion from the Coalition members for each of the following forces: 1) social forces 2) economic forces 3) political forces 4) technological forces 5) environmental forces 6) scientific forces 7) legal forces 8) ethical forces and 9) health inequity.

### 1) Social Forces

The ranking survey identified the top Social forces as follows:

1. Substance abuse/ Addiction
2. Mental Health issues
3. Living wages/ poverty
4. Stigma; racism; Social norms and attitudes (are changing) such as discrimination; exposure to crime, violence, and social disorder
5. Lack of affordable housing

The Coalition discussed substance abuse/addiction and mental health as the priorities.

**Threats** included increasing costs with no increase in reimbursement from Medicaid, breakdown in criminal justice system, increasing caseloads for Job and Family Services and court cases, not having the resources at the time an individual needs it, increase in mental health issues in schools, decrease in mental health providers, lack of crisis stabilization, lack of adult resources, insufficient number of group homes and zoning laws which prohibit, hospital discharge plans and lack of step down facilities from hospitals. Additionally, not sure how the new Ohio Rise program will affect existing services.

**Opportunities** include advocacy, looking outside of Shelby County for resources, mobile clinics, Family Resource Center building up their program and Open Access, the STAR House, Emergency Shelter, and early prevention to prevent hospitalization.

## 2) Economic Forces

The ranking survey identified the top Economic forces as follows:

1. Inflation/ Cost of living going up
2. People not willing to work even when there are jobs available/  
Labor shortages
3. Cost of healthcare/ high insurance premiums or high deductible plans
4. Increasing poverty rates
5. Supply chain challenges

The Coalition discussed cost of healthcare as a priority.

**Threats** included the effects of inflation and cost of living going up (individuals and families may not be able to afford healthcare, healthy foods, fitness and other healthy activities), transportation issues, drop in Medicaid coverage (through COVID there were limited qualifications for Medicaid, this will be changing in the next few months, and individuals will have to requalify), childcare conflicts, absenteeism at work, as well as a lack in routine screening and early prevention related to healthcare costs.

**Opportunities** included advocacy, looking outside of Shelby County for resources, and comparing how disposable income impacts health screenings and early prevention.

## 3) Political Forces

The ranking survey identified the top Political forces as follows:

1. Corrupt politicians/ own particular party or self-interests
2. Misinformation from media
3. The current administration of funding programs for low income is creating a negative balanced budget and we cannot continue to sustain a healthy economy while supporting so many people
4. Trust in government is low
5. Possible changes in legislation and mandates from ODH/ Trying to repeal public health laws

The Coalition decided not to focus on political forces as other forces are priority. Decided that they do need to advocate at the State level for the resources needed and look for potential funding changes.

#### 4) Technological Forces

The ranking survey identified the top Technological forces as follows:

1. Cyber security with sensitive information/ Increase in data breaches
2. Parents being able to afford technology for their school age children, a lot of schools are doing things online and some children do not have access.
3. More telehealth and data sharing/ More people able to telework remotely
4. Social media distraction
5. Lack of quality internet in rural areas.

The Coalition identified more telehealth and high quality broadband as priorities.

**Threats** identified included limited resources, lack of reciprocity with other State licensures, reluctance to adopt technology, and telehealth unavailable in some locations due to poor internet connection.

**Opportunities** included mobile telehealth clinics; grant opportunities to build infrastructure (get equipment and space), improving broadband in the county, training, and improving access to services.

#### 5) Environmental Forces

The ranking survey identified the top Environmental forces as follows:

1. Lack of awareness of environmental issues
2. Increase in violence and crimes
3. Poor housing conditions/ Sub-standard housing in low income families
4. Drugs and youth vaping
5. Climate change/ Natural disasters

The Coalition discussed the lack of data when it comes to Shelby County youth.

**Threats** identified included substance abuse, resistance from the community to obtain data, and sensitivity of the topics.

**Opportunities** included collaboration with schools, partners and the community, and early prevention and education.

## 6) Scientific Forces

The ranking survey identified the top scientific forces as follows:

1. Rising cost for medical aid
2. Innovation in technology
3. Advances in medical treatment, science/ research
4. Managing climate changes
5. Vaccine changes to target specific diseases/viruses

Cost of medical care was previously covered in the social and economic forces section and innovation in technology and advances in medical care was covered in the technological section.

## 7) Legal Forces

The ranking survey identified the top Legal forces as follows:

1. Increase in crimes as cost continue to rise
2. Supreme Court's decision on whether to overturn Roe vs Wade
3. Access to legal services
4. People that are convicted having to serve sentence being maintained.
5. The release of proper information in a pandemic

The Coalition decided not to focus on legal forces as priorities.

## 8) Ethical forces

The ranking survey identified the top Ethical forces as follows:

1. Increase in corruption; lack of accountability
2. Internet/social media can create ethical issues that lead to lack of moral standards
3. Discrimination in the community and in the workplaces
4. Lack of teaching morals / ethics in schools (education)
5. Increased polarization
6. Lack of understanding for public health regulations and laws

The Coalition decided not to focus on ethical forces as priorities. It was mentioned “lack of understanding for public health regulations” may be more of lack of awareness of the value. Opportunities would be greater transparency and collaboration.

## 9) Health Inequity.

The ranking survey identified the top Health Inequity forces as follows:

1. Decrease in healthcare due to access to health insurances/ Underinsured individuals not being able to afford care.
2. Systemic differences in opportunities related in employment, socioeconomic status, disabilities, ages, geography, race & ethnicity
3. Encourage work and aid based on work. Necessary medical care should not be a barrier for people working 40 or more hours a week. For individuals that chose not to work without a valid reason it should.
4. I think getting a diverse group of people from all sectors in the community will be the best way to discuss and address health inequity issues.
5. Food insecurities
6. Accessible access - proximity to hospitals; healthcare specialists

The Coalition identified accessible access to hospitals and healthcare specialists, access to health insurances, and underinsured healthcare as priorities.

**Threats** identified included changes that will be occurring in the near future with Medicaid coverage. Throughout COVID, there were limited qualifications for Medicaid. This will be changing in the next few months, and individuals will have to requalify for Medicaid and reapply. It is anticipated that many will lose coverage.

**Opportunities** include encouraging people to take the steps to reapply for Medicaid and mobile clinics.



## Summary

The Shelby County Forces of Change Assessment was completed to answer the following questions:

- 1) What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of the community or the local public health system?
- 2) What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

The Shelby County Coalition identified potential forces for each of the nine categories of forces. The Coalition then prioritized which forces they wanted to consider and identify opportunities and threats for those forces to help in the development of the CHIP. Areas of focus included access to care, prevention services, mental health and drug addiction, including a focus on youth mental health and trying to assess the needs of youth.

It should be noted how the Coalition felt many of these areas overlapped with each other. Because many of the struggles that people have such as transportation, lack of affordable healthcare, being able to pay bills for food, housing, etc. could lead to mental health and drug addiction issues. Likewise, mental health and drug addiction issues may lead to lack of housing, inability to hold employment, pay bills, obtain healthcare, etc.

Many of the opportunities identified focused on advocacy to obtain the needed resources/ services, collaboration with community partners, and utilization of technology and mobile clinics (going where the people are located) to provide services.

By identifying the opportunities and threats under each of the force categories, the Coalition can more effectively identify strategies to make improvements in these areas. These strategies will then be incorporated into Shelby County's CHIP.

Information on the CHIP can be found at [www.shelbycountyhealthdept.org](http://www.shelbycountyhealthdept.org) or by contacting the Accreditation Coordinator at the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department at 937-498-7249. Community partners and members are welcome to join the Shelby County Health Coalition to help make Shelby County a healthy community.