

# Healthy Sussex QUARTERLY

COMING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY SUSSEX COUNTY

January 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

# WHO IS CHAMPIONING OUR TEENAGERS?



Our teens need us now more than ever!!! We need talk about what our youth really need and how our communities, organizations and families can come together to provide it.

Do you remember how difficult the middle and high school years were? It was hard to navigate all the emotions, influence of peers and pressures from family. Fast forward to today, our youth must navigate serious social influences that create susceptibility to high-risk behaviors. The accessibility needs to be mitigated by a youth resiliency.

We have identified a significant void in Sussex for healthy support systems, adult mentors, identified and accessible role models and positive messaging to help teens navigate the myriad of issues hitting them from all sides. Identification of the supports that exist, alignment of current work and gap filling efforts will be driven through SCHC committees to offer this collective landscape and build capacity for our youth to build internal resiliency, strong communication skills and the

ability to discern for themselves the right choices for who they are becoming. These skills, along with a stronger community presence or cohesion in their life, will help to mitigate poor decision making that can interrupt and even ruin their chances for a healthy and thriving life.

### All Sussex County Health Coalition Committees are working on strategies to support our youth!

With support from funders like Highmark, DSAMH, United Way and others we can truly make a difference in the lives of our youth.

### Won't you join us? We need you!

Together we can make a difference and help our youth gain a strong foundation with balanced footing to take on adolescence and grow through it, giving them a successful launch into adulthood. Please email us at [schcadmin@pmgconsulting.net](mailto:schcadmin@pmgconsulting.net) for more information on how you can get involved.

### If not NOW, then WHEN? If not YOU, then WHO? The future of our YOUTH depends on YOU!



Dr. Banzon, a Physician with Beebe Healthcare, sharing information with the SCHC Health Committee related to the dangers of vaping and the long term effects on our youth.

## SCHC MISSION

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



## SCHC 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.

— GUEST ARTICLE —  
SCHC Board President, Megan McNamara Williams

## Delaware Hospitals Release 2019 Community Health Needs Assessments

### *Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder a Common Priority for Delaware Hospitals*



All Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA), an evaluation of local health needs conducted by non-profit hospitals every three years, are now complete and available online for those Delaware hospitals required to report in 2019.\* While several common health needs have been identified,

mental health and/or substance use disorder has emerged as a priority for every hospital across the state.

Delaware hospitals strive to provide the highest quality care for every patient that enters their doors, but there are so many factors beyond hospital walls that impact a person's health. To truly make an impact on the health of our community, we must identify these critical factors and work with our community partners to address these issues. Recognizing this, the three healthcare systems in Sussex county, Bayhealth, Beebe and Nanticoke, led by each hospital's CEO, have collaborated to form the Healthier Sussex County Task Force. This Task Force works along with critical community partners, most notably the Sussex County Health Coalition (SCHC), to address needs in a comprehensive manner. The collective impact of all of the dynamic partners of SCHC, make it an ideal partner in this work.

The CHNA reports, as required by the Affordable Care Act, are the product of a significant amount of research by each non-profit hospital to assess the health needs of their surrounding communities through qualitative and quantitative data. This includes community surveys, focus groups, and an analysis of the predominant health issues impacting their local population.

#### Common health needs spanning several hospitals include:

- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
- Social Determinants of Health
- Cancer
- Access/Availability of Providers
- Obesity

The hospitals will next release their Community Health Implementation Plans, which outline how Delaware health care systems will work to address the health care priorities identified in the CHNAs in the next three years.

*\* Bayhealth Kent Campus, Bayhealth Sussex Campus, Beebe Healthcare, ChristianaCare, Nanticoke Health Services, and Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children all report in 2019. Saint Francis Healthcare's CHNA is not due until 2020.*

## — COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT —

We are excited to share the progress we have made on a collaborative project being piloted in Western Sussex County in the zip code region of 19973. **Children & Families First, in partnership with Casey Foundation Family Programs, the Sussex County Health Coalition and Division of Family Services, has been working to build a strong foundation for a Community of Hope in Seaford, Delaware.** This Community of Hope, as it is formed, will build on the resilience of families in Seaford with a goal to reduce family stressors and promote supports that can help to mitigate child abuse and neglect and divert the need for child welfare involvement.

Success in supporting families can only happen when cross-agency and cross-community collaboration is happening. In 2019 we worked with over 200 stakeholders to build relationships, identify needs, gather extensive feedback and data and to share our intentions with the community members. We utilized the Sussex County Health Coalition's committee meetings to gain access to over 125 providers to inform our project platform and then to engage them in

understanding the service landscape and gaps and needs for the families they serve.

The year ended with a "Holiday of Help" event where hundreds of residents were provided support during this difficult time of year. As we move forward in 2020, we are looking forward to supporting the community through strategies based on their feedback of what they and their families need to thrive. We will be finishing an Environmental Scan in early 2020 to inform a community playbook as we move forward with the opportunity to provide additional feedback.



Kathryn Burritt, Seaford Community of Hope Project Coordinator Children & Families First

# — SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT —

from Highmark Blue Cross Shield Delaware



## BLUEPRINTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware is pleased to award the Sussex County Health Coalition with a \$188,500 grant from BluePrints for the Community. BluePrints for the Community is a donor-advised fund at the Delaware Community Foundation. It was established in 2007 to serve the healthcare needs of Delaware, with emphasis on, but not limited to, the needs of the uninsured and underserved, as well as health care disparities in minority communities. Highmark Delaware has committed to over \$1.1 million to support local organizations in our statewide work to combat opioid abuse and its negative impact on the lives of our friends and family members.



“Highmark Delaware is pleased to support the data-driven strategies proposed by the Sussex County Health Coalition, which enhance their existing efforts on prevention, community awareness and family care. The Sussex County Health Coalition continues to be a dedicated partner in

helping Delaware overcome the opioid crisis,” said Nick Moriello, president, Highmark Delaware.

Executive Director, Peggy Geisler, is excited to share that we received a grant from @Highmark BCBS Delaware in support of our efforts in combating the opioid crisis. Thanks to the financial support of their donor-advised fund, BluePrints for the Community, we will be able to do more to ensure the safety and health of our community. Join us we connect to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter: @Highmark

## ABOUT HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD DELAWARE

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware serves approximately 460,000 members through the company’s health care benefits business. It is an influential company in the market generating an economic impact of \$135 million and supporting more than 1,000 direct and indirect jobs across the state. Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. For more information, visit [highmark.com](http://highmark.com).



## DENÉE CRUMRINE

Denée is the corporate communications manager for Highmark BCBS Delaware Inc., responsible for internal and external communications and press relations. She also manages the organization’s corporate giving and its donor advised grant fund, BluePrints for the Community.

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

## — MEET THE FUNDER SERIES —

Stuart Comstock-Gay, President and CEO of the Delaware Community Foundation



Wednesday,  
March 25, 2020  
12:00 noon–1:30 p.m.  
Sussex County Health Coalition  
21133 Sterling Ave. Suite #12  
Georgetown, DE

**DCF** Delaware  
Community  
Foundation™  
Engaging Communities, Empowering Giving™

**Only one representative per agency please, as space is limited. Stay tuned, registration will open soon at [sussexcoalition.org](http://sussexcoalition.org).**

Stuart has devoted his career addressing issues of community, civic engagement, democracy, and civil rights. Before taking the helm of DCF in 2016, Stuart served as president & CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation.

**YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!**

## — FULL MEMBER VOTE —

### NEW SCHC BOARD MEMBER **DAN CRUCE**



Dan is an experienced senior executive with demonstrated success in the public policy and P-20 education sectors. His honed skills with nonprofits, grassroots organizing, government, media relations, and

administration drive his work and leadership. He is committed to public service, community impact and systems change as the United Way of Delaware's Chief Operating Officer.

Before joining the United Way of Delaware, Dan worked across the country with the national public policy non-profit, Hope Street Group, as its Education Vice President. Prior to that

role, he was Deputy Secretary/Chief of Staff at the Delaware Department of Education. Previously, he was Assistant Superintendent/Chief of Staff at the Christina School District in Delaware. Dan also worked for the Honorable Kent A. Jordan, United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and former United States Vice President Joseph R. Biden's Delaware Senate Office. He was also Associate General Counsel for Corporation Service Company.

In addition to sitting on the Board of Directors for the Delaware Community Foundation, the Delaware Arts Consortium and the Delaware Arts Alliance, he is Board Chair Emeritus at the Delaware Humane Association and the Board President at the Delaware Theatre Company.

## — COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT —

### CONGRATULATIONS **KATE DUPONT PHILLIPS**



As Delaware's first Healthy Community, the Sussex County Health Coalition, would like to congratulate Kate Dupont Phillips on her new role as Executive Director of Healthy Communities Delaware. We are thrilled to work with Kate as we continue to help our community.

Kate Dupont Phillips, MPH, CHES, PAPHS, is the inaugural Executive Director of Healthy Communities Delaware, an initiative focused on collaborating with communities across

the state to address inequities in the social determinants of health. Kate's background is in public health, and prior to this role, she worked at Nemours Children's Health System, Division of Health & Prevention Services for 14 years. There her focus was on creating healthy environments where children live, learn, and play, specifically through policy, systems and environmental change.

Kate has worked with community coalitions, out-of-school-time providers, early childhood education, and community-based organizations, and her main interest is in systems change to advance health equity and social justice.

## What's Next?



The Developmental Assets® are 40 research-based, positive experiences and qualities that influence young people's development, helping them become caring, responsible, and productive adults.

**SCHC is working on all subcommittees to address the needs of our youth.**

**ASK US HOW YOU CAN HELP!**

Would your organization like to host a Family Fun Night or a Youth Prevention Based Activity? We have pop-up mini grants to help with funding.

More information to come in Spring 2020.