

2019 Community Health Assessment Underway

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services is coordinating a 2019 Community Health Assessment (CHA) designed to both update the previous CHA completed in 2014 and to see what new opportunities and challenges exist five years later.

The Lewis County Community Health Partnership – a group of public and private agencies that support the community’s health – will provide primary funding for the effort and serve as the Steering Committee 2019 CHA effort. The funding comes from Cascade Pacific Action Alliance (CPAA). A smaller group of community partners representing hospitals, clinics, emergency medical services, non-profit agencies, education, community development, and the faith community form the Core Team which guides the work being done to conduct the CHA.

The CHA process will reveal key strengths in the county, as well as help identify and prioritize strategic issues, top concerns raised by county residents, and trends affecting the health and vitality of Lewis County. A follow-up Community Health Improvement Plan will be developed to coordinate activities designed to address those identified issues.

“The goal is to address our county’s most pressing health issues in an inclusive and well-informed way,” said Danette York, Director of Lewis County Public Health & Social Services. “And by health we are talking about the well-being of the community as a whole which includes economic, educational, environmental, and behavioral health as well as physical health.”

The 2014 CHA followed the “Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) tool created by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The 2019 CHA will also use MAPP due to its familiarity, the quality of results it produces, and the ability to accurately compare current data to the 2014 results.

Work will progress through the summer and fall, with completion anticipated by the end of 2019.