



Community Health Improvement Plan 2023-2027

The Lafayette County Health Department, together with community partners have completed a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) as required by state law. Local health departments are required by Wisconsin Statutes Ch. 251.05 to conduct a community health needs assessment and develop a community health improvement plan (CHIP) every five years.

Lafayette County health needs were prioritized by holding meetings in conjunction with the Mental Health Matters Coalition. The meetings included a presentation of the Community Health Assessment findings, a facilitated discussion of priorities and the number of health priorities that could be effectively undertaken. We used small group discussions where each group prioritized health needs in our community. This led to a large group discussion where we came to a consensus to work on the below health priorities:

- Mental Health
- Housing



Priority #1 Mental Health

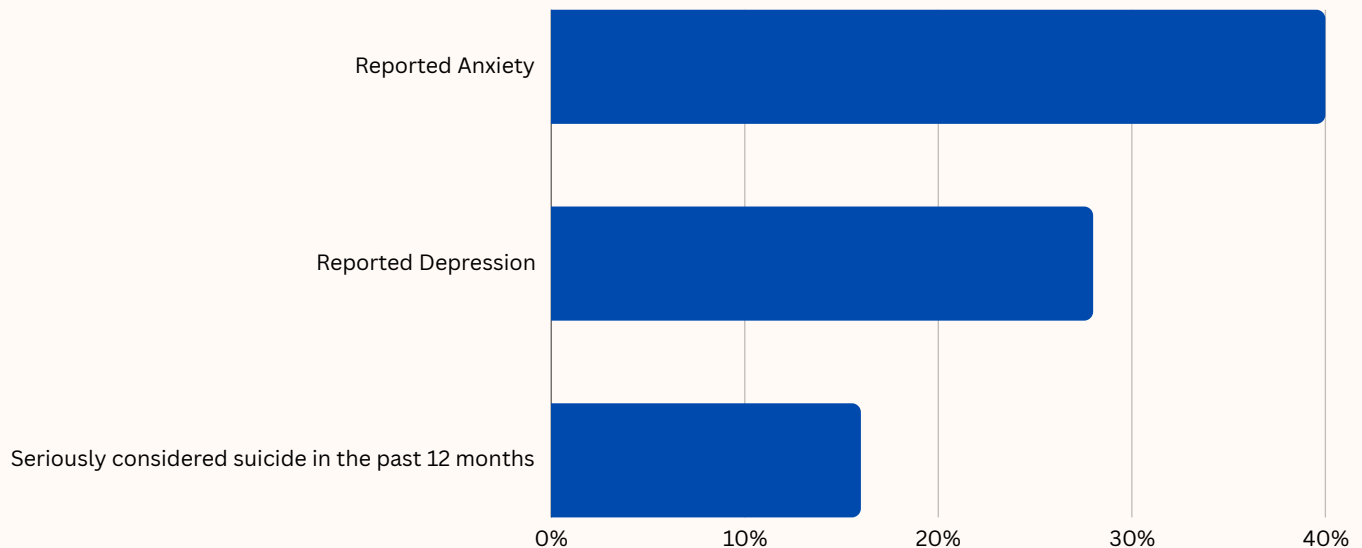
“Mental health is a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of health and well-being that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in.” *World Health Organization*



1 in 5

The number of adults who live with a mental illness according to the CDC

The Wisconsin 2021 Youth Behavioral Survey (YRBS) percentages of Lafayette County High School Students who reported the following mental health concerns.



Supporting the mental health and wellness of all residents of Lafayette County

Mental health concerns are affecting or will affect many residents and families in Lafayette county. There are many causes of mental illness and at times we all may need resources or help to cope. We would like every child, adult and family in Lafayette County to have the resources and tools to optimize their mental health. In our rural area, there can be barriers accessing mental health care such as transportation, insurance coverage, lack of mental health providers, etc.

Mental Health Matters (MHM) of Lafayette County is a nonprofit organization comprised of a large number of community members that have a shared focus on educating others, advocating for individuals in need of support and guidance, reducing the stigma of mental illness, and connecting individuals with mental health resources in our communities. MHM is currently focusing on collaborating with the Lafayette County Health Department on the Mental Health goals below. MHM will do this using their monthly meetings to share information, ideas, programs, etc., by offering financial support when appropriate, and by facilitating outside meetings and events as needed.

Goal #1 Create, maintain and distribute comprehensive resources for those living with mental health issues and their families, and the issues related to mental health by May 2024.

Activities

- Create a resource by December 1, 2023. This activity has been accomplished.
- Maintain this resource. A Mental Health Matters member will work to review and update this resource.
- Make resources available via the internet as well as with paper copies for those who can not utilize the internet. This activity has been accomplished. The website is:
<https://southwestern.wi.networkofcare.org/>
- Ensure materials and internet resources are available in Spanish.
- Obtain resources to print translated materials

Goal #2 Create a plan to market and distribute these resources to everyone in our county including all health care providers by September 2024.

Activities

- Form a marketing sub committee by December 31, 2023
- Utilize Mental Health Matters Committee members to distribute information in a variety of ways (community events, mailings, posters, etc.).
- Members include staff from Memorial Hospital of Lafayette, Lafayette County Human Services Emergency Mental Health Coordinator, Lafayette County Health Department Community Health Workers from Lafayette County Health Department and Lafayette County Extension
- Mental Health matters will continue to share information with the community, community partners and providers
- Engage businesses in marketing plans. Include local business and local chambers of Commerce in distribution of the plan.

Goal #3 Work towards implementing Sources of Strength in all Lafayette County schools and communities by September 2025. Sources of Strength is a program that teaches protective factors to recipients instead of focusing only on risk factors for mental health issues. The program helps recipients recognize the strengths they have to use in times of difficulty.

Activities

- Train school personnel (adult advisor training) and community members/supporters
- Promote free trainings and utilize Mental Health Matters members to provide free trainings
- Reach out to schools and community members to increase interest in program and trainings
- Secure funding through grants and other sources
- Maintain program and continue training through 2027

To monitor progress, staff from the Lafayette County Health Department will attend the Mental Health Matters meetings on a regular basis to be able to monitor progress or revise goals or activities if needed . Progress will be shared using the Health Department's social media and shared with the Lafayette County Board of Health quarterly.

Priority #2 Housing

Poor housing quality and inadequate conditions- such as the presence of lead, mold or asbestos, poor air quality and overcrowding- can contribute to negative health outcomes, including chronic disease and injury. *US Department of Health and Human Services*

Our group feels that finding adequate, affordable housing can be a challenge for our residents. This affects working individuals and families, the elderly, and low income individuals and families.



Not having affordable, adequate housing also affects our County's economy, schools and businesses

The Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission's 2019 Regional Housing and Workforce study for Southwest Wisconsin found:



There is a strong demand for ALL types of housing, Greatest demand was for affordable, low-maintenance single family housing. Also found a need for affordable rental units.



Businesses have identified that it is difficult to attract and retain employees in our region due to a lack of affordable housing. School districts identified that lack of housing affects their ability to hire staff and attract families that would bring students into the school district.



Younger generations are leaving our region due to a lack of affordable, appropriate, and available housing.

Goal #1 Form a Lafayette County Housing Workgroup by December 31, 2024

Activities

- Participate in Southwest Regional Planning short term housing committee beginning November 2023. Group is projected to last through May 2024.
- Once the Southwest Regional Planning group has finished, identify stakeholders and potential workgroup members for Lafayette County workgroup. Complete identification of members by August 31, 2024
- Hold first workgroup meeting by March 15, 2025
- Evaluate and create next steps after Housing Workgroup by March 30, 2025

Goal #2 Develop and distribute housing resources within Lafayette County by December 31, 2025

Activities

- Workgroup will determine what housing resources are available for renters and homeowners
- Evaluate if new resources or documents need to be created. If so, create.
- Distribute new and or available information by print, digital, social media. Make the resources available in Spanish.

To monitor progress, staff from the Lafayette County Health Department work closely with the staff from the Lafayette County Housing Authority to monitor progress or changes to the goals identified. Health Department staff will also be involved in the Housing workgroup meetings. Progress will be shared using the Health Department's social media and shared with the Lafayette County Board of Health quarterly.

For more information:

Lafayette County Health Department

<https://www.lafayettecountywi.org/healthdepartment> or find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lafayettecountyhealthdepartment/>

The Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan are available on the Health Department's web page

Mental Health Matters, Lafayette County Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MHMLafayetteCo/>

Network of care website:

<https://southwestern.wi.networkofcare.org/mh/index.aspx>

Lafayette County Housing Authority <https://www.lafayettecountywi.org/ha>

