

# Shelby County, Ohio

## Local Public Health System Assessment

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## INTRODUCTION

The Shelby County Local Public Health System Assessment was completed through the work of the Shelby County Health Coalition. The Coalition consists of a group of community partners representing Shelby County, Ohio. Representation includes entities from the following sectors:

- Businesses or employers
- Community Members
- Faith based organizations
- Fire, EMS, or Law Enforcement Agencies
- Government
- Sidney-Shelby County Health Department
- Hospital, clinics, healthcare provider, or other health related organizations
- Organizations: Community or Non-profit
- Public or private schools
- Substance abuse or mental health organizations

The Assessment is one part of four assessments that are being completed to help Shelby County develop its Community Health Improvement Plan. The Shelby County Health Coalition is following the MAPP Process in the development of this plan. See picture depicting process below:

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.”

The Local Public Health System Assessment followed the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) *National Public Health Performance Standards Local Assessment Instrument*.

Local Public Health Systems (LPHS) are a network of entities with differing roles, relationships, and interactions whose activities combined contribute to the health and well-being of the community.

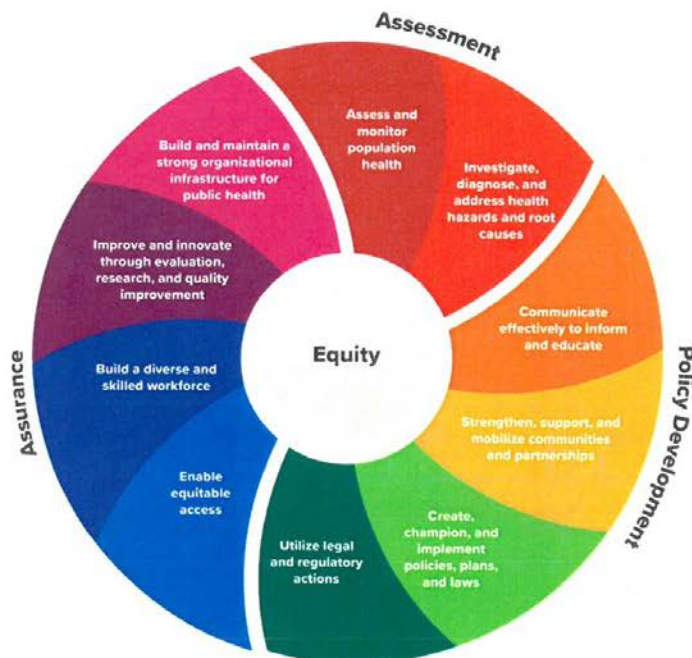


The 10 Essential Public Health Services (Essential Services) provide the framework for describing the public health activities that should be undertaken in all local communities. See picture below describing these services:

# THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

*To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities*

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve equity, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.



- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #1**  
Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #2**  
Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #3**  
Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #4**  
Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #5**  
Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #6**  
Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #7**  
Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #8**  
Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #9**  
Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
- ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #10**  
Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

In completing the Shelby County Local Public Health System Assessment, ten unique surveys were sent to community partners via e-mail to capture their responses to assess Shelby County's local public health system's capabilities in delivering each of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

The surveys consisted of quantitative questions that asked the respondent to answer at what level the local public health system (LPHS) performed various functions. The respondent could select: No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, or Optimal. Then the survey included qualitative questions that captured the LPHS's strengths, weaknesses, as well as identify potential short term and long term opportunities.

This report summarizes the results of these surveys as well as findings and discussion from a community partner meeting that occurred on May 11, 2022 at the Amos Memorial Public Library to discuss the LPHS Assessment survey results.

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE # 1:**

**ASSESS AND MONITOR POPULATION HEALTH STATUS, FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE HEALTH, AND COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ASSETS.**

What is going on in our community?  
Do we know how healthy we are?

Survey Results	35 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Conduct regular Community Health Needs Assessments (CHA)?	Moderate
2. Update the CHA with current information continuously?	Moderate
3. Promote the use of the CHA among community members and partners?	Moderate
4. Use the best available technology and methods to display data on the public's health?	Moderate
5. Analyze data, including geographic information, to see where health problems exist?	Moderate
6. Use computer software to create charts, graphs, and maps to display complex public health data (trends over time, sub-population analysis, etc.)?	Moderate
7. Collect timely data consistent with current standards on specific health concerns in order to provide the data to population health registries?	Moderate
8. Use information from population health registries in CHAs or other analysis?	Moderate

**STRENGTHS**

- “I feel like the health department does a good job on pulling from aggregated data to inform the public of needs/cautions/etc.” “COVID-19 Response and distribution of data”
- “The LHD has great collaboration with community partners and agencies.”

**WEAKNESSES**

- “Across the agency - increase skill level on why and how to use CHA & CHIP data and analysis. Too little staff time to devote to accreditation due to their other responsibilities.”
- “It's been many years since a local community health assessment has been completed.”
- “Need more localized CHA for just Shelby Co.”
- “Capturing data greater than GDHA for community assessments.”

## SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- “Provide trainings / educational opportunities that will increase knowledge of CHA and CHIP;”
- “We could rotate where monthly meetings are held so that each place can see our facilities and what we provide. Visually, it’s always nice to see what services are provided and actually what people are talking about. I think this could lead to more conversation pieces, therefore lead to additional questions about their programs. “
- “Revise website to better information for public”

## LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Increase number of staff - find grant and other funding opportunities to provide trainings/education.”
- “Schedule a comprehensive community needs assessment.”
- “Come up with strategies for QI.”

## ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #2

### INVESTIGATE, DIAGNOSE, AND ADDRESS HEALTH PROBLEMS AND HAZARDS AFFECTING THE POPULATION

Are we ready to respond to health problems or health hazards in our county?

How quickly do we find out about problems?

How effective is our response?

Survey Results	33 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Participate in a comprehensive surveillance system with national, state, and local partners to identify, monitor, and share information and understand emerging health problems and threats?	Moderate
2. Provide and collect timely and complete information on reportable diseases and potential disasters, emergencies, and emerging threats (natural and manmade)?	Significant
3. Ensure that the best available resources are used to support surveillance systems and activities, including information technology, communication systems, and professional expertise?	Moderate
4. Maintain written instructions on how to handle communicable disease outbreaks and toxic exposure incidents, including details about case finding, contact tracing, and source identification and containment?	Significant
5. Develop written rules to follow in the immediate investigation of public health threats and emergencies, including natural and intentional disasters?	Significant
6. Designate a jurisdictional Emergency Response Coordinator?	Significant
7. Prepare to rapidly respond to public health emergencies according to emergency operations coordination guidelines?	Significant
8. Identify personnel with the technical expertise to rapidly respond to possible biological, chemical, or and nuclear public health emergencies?	Moderate
9. Evaluate incidents for effectiveness and opportunities for improvement (such as After Action Reports, Improvement Plans, etc.)?	Significant
10. Have ready access to laboratories that can meet routine public health needs for finding out what health problems are occurring?	Moderate
11. Maintain constant (24/7) access to laboratories that can meet public health needs during emergencies, threats, and other hazards?	Moderate



12. Use only licensed or credentialed laboratories?	Moderate
13. Maintain a written list of rules related to laboratories, for handling samples (including collecting, labeling, storing, transporting, and delivering), determining who is in charge of the samples at what point, and reporting the results?	Moderate

**STRENGTHS:**

- “Our emergency preparedness coordinator is constantly striving to improve our ability to respond to health emergencies in our county and region. Our health department staff responded to the COVID-19 pandemic very well - trying to gather data, insure health of the community, provide education to the community, and provide resources to the community.”
- “We have a strong relationship with GDAHA as well as a strong emergency management team in Shelby County.”

**WEAKNESSES:**

- “Not enough staff - difficult to have staff trying to do their current job responsibilities and learn new emergency preparedness activities.”
- “Lack of staff involvement.”
- “Proximity of laboratories.”

**SHORT TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

- “Provide trainings/ educational opportunities across the agency.”
- “Train all staff on emergency response.”

**LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

- “Increase training & educational opportunities- using QI and performance management to develop and increase staff knowledge.”
- “Annual staff training.”
- “Additional epidemiological support.”

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #3:**

**COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY TO INFORM AND EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT HEALTH, FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE IT, AND HOW TO IMPROVE IT.**

How well do we keep all segments of our community informed about health issues?

Survey Results	30 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Provide policymakers, stakeholders, and the public with ongoing analyses of community health status and related recommendations for health promotion policies?	Moderate
2. Coordinate health promotion and health education activities at the individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels?	Significant
3. Engage the community throughout the process of setting priorities, developing plans, and implementing health education and health promotion activities?	Moderate
4. Develop health communication plans for media and public relations and for sharing information among LPHS organizations?	Moderate
5. Use relationships with different media providers (e.g., print, radio, television, the Internet) to share health information, matching the message with the target audience?	Moderate
6. Identify and train spokespersons on public health issues?	Moderate
7. Develop an emergency communications plan for each stage of an emergency to allow for the effective dissemination of information?	Moderate
8. Make sure resources are available for a rapid emergency communication response?	Moderate
9. Provide risk communication training for employees and volunteers?	Significant

## STRENGTHS

- “Attends meeting with other agencies and board members.”
- “Individuals are easily identified as spokespersons in the community. United Way appears to be the starting point for community to be able to identify health needs and where to access.”
- “Adequate information provided to the community on health care concerns.”
- “Great collaboration and cooperation across agencies (local, regional and state).”
- “Emergency Response Communication Plan”

## WEAKNESSES

- “This hasn't been completed for 10 years. While we received the community health report from the region, it is not specific to Shelby County and we are aware this is why the CHIP is being completed.”
- “Current website”
- “Not enough staff or funding to increase and improve our capabilities”
- “Public Information Officer Spokesperson”

## SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Implement new website.”
- “Provide employees with information on the systems already in place.”
- “Additional funding sources such as new short-term and/or long-term grants and other contracts, etc.”
- “Provide member on LEPC Critical Information Team”

## LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Avoiding duplication of services.”
- “Finding long term funding opportunities to increase services and staffing that will enhance and increase our services and capabilities.”
- “Trained PIOs”

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #4**

**STRENGTHEN, SUPPORT, AND MOBILIZE COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE HEALTH.**

How well do we truly engage people in local health issues?

Survey Results	30 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Maintain a complete and current directory of community organizations	Moderate
2. Follow an established process for identifying key constituents related to overall public health interests and particular health concerns?	Moderate
3. Encourage constituents to participate in activities to improve community health?	Moderate
4. Create forums for communication of public health issues?	Moderate
5. Establish community partnerships and strategic alliances to provide a comprehensive approach to improving health in the community?	Moderate
6. Establish a broad-based community health improvement committee?	Significant
7. Assess how well community partnerships and strategic alliances are working to improve community health?	Moderate

**STRENGTHS**

- “The Sidney Shelby County Health Department (SSCHD) has strong connections with its community partners and partners work well together.”
- “You can tell efforts are being made to be more visible and improve collaborations.”

## WEAKNESSES

- “Communicating what the needs are in the community.”
- “Not enough staff to increase / expand services and funding to pay for this”.
- “Maintaining a Community Health Coalition.”

## SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Inform others of meetings, goals, outcomes.”
- “There are multiple meetings where information is duplicated. The Chairs of each committee could collaborate to hold one meeting with all stakeholders to discuss/share the same information.”
- “Look for funding opportunities that cross agencies - for collaboration; increase knowledge base across agencies for why this is important.”

## LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Surveys are conducted more frequently at a local level.”
- “Set up re-occurring meetings with partners to discuss issues.”
- “Build a strong broad based community health improvement committee.”

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #5**

**CREATE, CHAMPION, AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES, PLANS, AND LAWS THAT IMPACT HEALTH.**

What local policies in both the government and private sector promote health in my community?

How well are we setting healthy local policies?

Survey Results	27 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Support the work of the local health department (or other governmental local public health entity) to make sure the 10 Essential Public Health Services are provided?	Moderate
2. See that the local health department is accredited through the PHAB’s voluntary, national public health department accreditation program?	Significant
3. Ensure that the local health department has enough resources to do its part in providing essential public health services?	Significant
4. Contribute to public health policies by engaging in activities that inform the policy development process?	Significant
5. Alert policymakers and the community of the possible public health effects (both intended and unintended) from current and/or proposed policies?	Moderate
6. Review existing policies at least every three to five years?	Moderate
7. Establish a CHIP, with broad-based diverse participation, that uses information from the CHA, including the perceptions of community members?	Moderate
8. Develop strategies to achieve community health improvement objectives, including a description of organizations accountable for specific steps?	Moderate
9. Connect organizational strategic plans with the CHIP?	Minimal
10. Support a workgroup to develop and maintain emergency preparedness and response plans?	Moderate
11. Develop an emergency preparedness and response plan that defines when it would be used, who would do what tasks, what standard operating procedures would be put in place, and what alert and evacuation protocols would be followed?	Moderate
12. Test the plan through regular drills and revise the plan as needed, at least every two years?	Moderate

## STRENGTHS

- “SSCHD Emergency Preparedness” \*\*\*
- “Currently, the process is moving forward to develop a new Community Health Improvement Plan. Use this time to increase understanding of the public health system and how each agency/organization fits into the plan.”
- “Dedicated agencies and people across the county and region. Agencies do assist each other - particularly through past couple of years due to COVID.”

\*\*\*Denotes an item listed multiple times.

## SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Need updated CHIP”
- “Improve the collaboration and coordination of grants/funding and programs. Develop some type of plan on whom and how other agencies work together using their strengths to make the system.”
- “Become accredited.”
- “Look for funding opportunities; look for opportunities to share responsibilities for the community; no one agency can really do it all.”

## LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Completing the CHIP surveys more frequently, continuing the Emergency Preparedness Drills.”
- “Have the community approve the health department levies once again, but may need to consider increasing the amounts as costs rise to continue same services.”
- “Incorporate CHIP in processes.”
- “Look for funding opportunities that cross agencies; improve trainings/education across the agencies.”

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #6**

**UTILIZE LEGAL AND REGULATORY ACTIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH.**

When we enforce health regulations are we technically competent, fair, and effective?

Survey Results	24 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Identify public health issues that can be addressed through laws, regulations, or ordinances?	Significant
2. Stay up-to-date with current laws, regulations, and ordinances that prevent health problems or that promote or protect public health on the federal, state, and local levels?	Significant
3. Review existing public health laws, regulations, and ordinances at least once every three to five years?	Significant
4. Have access to legal counsel for technical assistance when reviewing laws, regulations, or ordinances?	Significant
5. Identify local public health issues that are inadequately addressed in existing laws, regulations, and ordinances?	Significant
6. Participate in changing existing laws, regulations, and ordinances, and/or creating new laws, regulations, and ordinances to protect and promote public health?	Significant
7. Provide technical assistance in drafting the language for proposed changes or new laws, regulations, and ordinances?	Significant
8. Identify organizations that have the authority to enforce public health laws, regulations, and ordinances?	Moderate
9. Ensure that a local health department (or other governmental public health entity) has the authority to act in public health emergencies?	Moderate
10. Ensure that all enforcement activities related to public health codes are done within the law?	Moderate
11. Educate individuals and organizations about relevant laws, regulations, and ordinances?	Significant
12. Evaluate how well local organizations comply with public health laws?	Moderate



## STRENGTHS

- “Emergency Preparedness Coalition made us aware of the local organizations that are a part of our public health laws and were active in those meetings/drills/events.”
- “Experience and knowledge of SSCHD Environmental Health Staff. Providing education to the public on health laws.”
- “EH division has a lot of experience and does and great job!”

## WEAKNESSES

- “Need to regain some public trust lost during COVID. ODH support in EH programs has been very little during COVID.”
- “Having authority to change or provide input on laws handed down by the State. Collecting EH Data for analysis.”

## SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Improve knowledge of public health department and the public health system.”
- “Collect data for analysis. Provide comments on laws.”
- “ODH is restarting monthly EH conference calls and we need to participate in these to stay up to date.”

## LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “By education and improvement of the local public health department and system - opportunities may arise for increased collaboration and coordination as well as funding.”
- “Engage community partners regarding proposed laws. Develop goals and objectives based on collected data.”
- “Update all EH SOG's.”

## ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #7

ASSURE AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM THAT ENABLES EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND CARE NEEDED TO BE HEALTHY.

Are people in my community receiving the health services they need?

Survey Results	20 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Identify groups of people in the community who have trouble accessing or connecting to personal health services?	Significant
2. Identify all personal health service needs and unmet needs throughout the community?	Moderate
3. Defines partner roles and responsibilities to respond to the unmet needs of the community?	Moderate
4. Understand the reasons that people do not get the care they need?	Moderate
5. Connect or link people to organizations that can provide the personal health services they may need?	Significant
6. Help people access personal health services in a way that takes into account the unique needs of different populations?	Moderate
7. Help people sign up for public benefits that are available to them (e.g., Medicaid or medical and prescription assistance programs)?	Moderate
8. Coordinate the delivery of personal health and social services so that everyone in the community has access to the care they need?	Moderate

### STRENGTHS

- “CMH, Help Me Grow Home Visiting, WIC, immunization nurses’ link individuals and families to Medicaid and each other needed services. We also refer children and families to other supports such as Early Intervention, etc. School nurses make referrals to CMH and also help with dental clinics for the underserved, and link underserved children and adults to vision supports.”
- “WIC program strong”

## WEAKNESSES

- “The community has a lack of resources for different cultures or population and need education on those cultures.”
- “Some programs cross many agency boundaries - which could create more cost.”
- “Studying the unmet needs of the community.”
- “Website.”

## SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Sharing resources.”
- “Increase opportunities for agencies to know who does what program and how to access - thus deleting agencies doing same services - leading to funding that can be used to develop new programs/services.”
- “Community Health Coalition.”
- “New Website.”

## LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Awareness of different populations and how to best serve them.”
- “Goals and strategies to address access to care.”
- “Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) items worked on over time. New coalition will identify needs.”

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #8**

**BUILD AND SUPPORT A DIVERSE AND SKILLED PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE.**

Do we have competent public health staff?  
 Do we have competent healthcare staff?  
 How can we be sure that our staff stays current?

Survey Results	19 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Complete a workforce assessment, a process to track the numbers and types of LPHS jobs— both, public and private sector—and the associated knowledge, skills, and abilities required of the jobs?	Moderate
2. Review the information from the workforce assessment and use it to identify and address gaps in the LPHS workforce?	Significant
3. Provide information from the workforce assessment to other community organizations and groups, including governing bodies and public and private agencies, for use in their organizational planning?	Moderate
4. Ensure that all members of the local public health workforce have the required certificates, licenses, and education needed to fulfill their job duties and comply with legal requirements?	Significant
5. Develop and maintain job standards and position descriptions based in the core knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to provide the 10 Essential Public Health Services?	Moderate
6. Base the hiring and performance review of members of the public health workforce in public health competencies?	Moderate
7. Identify education and training needs and encourage the public health workforce to participate in available education and training?	Significant
8. Provide ways for public health workers to develop core skills related to the 10 Essential Public Health Services?	Significant
9. Develop incentives for workforce training, such as tuition reimbursement, time off for attending class, and pay increases?	Minimal
10. Create and support collaborations between organizations within the LPHS	Moderate

for training and education?	
11. Continually train the public health workforce to deliver services in a culturally competent manner and understand the social determinants of health?	Moderate
12. Provide access to formal and informal leadership development opportunities for employees' at all organizational levels?	Moderate
13. Create a shared vision of community health and the LPHS, welcoming all leaders and community members to work together?	Significant
14. Ensure that organizations and individuals have opportunities to provide leadership in areas where they have knowledge, skills, or access to resources?	Moderate
15. Provide opportunities for the development of leaders who represent the diversity of the community?	Moderate

## STRENGTHS

- “Training, education and leadership opportunities are abundant if you can find them.”
- “The health department has qualified individuals working - most with longevity which enables continuity of services.”
- “The SSCHD has a workforce development plan that addresses the training needs of the staff.”
- “Well Trained staff.”

## WEAKNESSES

- “Marketing of those training, education and leadership opportunities. Awareness of who the diverse population is.”
- “Not enough staff so that new services / programs / grants, are able to be reviewed and updated and new staff trained.”

## SHORT-TERM & LONG TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “The development of QI and performance management for all staff.”
- “Implement the workforce development plan.”
- “Workforce development trainings.”

## ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #9

IMPROVE AND INNOVATE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS THROUGH ONGOING EVALUATION, RESEARCH, AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.

Are we meeting the needs of the population we serve?

Are we doing things right?

Are we doing the right things?

Survey Results	20 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Evaluate how well population-based health services are working, including whether the goals that were set for programs and services were achieved?	Moderate
2. Assess whether community members, including vulnerable populations, are satisfied with the approaches taken toward promoting health and preventing disease, illness, and injury?	Moderate
3. Identify gaps in the provision of population-based health services?	Moderate
4. Use evaluation findings to improve plans, processes, and services?	Significant
5. Evaluate the accessibility, quality, and effectiveness of personal health services?	Moderate
6. Compare the quality of personal health services to established guidelines?	Significant
7. Measure user satisfaction with personal health services?	Moderate
8. Use technology, like the Internet or electronic health records, to improve quality of care?	Significant
9. Use evaluation findings to improve services and program delivery?	Significant
10. Identify all public, private, and voluntary organizations that contribute to the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services?	Moderate
11. Evaluate how well LPHS activities meet the needs of the community at least every five years, using guidelines that describe a model LPHS and involving all entities contributing to the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services?	Significant
12. Assess how well the organizations in the LPHS are communicating, connecting, and coordinating services?	Moderate
13. Use results from the evaluation process to improve the LPHS?	Moderate

## STRENGTHS

- “Small community, action can happen quickly if needed for services.”
- “Educated Board of Health”
- “Community Health Coalition formation”

## WEAKNESSES

- “Organizational education”
- “Not all EH programs are digital to allow for reports to be generated on trends.”
- “Shelby County has not had an actively working CHIP in many years.”

## SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Use more digital formats for EH inspections.”
- “Work on completing a CHIP.”

## LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Repetitive - complete community health plan more frequently than every 10 years.”
- “ODH Accella software use.”
- “Evaluating the performance of strategies, goals, and objectives outlined in the CHIP.”

**ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #10**

**BUILD AND MAINTAIN A STRONG ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.**

Are we discovering and using new ways to get the job done?

Survey Results	18 Responses
<b>At what level does the local public health system (LPHS)... (No activity, Minimal, Moderate, Significant, Optimal)</b>	
1. Provide staff with the time and resources to pilot test or conduct studies to test new solutions to public health problems and see how well they actually work?	Moderate
2. Suggest ideas about what currently needs to be studied in public health to organizations that conduct research?	Significant
3. Keep up with information from other agencies and organizations at the local, state, and national levels about current best practices in public health?	Significant
4. Encourage community participation in research, including deciding what will be studied, conducting research, and sharing results?	Significant
5. Develop relationships with colleges, universities, or other research organizations, with a free flow of information, to create formal and informal arrangements to work together?	Minimal
6. Partner with colleges, universities, or other research organizations to conduct public health research, including community-based participatory research?	Moderate
7. Encourage colleges, universities, and other research organizations to work together with LPHS organizations to develop projects, including field training and continuing education?	Moderate
8. Collaborate with researchers who offer the knowledge and skills to design and conduct health-related studies?	Moderate
9. Support research with the necessary infrastructure and resources, including facilities, equipment, databases, information technology, funding, and other resources?	Moderate
10. Share findings with public health colleagues and the community broadly, through journals, Web sites, community meetings, etc.?	Moderate
11. Evaluate public health systems research efforts throughout all stages of work from planning to effect on local public health practice?	Moderate



## STRENGTHS

- “Agencies are continually looking for ways to improve and come up with solutions.”
- “Sharing information and staying up to date on latest public health information.”

## WEAKNESSES

- “Don't collaborate a whole lot with universities.”
- “We do not complete research projects with college or universities.”

## SHORT-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Edison State training of staff”
- “Conduct mini assessments of services provided.”

## LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- “Give staff time to participate in studies.”
- “Possibly work with a University on our next Community Health Assessment.”

## COMMENTS:

“I'm thankful for the Health Department during the pandemic. They did an excellent job sharing info, vaccinating, distributing resources and communicating with other agencies in the county. I unfortunately don't have insight though regarding research/planning.”

## COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETING

On May 11, 2022, Shelby County community partners discussed the results of Shelby County's Local Public Health Assessment Surveys. Some of the results surprised many of the community partners; particularly in the area of partnerships with colleges and universities. With COVID-19 unfortunately, many universities suspended activities related to completing Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) for local health departments. Research and conducting research with colleges and universities has been limited and is conducted more on a statewide basis with information coming back to the local level. Trainings for staff also have been limited in the last two years because of COVID-19, with many occurring virtually. Although the SSCHD provides training to nursing students, staff continuing education training has been limited from colleges and universities. It is anticipated that this will be improving with SSCHD's new focus on workforce development, performance management, and quality improvement as required by Public Health Accreditation Board standards.

It was discussed how most survey responses received were from SSCHD employees and not as many responses from the community partners. This could lead to bias; however, many of the community partners expressed how they were unsure of how to answer the questions as they were not knowledgeable in those areas or had an understanding of the questions. The surveys created a greater awareness as to what public health is and how other agencies contribute to it.

Strengths in the local public health system include the existing community partnerships and coalitions that exist within the community. These were strengthened due to COVID19 as partners attended regular Emergency Operations Center calls to help coordinate the response. Community partners continue to be actively engaged in the Shelby County Healthcare Preparedness Coalition that meets quarterly and the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) that meets every other month for emergency preparedness. Plan development as well as trainings, drills, and exercises occur within these groups to prepare for disasters and emergencies. Greater awareness of these activities occurring within the community could be improved.

Additional areas for improvement in the local public health system include: public information, greater understanding of the public health system and how laws and regulations protect public health, completion of a more current local Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), building a strong based community health coalition, and finding the funding and staffing necessary to support the local public health system.

The SSCHD COVID-19- After Action Report and a recent LEPC exercise identified a need for more individuals that can serve in the Public Information Officer role. The Shelby County EMA is currently working on developing a Critical Information Team to help provide public information during an emergency or event. Providing timely, accurate information from trustworthy sources is critical during responses. Along with this, there is the identified need of having well delivered outlets for information that is kept up to date with the latest technology. The SSCHD is currently in the process of updating its website to be easier to navigate and more compatible on smaller devices and additional languages.

There is a need for a better understanding of the public health system and how laws and regulations protect public health. Most of the regulations the local public health system implements come from the State of Ohio, with little local discretion on how the rules can be implemented. Local Health Departments are surveyed by the State every one to five years for each program to ensure programs are being implemented in accordance with State rules. Rules are also revised typically every one to

five years with public comment periods. Unlike the traditional rule making process, during COVID-19, many rules and regulations were handed down by the Ohio Department of Health without local awareness or input on the rules prior to adoption. Many of these rules were not well received by many sectors of the population. Although the SSCHD took more of a supportive and guidance role than enforcement role as it pertained to these rules, there is an overall decline in trust in the local public health system that will take time to reestablish.

Healthcare worker burnout and wage stagnation as well as healthcare worker shortages for EMS, nursing, skilled aids, PCPs was discussed. These concerns were occurring prior to COVID-19 and were exacerbated during COVID. Additionally, having adequate staffing within the SSCHD to handle the demands of contact tracing was challenging, particularly during periods of peak cases. COVID-19 overwhelmed the healthcare system and caused many people to leave the field. Trying to find ways to promote the healthcare system and people re-entering the field or working with colleges and universities to recruit new individuals may need plans for consideration.

It has been many years since a local CHNA has been completed. The newly formed Shelby County Health Coalition is working to complete the steps necessary to improve the health of Shelby County. The Coalition is following the MAPP process to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for Shelby County. They've reviewed the data from the Regional Community Health Needs Assessment and data specific to Shelby County. They are committed to looking at new data, analyzing data, seeing if there are any trends in the data, and identifying the unmet needs of the community. Expanding the Coalition to include additional community partners is a priority. Building a team of influencers is critically important to meet and ensure the Coalition is getting the necessary representation in the community and making sure all players are represented. This process will help Shelby County identify the needs of the community and have the community collaboration necessary to obtain grants, staffing and funding to implement Shelby County's CHIP.

## CONCLUSION

The Local Public Health Assessment was one part of four assessments being completed to help develop Shelby County's CHIP. Other assessments include: The CHNA which is already complete, the Community Themes and Strength Assessment, which will be the focus of the next Shelby County Health Coalition meeting, and the Forces of Change Assessment.

For additional information on these assessments, Shelby County's CHIP process, or the Shelby County Health Coalition, visit: [www.shelbycountyhealthdept.org](http://www.shelbycountyhealthdept.org) or contact the SSCHD's Accreditation Coordinator at 937-498-7249.

