

<p>CREATING A CULTURALLY SENSITIVE COMMUNITY</p>	<p>GOAL: To increase education/ public awareness of cultural differences in our community to improve relationships, as well as access to healthcare and social services for populations in need.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE: Conduct a community assessment of existing programs and resources within local churches that specifically address the health needs of refugee and immigrant populations</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Develop resource materials to assist and better serve culturally impacted communities or neighborhoods</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Distribute literature to targeted neighborhoods to promote healthy behaviors and lifestyle choices</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Provide trainings to church leaders to encourage culturally sensitive communities</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Create Public Service Announcements promoting cultural sensitivity</p>
	<p>GOAL: To explore the feasibility of implementing a community health worker's (CHW) program to create a healthier community.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE: Research and attain evidence-based information demonstrating how this team-based, patient-centered approach increases client /provider communication while decreasing delivery of care and patient fees, therefore, creating a healthier community</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Contact health care agencies with potential interest in developing a CHW program</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Provide CHW training through Big Country AHEC</p>
<p>LOWERING TEENAGE PREGNANCY RATES</p>	<p>GOAL: To increase sex education to decrease teen pregnancy and STI rates in our community.</p>	<p>OBJECTIVE: Prepare teen pregnancy and STI data and research materials for community presentations</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Convene community nonprofits and youth ministry staff from local and area churches to discuss how to reach and better educate at-risk populations</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Develop teen friendly, bilingual materials to use during outreach</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Target educational mailings to at-risk zip codes</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Develop Train the Trainer sessions for community outreach</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Begin conducting Train the Trainer sessions</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Explore partnerships with PTA/PTO organizations to increase educational outreach</p>
		<p>OBJECTIVE: Meet with Abilene ISD officials to discuss ways to assist in the implementation of the Abstinence Plus program</p>

IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS AND NUTRITIONAL KNOWLEDGE	GOAL: To increase public awareness of the importance of healthy eating and nutrition to improve the overall health of the community.	OBJECTIVE: Conduct nutrition presentations with attendance incentives at local food pantries
		OBJECTIVE: Assemble a “Only a Microwave and a Sink Needed” cookbook with healthy recipes
		OBJECTIVE: Distribute recipe cards at food pantries quarterly
		OBJECTIVE: Partner with Connecting Caring Communities (CCC) to provide food demonstrations at Friendship Houses or CCC events
		OBJECTIVE: Explore partnering with community non-profits and government agencies to produce healthy eating campaigns
	GOAL: To increase access to food in areas classified as food deserts.	OBJECTIVE: Explore option of doubling SNAP or donation for healthy foods
		OBJECTIVE: Explore how to advocate for increased SNAP benefits at farmers markets
		OBJECTIVE: Coordinate local food trucks to visit targeted zip codes with healthy meal options
OBJECTIVE: Map out community gardens to identify areas of need and encourage development of additional gardens		

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY	GOAL: To increase community access to educational materials and resources providing assistance with mental health needs.	OBJECTIVE: Create a community list to share what agencies can provide in terms of staff and community education/in-service STRATEGY: Group members will collaborate and invite community partners to help build and maintain the list
		OBJECTIVE: Expand psychiatry in the private sector using telemedicine and mid-level providers
		OBJECTIVE: Collaborate with organizations such as Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and the Betty Hardwick Center ACT team to improve mental health assistance for special populations
		OBJECTIVE: Establish a Mental Health Peace Officer program led by the Abilene Police Department and the City of Abilene
		OBJECTIVE: Explore with child serving agencies the feasibility of establishing residential treatment centers for youth in special circumstances such as CPS custody and Juvenile Justice who need an option other than inpatient care
		OBJECTIVE: Explore new services that serve unique population groups that build up services in “gap” areas. (i.e. MH Coach at Craig Middle School, new housing initiatives at Hope Haven and the City Square partnership with Highland Church of Christ)
		OBJECTIVE: Increase capacity to serve those with substance abuse through outpatient, inpatient, and medication therapy care
		OBJECTIVE: Promote services and information available for family, individual, and peer counseling for the insured and the uninsured through agencies such as 211