



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

**Topic:** OHIZ Grant Bi-Monthly Meeting – Survey Development

**Date:** December 2, 2022

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

**Present:** Brittany McClellan (Health Center of Huron County/Huron County Public Health), Nicole Marks (Huron County Public Health), Niki Cross (Huron County Family and Children First Council), Laura Lee Wilson (Willard Memorial Library), Polly Leland (Second Harvest Food Bank), James Pomerich (City of Willard/Willard Area Ministerial Association), Tim Brown (Community Action Commission/Head Start Program), Joe Reiderman (Willard Fire Chief)

Brittany welcomed the group and started the meeting with a reminder on what the grant is about and what the group is working on. She explained about the Ohio Health Improvement Zone (OHIZ) Pilot Project and how the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) awarded \$6.89 million to 26 different organizations to fund projects in Ohio. These projects are designed to address community conditions that impact health and improve the lives of residents in Ohio. These zones were determined as neighborhoods that are dealing with socioeconomic and demographic factors that affect the resilience of these communities. Therefore, these groups goals are to either establish or expand different initiatives to help remove the barriers that these community members are facing.

Brittany reviewed the social determinants of health, which includes education access and quality, healthcare access and quality, economic stability, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community contexts. Huron County Public Health was awarded \$100,000 for key activity one, which is to engage and assess these communities. The goal is to develop partnerships in these census tract areas to positively change the dynamics between residents and public health and other systems. This includes engaging individuals in the community to determine perceptions of the highest priority issues that are facing the community that threaten or limit the optimal health of the residents.

Brittany reiterated that during the implementation of this project, the group will produce one assessment or survey, which they are meeting to work on today, and one asset map for the OHIZ community. Another goal of the project is to solidify relationships with different public and private partners, including the ones that are represented today, and others. Brittany reviewed that the Health Improvement Partners (HIP) goals are to help establish community connections and credibility, help to develop what questions to ask on the survey, and encourage community participation in the survey.

After reviewing the goals of the project and group, Brittany had the group introduce themselves and what organization or group they represent. She then reviewed the questions to help develop the survey and explained they would be uploaded into SurveyMonkey once they were decided on.

The survey started with a brief introduction of the project and what the survey goals are. The survey would be administered by Huron County Public Health in Huron County, Ohio, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health. The survey will be conducted in English or Spanish.

Laura Lee Wilson asked if the words skip to Spanish can be put in Spanish language. Brittany confirmed that there will be a Spanish survey, including the introduction piece. Brittany went on to explain the census tract maps for 9162 and 9163 and the survey will include pictures with street names as well as boundaries written out to help determine if a person lives in the census tracts in question. There will also be an address lookup tool to type in the address directly if someone is unsure of their census tract location.

The survey would continue with demographic questions including age, gender, race, ethnicity, languages spoken, preferred language, highest level of education, income range, work situation, number of people in household, people under the age of 18, living arrangements, access to a vehicle, and health care coverage and type.

It would move on to ask about community and built environment to ask most important health issue affecting the community, what do you like best about living in the area you live in, challenges or barriers because of where you live, needs or problems you see in the community or experience yourself, types of programs or services the community needs to address these gaps or problems, and what voices in the community that your friends and family trust and listen to. The survey would include what neighborhood associations, community groups, leaders, etc. should we talk to in order to get a better understanding of the community needs, need of housing and what types are needed, and are people treated fairly without discrimination due to race/ethnicity. The survey would also ask about childcare and if there are barriers in access to childcare, as well as health foods availability and affordability, and adequate facilities for physical activity in the community.

Poland Leland commented that we may want to add the option of staying with family or friend on the housing situation question. She also mentioned that too many open-ended questions may be challenging for data aggregation. Brittany agreed that we should look at the number of open-ended questions and give options to elaborate but also make some of them yes or no as well.

The survey would then continue with questions about vaccinations including hesitancy on vaccinating themselves or their children and why, and why people in the community choose not to receive routine vaccinations for themselves and their children. It would also ask what types of medical services are needed but are not able to be accessed locally or any barriers to healthcare, including prescription medications, dental care, and behavioral/mental care, including answer options of language barriers, stigma, or privacy concerns, or other, and if they feel like there were any barriers due to race/ethnicity. The survey would ask about transportation barriers, including vehicle repairs, affordable gas, and transit options, and end with open-ended questions about anything else the community member thinks is important for the group to know when trying to improve the health of the community or expand on any of the questions above. The survey would also include an optional place to check to participate in the OHIZ project and optional contact information to be entered into winning a gift card.

Brittany asked for additional questions or thoughts. Polly Leland responded that it may be a good addition to have a question in the mental health section that includes how many times in the last 30 days have you felt like you needed mental health services, experienced anxiety, depression, etc. Brittany also suggested that a section be added if the survey taker would like to be contacted about a certain service in the area, such as a provider or program if they want to enter their contact information.

Niki Cross also asked to incorporate something about after school programming in the survey to help support if there is any interest in the area for that. They currently have programs in New London and may be starting one in Norwalk in the summer. Brittany asked if that would be specific to the census tracts including Willard. Niki mentioned that it could help support the Hope Center in town in the future. Laura Lee Wilson also stated that the library is a place that is doing some after schoolwork with children.

Nicole Marks added that if anyone has a specific program or service in mind that they are contemplating at their agency or they feel like there may be a need there, we would be happy to add any questions to serve those agencies. She stated that this survey aims to be helpful for all of the agencies that are serving our residents in that area.

Brittany concluded the meeting with letting the group know that a rough draft will be sent out soon for review soon and to send any additional questions/topics they would like to see added by email.