

2019 Annual Report

SUSSEX 
COUNTY HEALTH COALITION

THE JOURNEY
TO A HEALTHY
COMMUNITY

We have partnered with the Sussex County Health Coalition for many years in the areas of community health and worksite wellness. Whenever we need information disseminated to partners in Sussex County, and beyond, we can count on the Sussex County Health Coalition.

—**Nancy Mears**, Extension Agent II
Sussex County Coordinator, Family & Consumer Sciences University of Delaware



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

A person's health is key to his or her ability to thrive, support their family and be an active participant in their community. That health journey starts even before we are born based on our mother's health during her pregnancy. During our life there are milestones and indicators we use to identify and ensure we are

staying on a healthy path and thriving. Some we all know like weight, cholesterol, and blood pressure. Some are not as evident like mental health, level of education and home ownership.

We know that life circumstances can influence an individual or family's ability to stay on a healthy path. Poverty, addiction, mental health, and chronic conditions can impact that health journey. That is why Sussex County Health Coalition, and its partners, want to walk with you every step of the way. Ensuring that you, your family, and your community have the service arrays, resources, and supports needed to keep you on a path of health and wellness.

We know that not all citizens have the same access to quality health care, healthy food, safe places to exercise and resources that promote optimal health. SCHC will continue to advocate, promote and foster policies, programs, partnership and opportunities for all Sussex Countians.

Healthy Communities start with healthy individuals and healthy families!

Some of the work we do is showcased in this annual report but for more information, or to get to know us better, please check out our Facebook page at Sussex County Health Coalition or our website at susssexcoalition.org.

We are on this journey with you! Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy M. Geisler".

Peggy Geisler
Executive Director

VISION

We envision a community in which our citizens and institutions (public, private, and not-for-profit) are actively engaged in community health promotion as a shared community good, and working together to create a cultural and physical environment which supports healthy lifestyles for our children and their families.

MISSION

The Sussex County Health Promotion Coalition exists to engage the entire community in collaborative family-focused effort to improve the health of children, youth and families in Sussex County.

GOALS

Our Coalition is viewed by our community as a respected source of knowledge and action for community health promotion, with an organizational culture that is inclusive, welcoming, respectful, trustworthy, non-partisan, listening, responsive, action-oriented, and accountable.

This Coalition has been supporting and serving Sussex Countians for years and is the pulse of the County! Your work in the County is not complete if you do not connect or build relations with this program.

—**Paulina Gyan**, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program, Division of Public Health

FUNDERS

Highmark Blue Cross
Blue Shield Delaware
United Way of Delaware
Discover Bank
Division of Substance Abuse
and Mental Health
Division of Public Health
Maternal Child Health (MCH)
Physical Activity Nutrition
and Outreach (PANO)

STAFF

Peggy Geisler
Executive Director
Cheryl Doucette
Organizational Director
Crystal Timmons-Bryant
Operational Director
Kathryn Burritt
Associate Consultant
Lynne Betts
Associate Consultant
Cathy Vansciver
Fiscal Consultant
David Layton
*Website and Digital
Consultant*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Megan Williams
President
Trisha Newcomer
Vice President
Deborah Tyre
2nd Vice President
Nancy Mears
Secretary
Patty Cunningham
Treasurer
David Miller
Immediate Past President
David Crimmins
Bernice Edwards
Dr. Julius Mullen
Dr. Jay Owens
Troy Hazzard
Sharon Harrington



BABIES BORN HEALTHY

Health Committee Works with an average of 25 partners per month

- Integration of primary care & behavioral health
- Access to healthcare
- Healthy mothers and healthy babies

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Sussex Early Childhood Council (SECC) / Early Learning Action Team (ELAT) Works with an average of 17 partners per month

- Children meeting developmental milestones
- Starting school ready to learn
- Increased language acquisition
- Focus on third grade reading levels



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND DRUG PREVENTION MESSAGING

Behavioral Health Task Group (BHTG) Works with an average of 45 partners per month

- Access to mental health services for children and youth and increased access to treatment and support for adults
- Social and mental health supports
- Increase education related to SUD prevention and awareness



HEALTHY MIND HEALTHY BODY HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Sussex County Health Coalition and their partners are with you every step of the way.



COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Youth Engagement and Service Organizations (YESO) Works with an average of 30 partners per month

- Increased high school graduation rate
- Increased prevention activities and program capacity for middle school students
- Decreased high risk behaviors
- Literacy

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Sussex Success Committee Works with an average of 22 partners per month

- Increased financial literacy and coaching
- Increased employability & employment
- Increased access to services to support wealth creation
- Financial empowerment
- Wealth management
- Access to support resources
- Workforce development



HEALTHY LIVING | ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Worksite Wellness and Drug Free Communities Committee Works with an average of 46 partners per month

- Healthy eating
- Physical activity
- Stress management
- Personal growth
- Decrease in overdose deaths and increased policies that address the addiction epidemic



SCHC actively works with over 185 partners per month to foster collaboration and ensure alignment for Sussex County.

IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY IN 2019


over **1,200**
 Books to families in Sussex County to promote Early Literacy


3,600
 Hours of physical activity and Nutrition Education


150,000
 People reached with prevention messaging

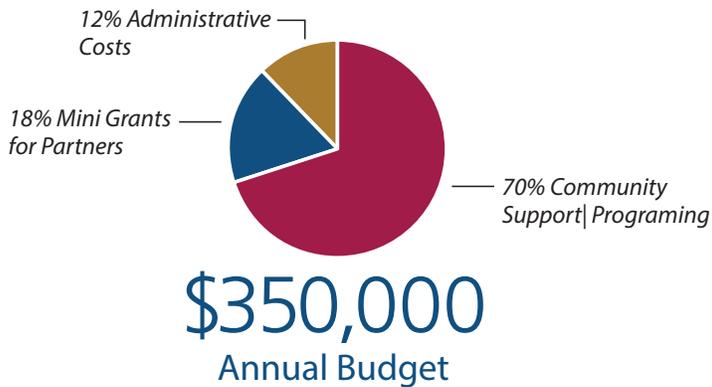

over **900**
 Families with Mommy and Me Informational Bags


over **50**
 Education, Awareness and Prevention Events
\$55,000
 in funding


over **120**
 Partner Information and Educational Sessions

PRIMARY GOALS

- Babies born healthy reaching developmental milestones and entering school ready to learn
- Increased youth support programming and prevention for ages 12 to 21
- Increased access and support to healthcare across the lifespan
- Increased access and support to mental health and addictions services for children, youth and families
- Decrease the number of people living at or below poverty level through financial empowerment and job skills training



Over \$245,000 in dedicated funding to support:

- Weekly e-blast—newsletter promoting partner events
- Website to serve members and partners
- Staffing fostering community collaboration
- Sponsorship for community events
- Developmental screenings
- Mommy|Baby Bags
- Educational seminars
- Partner capacity trainings
- Meet the Funder series
- Educational materials: books and baby products
- Supplies for collaborative meetings (to fill gaps created by lack of funding)
- Consultants, facilitators and research to support community programming
- Curriculum for school districts to address student needs
- Prevention and educational events
- Transportation for youth and their families as needed
- Promotional campaigns, county and statewide, including "Delaware Goes Purple"
- Partner|member convening

IN HONOR AND MEMORY



*In honor and memory of our longtime partner and friend, **Matt Stehl**. We deeply appreciate Matt's commitment to the community and his vision for Delaware. He was a true champion in the fight to end the opioid epidemic. We miss his leadership and passion as we continue this work as a part of his legacy.*



Cynthia Pritchard, President and CEO of Philanthropy Delaware presenting to SCHC partners



Reverend Carol Harris and Chris Herren at the Vines Community Project



Seaford Purple Ambassadors with Dr. Botvin, the Lt. Governor Bethany Hall Long, Executive Director Peggy Geisler and Seaford High School teacher Mr. Cohee at the Day of Hope event held in May 2019

"I am very impressed with Sussex County Health Coalition's commitment to prevention and the healthy development of Delaware's youth. Sussex County is fortunate to have such a knowledgeable group of dedicated champions."—Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D. President and Executive Director, National Health Promotion Associates



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