Champion Report

Theme Area: **Healthcare**

Champions: Bob McLean, Tim Rice, Katherine Mackendanz, Mike Larson, Tami Lueck

REPORTING PERIOD: January 19, 2016-April 5, 2016

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
Opioid Addiction Crisis Initiative	Area health systems in the region continue to work with physician leaders to coordinate efforts in managing the patient population who utilize Opioids. They are collaborating on implementing an Opioid addiction crisis initiative in all regional health systems. There is growing state and federal legislation regarding this initiative. Our collaboration is ahead of the curve in these efforts to address this significant crisis.
Mental Health	We continue to address the Region 5 Mental Health Assessment that was completed by Todd County Health & Human Services. Regional meetings have been held and a plan of action is being implemented. NJPA is coordinating regional summits on addressing mental health issues with regional partners participating in the process. The mental health crisis is a significant state-wide issue regarding access and effective use of healthcare resources as well as meeting needs that are not being met. The area healthcare organizations continue to meet and collaborate on what can be done both at a state and federal level regarding this key issue.
Community Health Needs Assessment	Regional Health systems are collaborating with public health agencies to update our Community Health Needs Assessments. By working together we can identify the priority health issues in the region. We also are collaborating and working together on how to address these priority health issues. We are sharing best practices and collaborate on different health initiatives. Many of us are retaining community health project managers who will work together focusing on health outcomes for our region.

How are you working with any of the other RR Theme areas?

We are not extensively working with other theme areas other than being aware of the different priorities they are pursuing and making contact when our connections and collaboration make sense depending on their specific projects.

List any Goals or Recommendations within the plan that your team of theme Champions are struggling to address?

Our biggest struggle is finding the opportunity to involve healthcare providers other than hospitals and public health into these health resilient teams. We will communicate with other health providers based on the goal we pursue.

Health Care

Health Care Issue I (HI)

Health care: A healthy workforce is important to future regional success. Healthy workers are more productive and lead to lower health care costs for workers and employers. Health care services must be accessible and sustainable for all residents.

Health Care Issue I Goal

Health care: The number of primary care physicians and nurse practitioners per 1,000 people in the region increases slightly from 1.6/1000 (current trend) to 1.8/1000. The number increases because we invest in our local health care services to serve the growing elderly population and attract new residents to the region.

Recommendation 1

Active living: Encourage a more active lifestyle by developing and promoting safe walking and biking options in the region; like Safe Routes to School. Develop and promote more trails/path connections between/within communities using white lines, sidewalks and signage.

Action Step A
Map trails: Map and identify gaps in the region's existing and planned trails and paths.

Action Step B
Building standards: Make building standards and permitting more uniform and more stringent to achieve all aspects of new housing and rehabilitation goals.

Collaboration: Work with local organizations to connect gaps in the region's trails and paths.

Action Step C
Funding: Identify funding and resources to build needed trails and paths within region.

Recommendation 2

Access to affordable health care: improve availability and access to affordable health care services throughout the region.

Action Step A
Mobile clinics: Explore the feasibility of mobile clinics where permanent clinics are not feasible

Action Step B
Use emerging technologies: Identify the emerging systems like Health Partner's VirtuWell that allows online access to health care providers.

Action Step C
Care for vulnerable populations: Research, understand, educate on the availability of health care services for early childhood development, senior health and Senior Living, the vulnerable, the mentally challenged and the mentally/behaviorally ill.

Action Step D
Map services: Compile and map existing and planned health care services within the region, including clinics, service providers, home health care, meals on wheels and others

Action Step E

Identify gaps: Identify gaps in the region's health care services, programs, affordability, and geographic location.

Collaboration: Work with local health care organizations to come to consensus on how to fill gaps in services in each area of the region.

Affordable Care Act: Research, understand, and educate the public on how the Affordable Care Act will impact and/or improve health and health care in rural Minnesota.

Recommendation 3

Public health: **Respond to public health issues specific to the region, including smoking, farm safety, hazardous materials, and environmental health concerns. Nutrition is a key factor that directly impacts healthy living.**

Collaborative study and solutions: Pursue collaborative participation in rural health studies with organization like the Institute of Rural Health on issues like diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular health, etc. Find more effective ways of identifying, tracking, and addressing trends (positive or negative)

Education: Use various media, schools, work places, and public policy to create and promote positive community health norms and affirm positive health choices (food choices, active life style). Continue to educate on activities that diminish health (food choices, smoking, etc.).

Identify and remediate risks: Use data to identify significant risks to public health. Keep Hazard Mitigation Plans current and submit applications annually for remediation of risks.

Best practices: Research models used by others to address the region's specific public health concerns. Select the best practices that apply to our local situation.

Collaboration: Gain support for mitigating the identified health risks from those best suited to take action.