



# Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

## Marion County Health and Human Services Community Health Assessment Discussion

November 12, 2024. 1:15 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem

5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

### ATTENDANCE:

**Commissioners:** Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

**Board's Office:** Jan Fritz, Chris Eppley, Alvin Klausen, and Trevor Lane.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Health and Human Services:** Ryan Matthews, Aryn Walker, and Katrina Griffith.

Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

### **Summary**

The survey received 1,923 responses, a 63% increase from 2022. Key findings included a 43% rating of mental health as unhealthy, 53.2% rating the community safe, and 42.3% rating it supportive during stress. Housing and economic stability were identified as top needs, followed by healthcare and community safety. Mental health, substance abuse, and chronic diseases were prioritized as important health topics. The final community health assessment document will be reviewed in January, with a public release in April 2025.

### **Community Health Assessment (CHA)/Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) Timeline**

- The CHA process included three phases: community status assessment, community partner assessment, and community context assessment.
- The community context assessment, which included surveys, focus groups, and PhotoVoice, is the focus of this meeting.
- The CHA document synthesizing all the data will be shared in January 2025, with a review period before finalizing the CHIP.

### **Survey Findings**

- The survey received a significant increase in responses compared to previous years.
- ZIP code of residence was captured, and the majority of respondents were local residents.
- Majority of respondents felt the overall physical health of the community is somewhat healthy or better, but mental health ratings were lower, with 52% indicating it is very unhealthy or unhealthy.
- Majority of respondents feel their community is a safe place to live and a good place to raise children.

- Satisfaction with housing affordability is much lower, with only 17% agreeing there is enough affordable housing.
- Lower income households and people experiencing homelessness were overrepresented in the survey.
- Respondents expressed dissatisfaction with housing affordability, healthcare services, public transportation, public schools, and local job opportunities.
- Availability of grocery stores and parks is also high, but satisfaction with healthcare services, including dental care and mental health, is lower.
- Public transportation, public schools, and local job opportunities also receive low satisfaction ratings.

### **Community Context Assessment (CCA) Summary**

- This had focus groups and other qualitative methods, identifying key themes:
  - Top needed areas of improvement:
    - Per survey:
      - Housing, economic stability, healthcare, community safety, and education.
    - Other assessments:
      - Healthcare, social and community connection, youth supports, community safety, and workforce supports.
  - Important health topics:
    - Per Survey:
      - Mental health, substance use, and chronic disease.
    - Other assessments:
      - Culturally & Linguistically responsive services, mental health, and accessible, local, comprehensive clinics.
  - Barriers to healthcare services:
    - Per survey:
      - Lack of timely appointments, unable to find a provider who is taking new patients, and high out-of-pocket costs.
    - Other assessments:
      - Lack of local providers, insurance coverage, and scheduling challenges.

### **CHIP Action Plan**

- The CHA document will include priority areas and strategies for the CHIP.

### **Next Steps**

- The CHA document will be shared in January 2025 for review.
- The Board of Commissioners and staff will meet in late January to discuss the CHA findings and plan for the CHIP process.
- Measurable activities and action plans will be developed to track progress and ensure accountability.

### **Action Items**

- Send the larger slide deck with demographic information to Commissioner Bethell.
- Forward the email about the air quality study to the board of commissioners.
- Schedule a meeting in late January for Commissioner Bethell to collaborate on the next steps for the community health improvement planning process.

**Adjourned** – time: 2:32 p.m.  
**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova  
**Reviewed by:** Gary White

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