



## **Huron County OHIZ Grant Kick Off Meeting**

**Topic:** Introduction to the OHIZ Grant

**Date:** October 14, 2022

**Facilitator:** Brittany McClellan, Health Center of Huron County Director

**Present:** Brittany McClellan, Nicole Marks, Miriam Roggio, Joel Buurma, Niki Cross, Sam Flores, Alex McCoy, Greg Nickoli, Devin Pollick, Jeff Ritz, Troy Wetzell, Laura Lee Wilson

Brittany McClellan starting the meeting by thanking the participants for taking the time to be in the meeting today. She then introduced herself as the new Director of The Health Center of Huron County and explained that she is new to public health and grants in general, so Nicole Marks, Director Community Programs Division, who is amazing with grants has been critical in helping her with everything. Miriam Roggio, Nurse Practitioner, who is also new to the health center and is bilingual in English and Spanish. This is great for the Willard community. Cyleen Sharpe, Public Information Officer, who will be taking care of all things on Facebook and the Huron County Public Health website, as well as any communication material shared with the community.

Brittany then explained the Ohio Health Improvement Zones Grant (OHIZ) is funded through the Ohio Department of Health and it's Office of Health Opportunity. They awarded \$6.89 million dollars to twenty-six (26) organizations to fund projects. These projects are designed to address community conditions that impact health and improve the lives of residents in the Ohio Health Improvement Zones (OHIZ). The improvement zones are neighborhoods dealing with socioeconomic and demographic factors that affect the resilience of individuals and communities. Organizations who were awarded funding will either establish or expand initiatives that will build local capacity to help remove barriers to health in some of Ohio's communities facing the greatest risk of poor health outcomes.

Brittany shared a list of the organizations that were awarded this grant funding.

She explained that the OHIZ funds are intended to provide flexible funding to support community engagement, partnership development, and project implementation costs that address and elevate the social determinants of health. The social determinants of health are, Education Access and Quality, Healthcare Access and Quality, Neighborhood and Built Environment, Social and Community Context. and Economic Stability.

Brittany explained that Huron County Public Health (HCPH) was awarded \$100,000 dollars. This is for Key Activity 1: Engage and Assess the Census Tracts (9162 and 9163) designated as Ohio Health Improvement Zones. HCPH plans to conduct meaningful, transformational community engagement and partnership development in the OHIZ eligible area that seeks to positively change the dynamics between community residents and public health or other systems. HCPH will engage individuals in the community to determine perceptions of the highest priority issues facing the community that threaten or limit optimal health of the residents. We will review and synthesize data from existing community

assessments. Through community engagement and evaluation of recent data, create a new assessment specific to the OHIZ census tracts of focus.

During the implementation of the project, the recipient must produce one community assessment and one asset map of the OHIZ community.

HCPH has many relationships throughout the community with the various partners in the area, including all of you on the meeting today, but we want to just solidify formal relationships with a variety of key public and private partners who have existing relationships and interests in the OHIZ community of focus.

Brittany explained that there are also other key activities involved in this pilot project that focus on future activities. HCPH was only awarded money for key activity 1.

Brittany explained to the group that the area of focus for this project will be individuals in Census Tracts 9162 and 9163. This is the area in the southwest most portion of Huron County and encompasses the City of Willard, a portion of unincorporated New Haven, and Celeryville. Townships included in the OHIZ include Richmond Township and New Haven Township.

The Ohio Department of Health has provided an interactive map and Brittany provided a link to that website.

Brittany then showed the map and information for Census Tract 9162. She explained the data provided and the information used by ODH to determine that this area was a health improvement zone. She then should the team Census Tract 9163 and that the results for this area was even higher than 9162.

For an area to be designated as a health improvement zone ODH looks at things such as, socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing and transportation. This data all contributes to the overall vulnerability of an area.

Brittany then went over some data for the OHIZ environment included in this grant. For housing types, rental housing is the most common type in the OHIZ. For public safety the city of Willard has both a police and fire department and the rural areas are generally served by the Huron County Sheriff and North Central EMS.

Public recreation for the OHIZ has the city of Willard Park and Recreation Department which includes multiple parks and a public swimming pool. Through the Creating Health Communities Grant Program, a bikeshare program and community garden have been added in the city of Willard in the last two years.

Education for the OHIX consists of Willard City School District, Celeryville Christian School and St. Francis Xavier.

Local healthcare in the OHIZ is one hospital, Willard Mercy.

For local business in the OHIZ, agriculture is the leading industry sector due to the rich muck soil in the Celeryville area. Buurma Farms, Holthouse Farms and Wiers Farms that employ both local workers and hundreds of H-2A workers seasonally.

Manufacturing is another leading business sector in the OHIZ. Including Pepperidge Farm. Star of the West Milling, Stanley Black & Decker, Guardian Manufacturing and Lakeside Book Company. The CSX Railway also has a big yard in the OHIZ.

Brittany then shared information on the age data on the residents of the two Census Tracts. In Census Tract 9162. 633 of the 4,540 residents (13.9%) are aged 65 or older and 1,211 of the residents are aged 17 or younger (26.67%). In Census Tract 9163. 691 of the 3,783 residents (18.27%) are aged 65 or older and 736 of the residents are aged 17 or younger (19.46%).

For education, in Census Tract 9162, 493 residents do not have a high school diploma and 9163, 450 residents do not have a high school diploma.

Language: Census Tract 9162, 62 of the 4,450 residents (1.37%), speak English less than well and in Census Tract 9163, 5.92% of the population speak English less than well.

Ethnicity: In Census Tract 9162 16.67% of the residents are considered a minority and 25.80% in Census Tract 9163.

Brittany shared that politically the OHIZ is a generally conservative area, and residents of the OHIZ are generally blue-collar workers. Hispanic residents in the OHIZ have a general distrust of government, mostly due to a history of immigration-related raids in the community.

Taking all of this into consideration the OHIZ Project Plan looks as follows: Community Engagement/Assessment very focused on these Census Tracts and the population living there. This will be done through surveys both online and in person. HCPH would also like to partner with service organizations that assist these census tract community members to get a really good picture of what is going on in these census tracts.

Brittany explained that Cyleen Sharpe created a website specific to this project, she shared a link with everyone as well as going to the website and explaining what is currently there.

Brittany then went into the next steps and what is needed. First of all we need assistance in establishing community connections, credibility and initial engagement strategies to identify these any problems in the census tracts. We are asking all of you to assist us with developing the questions to ask on the surveys. Also invite colleagues to participate and bring their ideas to the group. If you know any community members that would be a good resource and they are willing to be contacted, let us know.

Brittany informed the group that bi-monthly meetings will be held to give updates to the project. These meeting will be recorded, and minutes will be available on the Huron County Public Health website – OHIZ page.

Brittany let the group know that there will be some communications from ODH and also an outside consulting company called Measurement Resource Company.

Brittany then covered with the group what we are looking for from them. A Letter of Commitment that will be sent out to everyone. She also ask that each one complete the survey when they receive it. It will be sent out the first week of November.

Brittany then shared her and Nicole's contact information.

Brittany asked if anyone had any questions and Sam Flores from Second Harvest Foodbank expressed how excited she is to be a part of this project. She explained that this really aligns with a project they are working on in Lorain County and since the project started in Lorain County. She feels they have a much better working relationship with them. Brittany thanked her being in the meeting and thought they were a good asset for this project. Sam then explained they have put together some things for their project with Lorain County and she would send those items to Brittany to review.

Devin then asked how the Census Tracts were decided or divided up? Brittany was unsure and so Nicole then shared a video in the chat box that explains census tracts and how they are decided.

Brittany then asked if there were any other questions. Laura Lee Wilson they explained that she came on the meeting a little late and she was wondering who else was on the call and asked if everyone could introduce themselves and what organization they are with. Everyone then went trough and introduced themselves and the organization they are associated with.

Brittany informed everyone that the recording of this meeting as well as the minutes on the website for them to view. She thanked everyone for participating and then ended the meeting.