

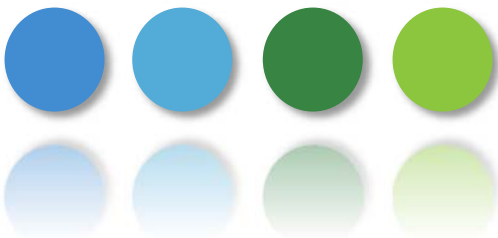


Together Healthy Knox

2015-2016 Annual Report

Executive Summary

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Community Health Council and its partners have taken significant steps to improve health in Knox County under the [Together Healthy Knox](#) initiative. The Council has completed the [2016-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan](#), a set of measurable objectives for health improvement under four priority health issues, which has become a basis for alignment between agencies and organizations across Knox County. Four action teams have begun work on action plans to realize the Plan’s objectives. As action plans are completed next year, the Council looks forward to implementation and seeing positive change in health outcomes in our community.



What is Together Healthy Knox?

Together Healthy Knox (THK) is Knox County, Tennessee’s community health improvement initiative, led by the Community Health Council serving the City of Knoxville, Knox County, and the Town of Farragut. Members from over sixty community agencies and organizations have been involved since the Knox County Health Department convened the effort in 2009, including many partners not traditionally associated with public health. THK’s goal is to effect systems-based public health improvements over the long term that can be tracked by changes in health outcome data.

Community Health Council

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What Is Together Healthy Knox?

Together Healthy Knox is currently in its second cycle of assessment, planning, and implementation, lasting from 2015 to 2019. The work is largely based on the [MAPP model](#), with two major deliverables already [complete](#): the [2015 Community Health Assessment](#) (CHA) and the [2016-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan](#) (CHIP). The CHA is a comprehensive snapshot of health in Knox County, including both qualitative and quantitative data. The CHIP is a set of measurable objectives for change in the top four most pressing health issues in the county, with partners across multiple sectors involved. The top four issues, selected using a rigorous process based on extensive local health data, are:

- Increase access to mental health resources
- Decrease opioid abuse
- Decrease tobacco use among youth and pregnant women
- Increase access to safe parks, greenways, and sidewalks (active communities)

The Community Health Council's vision is 'a healthy life for all.'

Achievements (2015-2016):

Community Health Improvement Plan completed

The [Community Health Improvement Plan](#) is a list of measurable objectives for improvement under the four most pressing health issues for Knox County, a roadmap for better health in our community. The Council hopes the CHIP will serve as a resource for community partners and a rallying point for people and organizations concerned about health.

Community uniting around health priorities

The Council's hopes for the CHIP are being realized as the document becomes a foundation for alignment and cooperation between local organizations and agencies. The United Way of Greater Knoxville has integrated the four health priorities from the CHIP into its current three-year grant cycle for health. Also under Together Healthy Knox, all four healthcare systems with facilities in Knox County have come together to address our community's mental health issues.

Action Teams began work on action plans

For each of the four priorities in the CHIP, the Council worked with existing groups to build on work that's already being done:

- Mental health: task force specially convened, leadership provided by Knox County Health Department
- Opioid abuse: Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (see partner profile) took on CHIP objectives
- Tobacco: Smoke-Free Knoxville (see partner profile) integrated CHIP objectives into their work
- Active Communities: team modified from an existing task force



Partner Profile: Smoke-Free Knoxville

[Smoke-Free Knoxville](#) is committed to the prevention and reduction of tobacco use. This coalition was formed in 1993 and is comprised of interested community members as well as representatives from over 25 area agencies and hospitals. Smoke-Free Knoxville is the first community coalition in the state of Tennessee to have its own tobacco control plan based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s “[Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control](#).” The coalition offers programming to prevent the initiation of tobacco use, encourages cessation through promotion of the Tennessee Tobacco [Quitline](#), and has worked with partners across the region to establish tobacco-free policies in outdoor spaces such as parks and playgrounds. The coalition was instrumental in setting measurable objectives under the CHIP and has integrated these objectives into its work.

Partner Profile: Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force

The Prescription Drug Abuse Taskforce is a multidisciplinary stakeholder group comprised of leaders from the Knoxville Academy of Medicine, state and local law enforcement, addiction treatment experts, hospital representatives, pharmacists, University of Tennessee College of Nursing, TeamHealth, HealthCare 21 Business Coalition, Tennessee Department of Health, Knox County State Representatives, and other concerned citizens. The group formed in 2013 under the leadership of the [Metro Drug Coalition](#) as an effort to bring law enforcement and medical leaders together to address the prescription drug abuse epidemic in the greater Knoxville area. Over the past three years, the Task Force has been instrumental in passing multiple state-level laws to monitor and mitigate prescription drug abuse, and providing continuing education for prescribers, among many other activities. Task Force leadership were involved in formulating the CHIP’s objectives for decreasing opioid abuse, and the Task Force is currently implementing an action plan based on those objectives.



Looking ahead

Action Teams will continue implementing action plans until at least early 2019, reporting to the Community Health Council on a semiannual basis. Later that year the Council will issue a final report for Together Healthy Knox 2015-2019, which will outline action teams’ work and indicate which measurable objectives for health improvement were met. The Knox County Health Department will begin work on the next Community Health Assessment in 2019, which will inform the Council’s next cycle of planning and implementation for community health improvement.

