

**Ocean County**

**Community Health Improvement Plan**

**Annual Health Status Update-Year 3 2017**

December 2017

Dear Ocean County Stakeholders and Residents:

In year three of the 2014-2018 Ocean County Community Health Improvement Plan, the “Ocean County Annual Health Status Update Report-Year 3” provides an update on programs implemented during 2017. As part of the 2014-2018 Ocean County Community Health Improvement Plan’s sustainability, we are providing you with an annual update highlighting achievements and progress made throughout the year by various partners in addressing each of the five prioritized health issues identified in Ocean County: **Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Chronic Disease Prevention & Education, Childhood Obesity, Immunization Compliance, and Access to Care.**

Good health flourishes when healthcare, businesses, government, community and faith-based organizations work together in building healthy communities and healthy lifestyles. The Health Status Report provides current data on programs performed by various agencies working towards improving the health of Ocean County residents. While some of the progress is long term, we hope to provide you a highlight of what is being done in each of the prioritized areas. We would like to thank all of our partners and stakeholders that have provided input in addressing the prioritized health issues in Ocean County.

Wishing you all the best of health,

The Ocean County Health Advisory Group

Key Strategies:

- Integrate Behavioral Health disorders into primary care settings.
- Improve stigma reduction awareness.
- Promote Prescription Drug Monitoring (PDM) system, and Drop off Boxes.
- Increase awareness and provide appropriate referrals to select services to needed individuals and families.

Key Highlights in 2017:

Integrate Behavioral Health disorders into primary care settings:

- **The Center for Health Education Medicine and Dentistry (CHEMED)** has a fully integrated environment whereby Medical and Behavioral Health services are provided on site. In addition, CHEMED performs depression screenings on all patients over the age of 12. After patients are screened, Behavioral Health Consultants (BHCs) can come directly into the exam room for patients who screened positive. These BHCs offer guidance as to next steps and refer the patients directly to the Behavioral Health Department using a “warm hand-off”.
- In 2017, Governor Christie signed an executive order to transition the **Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to the Department of Health**. As per the Department of Health website, *“Moving DMHAS to DOH is an essential step toward achieving integration of primary, acute, mental health and addiction care. Combining the expertise of DMHAS and DOH will facilitate the development of streamlined and effective regulations, policies and interventions. This will allow for a more efficient and effective use of state funding and other resources—ensuring that individuals receive more integrated and comprehensive care and potentially reducing health care costs.”*
- **Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (LACADA)** continues to fund ambulatory detoxification for Ocean County residents. The LACADA has been researching evidence-based treatment for residents using opiates and heroin. In 2017, a priority focus was early intervention for the youth and recovery support services for all ages.
- **Ocean Health Initiatives (OHI)** screens every patient at every visit using the PHQ2 and PHQ9 questionnaire. If a patient scores high on the questionnaire, a licensed social worker assesses the patient in the exam room and provides clinically appropriate interventions including referring to OHI Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) staff for psychotherapy services. OHI now has fully staffed LCSW’s and Licensed Social Worker’s (LSW’s) available at all health centers, following the PharmChem (PCHM) model. Additionally, OHI has a partnership with local substance services to provide medication assisted treatment (vivitrol) for patients.

Improve stigma reduction awareness:

- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** partnered with St. Francis Preschool using funds from Kiwanis to purchase **100** Character Development Kits to be distributed at the Annual Health and Safety Fair.

- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** partnered with the Long Beach Township Police Department (LBTPD) for *National Night Out*, the annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. At least **100** activity books on Bullying and Safety were distributed.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** attended the LBTPD *Haunted Hayride* event and distribute activity books, stickers and stress balls.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** partnered with LBTPD for Poison Prevention Month presentation to Senior Lunch Group, which included information on medication safety and safe disposal of unused medications.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** promoted Project Medicine Drop at LBI and mainland locations.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** made appropriate referrals to mental health services to needed individuals.
- **Ocean County Mental Health Awareness Committee** conducts an annual essay/poetry contest for the youth and “What a Difference a Friend Makes” calendars which will be distributed to 5th graders.
- A municipal “stigma free zone” tool kit was established and sent to all municipalities to encourage them to become a “stigma free” town. Members of the **Ocean County Mental Health Awareness Committee** specifically met with the Pine Beach Mayor and Police Chief, Ocean County’s first “stigma free” municipality to provide consultation and reinforce their leadership. We were invited to participate in their Municipal Alliance Committee.
- **OHI** provided information to staff to integrate common practice and procedures relating to behavioral health best practices. This was done to reduce stigma of behavioral health and substance abuse through education and in services.

Promote Prescription Drug Monitoring (PDM) system, medication monitoring programming and Drop off Boxes:

- **CHEMED**’s Internal Medicine providers all utilize the PDM system prior to prescribing pain medication or controlled dangerous substances. In addition, having a pharmacy on site is helpful as the providers are in communication with the Pharmacists.
- **OCHD and the DART Coalition** collaborated to provide multiple “What’s in Your Medicine Cabinet?” presentations to the older adult community.
- **OHI** protocol follows consulting the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) drug monitoring database as a form of drug monitoring before prescribing medications.

Increase awareness and provide appropriate referrals to select services:

- **Hackensack Meridian** offers lectures and seminars to the community on a variety of behavioral health topics including, *Holiday Blues*, *Stress Reduction* and *Caring for the Caregiver*.
- The **OHI** Little Egg Harbor location opened in 2016 with hybrid exam rooms that are equipped with handling both behavioral health and medical appointments using the integrated behavioral health model. A patient can be seen for a routine exam, and if needed the LCSW can come in afterwards and hold a counseling session in the same room. OHI Brick Health Center opened in summer 2017 with a LSW on site to help the expanded service area.
- Patients are referred to advanced services as needed when **CHEMED** cannot directly provide the services (inpatient substance abuse or psychiatric service).
- **The Providers Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse** (PACADA) annual conference held in November 2017 was titled, “Veterans: Trauma Informed Care, Resources and Ethics for Practitioners” with **100** local agencies, schools, and other stakeholders in attendance to learn about how to best assist the Veteran community in Ocean County.
- **Ocean County Department of Human Services** staff, **Ocean Mental Health** staff, and **Preferred Behavioral Health** staff participated with the **Ocean County Prosecutors Office** staff in providing Law Enforcement Mental Health Awareness Training to all **Ocean County Police Departments**. This included information on community resources and referral procedures.
- Referrals and linkages are a critical part of behavioral health interventions and are incorporated into diverse services offered by **Ocean County Health Department’s** Clinic Services to help navigate clients into additional avenues for care. Behavioral health referrals and linkages are an integral part of Clinic Service’s HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment program, HIV Counseling and Testing program, Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic, among others.

Partner with faith & community-based organizations, and schools to educate on mental health and substance abuse disorders:

- **Ocean County Department of Human Services: Children’s Inter-Agency Coordinating Council** (CIACC) trainings for school personnel are ongoing. Topics planned for school year 2016-2017 include the new Question Persuade Refer (QPR) model for suicide prevention involving the Children’s System of Care and the Juvenile Justice System.

- **OCHD Prevention Programs** held a total of **75** programs that were held through **8** different municipalities reaching **2,555** clients from January-October 2016. with the following programs:

*Drug Code Program:* A program that addresses alcohol, marijuana and prescription drug abuse education. Data is collected on Survey Monkey on students increased knowledge of drugs and its dangers. Programs were delivered in Berkeley, Jackson, New Egypt, Pinelands Regional and Toms River.

*Unique You Program:* An interactive evidence based program where children learn how to make better and good decisions and choices. Programs were delivered in Jackson, Lakewood, Ocean Gate and Toms River.

*Drugs Are Not Candy:* An interactive program for young children to learn the difference between medications and similar looking candy and household products. Programs were delivered to Berkeley, Jackson and Lakewood.

*Power to Be Drug Free:* An innovative program for elementary aged students education on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Program delivered to Jackson.

*Medication Management:* A program for seniors discussing proper medication management, how to dispose of medications in the community or in the home as well as discussing on local resources. Program delivered to Toms River.

*Alcohol and Drug Presentation:* Staff provided presentations and/or resources at local fairs at the following locations: Jackson, Lakewood, Pinelands and Toms River.

*ALCOHOL EDU:* An evidence based online alcohol prevention program for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. For the 2016-2017 school years, there are **16** high schools participating in the program reaching **4558** students.

*Training for Intervention Procedures (TiPs):* An evidence based responsible beverage serving training for servers. Program delivered in Lacey.

### Moving Ahead-A Call to Action

- Increase the number of participating schools so they can benefit from the educational programs on alcohol and drug use, and train school personnel on these programs.
- Coordinate and increase the flu sites that will have the prescription medication drop off sites with local police.
- Expand mental health services across Ocean County by opening more clinical health facilities with integrated behavioral health models.
- Engage the community and faith-based organizations to take part in promoting the programs to help educate the youth on the dangers of alcohol and drug use.
- Continue to monitor the changing funding methodology to a Fee for Service Model to assess the impact on the service delivery system, particularly as it relates to capacity and wait for services.

## Health Issue: **Chronic Disease Prevention and Education**

---

### Key Strategies:

- Provide a patient-centered multidisciplinary approach across healthcare settings.
- Empower residents on appropriate chronic disease management.
- Coordinate programs across various settings.
- Increase knowledge and participation in early detection of chronic diseases.
- Reduce hospital admissions that are preventable due to chronic diseases.

### Key Highlights in 2017:

#### Provide a patient-centered multidisciplinary approach across healthcare settings:

- **CHEMED** provides integrated patient care across several disciplines, including Lab, Radiology, Pharmacy and Specialty services.
- Chronic Disease Quality Metrics in line with the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) and Meaningful Use criteria are incorporated in every patient visit. **OHI** is certified as level 3 PCMH and was recertified in 2015. Some metrics include hypertension, asthma, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** developed a Cancer: Community Health Needs Assessment.

#### Empower residents on appropriate chronic disease management:

- **CHEMED** began a Case Management Department whose mission is to work one on one with non-compliant chronic disease patients.
- **Hackensack Meridian** facilitates “Taking Control of Your Health” classes which are a six week self-management course for chronic diseases.
- **Hackensack Meridian** is launching in 2017 a cooking and nutrition initiative across their entire network.
- **Hackensack Meridian** hosts an Annual Diabetes day.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** continues to address prevention and management of chronic disease at various groups: Rotary, Kiwanis, Long Beach Island Branch of Ocean County Library, Choose Your Cover, Congregate Lunch Program, Project Healthy Bones.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** has a dedicated information area at Long Beach Island Branch of Ocean County Library.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** promoted Meridian Take Control of Your Health and Diabetes Self Management workshops.



- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** increased knowledge and participation in early detection of chronic diseases through Adult Health Promotion clinics.
  - **The Long Beach Island Health Department** hosted Mobile Mammogram Van quarterly.
  - **The Long Beach Island Health Department** hosted a table at Southern Ocean County Hospital's Diabetes Fair.
  - **The Long Beach Island Health Department** used social media to promote monthly health observances, e.g. Hispanic Heritage Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
  - **OCHD Clinic Services** provides chronic disease screening services, multicultural health fairs, and has newly incorporated diabetes education into offered services.
  - **OHI** hosted outreach and information seminars, such as Well & Kind, which is a holistic Diabetes management course to help improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.
  - **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** trained **5** facilitators for Cancer: Thriving and Surviving, chronic disease self-management workshop. One workshop was held at the Cancer Support Community in Lakewood (**4** attendees).
  - **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** provided cancer survivor program Surviving the Cancer Challenge: Body Mind and Spirit to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors and caregivers by focusing on the importance of improving and helping survivors achieve good health and well-being.
  - **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** held a cancer survivor program Surviving the Cancer Challenge: Body Mind and Spirit to improve the quality of life of cancer survivors and caregivers by focusing on the importance of improving and helping survivors achieve good health and well-being. (**75** attendees)
- [Coordinate programs across various settings:](#)
- **Hackensack Meridian** provides lectures on health related topics such as diabetes and cardiac wellness.
  - **Hackensack Meridian** is providing and partnering with Ocean County to provide wellness screenings and education.
  - At **OHI**, Patient Centered Care Navigators call and follow up with patients to make sure they are maintaining proper treatment and scheduled appointments at all Health Centers.
  - **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** developed a patient navigation plan for breast cancer survivors with Community Medical Center's patient navigators.

Increase knowledge and participation in early detection of chronic diseases:

- **Hackensack Meridian** offers wellness screenings that include: blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, body mass index, stroke risk assessment and pulse.
- **Ocean County Health Department:** "Live Healthy Ocean County Program" provided preventative screenings at various senior centers, and faith-based congregations in Ocean County providing: Blood Pressure (BP) screenings held (**391**), MSRAP (**324**), Cholesterol screenings (**332**), Glucose screenings (**320**), and Osteoporosis screenings (**47**). Immunizations provided for Shingles (**3**), Hepatitis A (**19**), Hepatitis B (**62**), Influenza Vaccine (**1,042**), Pneumonia (**37**), Pre-Exposure Rabies (**12**), and TDap (**54**) through September 2017.
- Regarding early detection of chronic diseases, the **OCHD** provides Cancer Education and Early Detection programs to uninsured residents to monitor for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers as well.
- **OHI** host community outreach events which are held with the "Mobile Medical Unit" to provide chronic disease education and free blood pressure screenings and blood glucose monitoring.
- **OHI** expanded the medical records to now have the ability to make patient appointments at community events.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** sponsored sun safety education and skin cancer screenings: **25** in Jackson with Hackensack Meridian; **71** at Brick Beach III with Central Jersey Oncology Nurses and Hackensack Meridian; **136** in Ship Bottom with Long Beach Island Health Department and Hackensack Meridian.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** partners provided lectures to **381** people, **44** of whom were screened.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** held Colorectal Cancer: A Primary Concern, a live professional education session for primary care providers to increase colorectal cancer screening rates using the American Cancer Society Colorectal Cancer toolkit.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** fostered the adoption of the American Cancer Society Colorectal Cancer toolkit in two Ocean County primary care practices, one high Medicaid, the other high Medicare. Office policy and system changes occurred that resulted in a major increase in the number of people being screened. Total screenings in both practices: **281** in year 1 vs **1,059** in year 2.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** distributed **1,495** health updates to area legislators to inform them about health awareness months, relevant health related issues. Also included information about cancer resources, including NJCEED (NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection) program.

### OCHD Chronic Disease Education and Prevention: Preventive and Diagnostic Screening Services:

- *Blood Lead Poisoning Screening Prevention and Education*: The OCHD no longer routinely performs blood lead testing for lead exposure resulting in only **3** blood lead screenings performed through September 2017. However, we maintain nursing case management for cases of elevated blood lead with **(6)** new lead cases, and **(10)** lead home visits in 2017 through September. A total of **(66)** cases are also under the Lead Case Management Team.
- *Eye Screening*: Preventive eye screenings are offered to low and uninsured residents in the county. A total of **(128)** residents have been screened for basic vision problems. No cost referrals are provided for vision interventions and case management with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- *The Cancer Education and Early Detection (CEED) Program* provides routine cancer screening to low-income residents without health insurance. Breast, cervical and colorectal screenings are provided. A total of **62** residents were screened for breast and cervical cancer through September 2017. A total of **62** were given the opportunity to be screened for colorectal cancer, of which **21** were screened.
- *Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinics*: Screening for Gonorrhea: **549** adolescents and adults, Chlamydia **547** screenings, and Syphilis **590** screenings, an increase of **6% from 2016**. This clinic has helped decreased Chlamydia morbidity in Ocean County. Through September 2017, the HIV Counseling and Testing Clinic tested **(613)** residents up from **533** tested residents in 2016.

### OCHD Case Management and Treatment:

- *HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment*: provides treatment and support services for low-income residents living with HIV/AIDS free of charge. A total of **(391)** medical visits were provided to residents with AIDS infection with **(22)** new cases added through September 2017. A total of **(635)** residents had case management face-to-face compared to **545** through the same time in 2016, and **(1035)** residents had non-face-to-face case management, which provides clinical and case management services which have helped in the reduction in community-level viral load suppression, an important part in the prevention of HIV transmission. Mental Health Services was provided to **(95)** residents, and nutrition services were provided to **(71)** through September 2017. An additional increase of 16% in face-to-face case management services has helped residents with insurance enrollment, transportation and nutritional support services. A total of **(1123)** referrals and linkages to other services were provided 2017 through September.
- *Tuberculosis Services*: In 2017 year to date, a total of **(109)** Chest X-rays were performed, adding **(8)** in 2017) new TB cases, compared to **9** in new cases added in 2016. A total of **(1067)** visits of direct observed therapy were performed, and **(62)** individual medical visits were provided. There were **(66)** received LTBI medication visits in 2017 and **(476)** residents received the Tuberculin Skin Testing in 2017 through September down from **548** in 2016.

Reduce hospital admissions that are preventable due to chronic diseases:

- **CHEMED** began a Case Management Department whose mission is to work one on one with our non-compliant chronic disease patients.
- **OHI** reinforces provider treatment and chronic disease management compliance to help ensure patients remain out of the hospital.

Moving Ahead-A Call to Action

- Continued coordination with libraries, Faith and Community-Based Organizations in the promotion and education on chronic disease prevention and management through clinics available throughout the county.
- Peer Leaders are needed for the support and growth of the Cancer: Thriving and Surviving Program.
- Take Control of Your Health Program principals should be incorporated into every patient visit.
- Tobacco Free ordinances are needed in parks and recreation outlets in Berkeley, Eagleswood, Lakehurst, Lakewood, Mantoloking, Ocean Gate, Plumsted, Point Pleasant Borough, and South Toms River.

## Health Issue: **Childhood Obesity**

---

### Key Strategies:

- Promote exclusive breastfeeding through proven policies and practices.
- Implement nutrition standards to limit the availability of less nutritious foods in schools.
- Increase of physical activity in child care centers and schools in Ocean County.
- Increase the involvement of healthcare professionals in obesity prevention.
- Educate the residents of all cultures on the options to make healthy choices.

### Key Highlights in 2017:

#### Promote exclusive breastfeeding through proven policies and practices:

- The **Long Beach Island Health Department** promoted breastfeeding in pregnant and new moms.
- The **Long Beach Island Health Department** participated in *Community Medical Center's Baby Fair*.
- At patient request, **OHI** offers privacy for new mothers to breastfeed at facilities. This service is promoted to all patients at each Health Center during visits.

#### Implement nutrition standards to limit the availability of less nutritious foods in schools:

- The **Long Beach Island Health Department** promoted Ethel Jacobson School Garden, which recently won *Best in New Jersey Farm to School Award*. Students learn about how food grows and what it means to eat healthfully. Farm to School activities include tying the garden to classroom lessons, nutrition education, visits to local farms, incorporating local fruits and vegetables into the cafeteria meals and more.
- The **OCHD** submitted a proposal still under consideration for a mini grant with New Jersey for Healthy Communities aimed at reducing childhood obesity through increasing policy, system change, and environmental interventions in an effort to improve rates of physical fitness and healthy eating. Specifically, the proposal included activities to standardize vending policies across the county to limit non-nutritious foods in school vending machines and to initiate curriculum across Head Start programs to engage children and their families in increased physical activity.
- **OHI** hired a new full time Registered Dietician to see patients and consult them on their nutrition needs or healthy eating choices. Information includes how to make healthy snacks, construct a healthy plate, and nutrition information.

#### Increase of physical activity in child care centers and schools in Ocean County:

- **Hackensack Meridian** has the PAWsitve Action Team which goes to local schools and youth events; it includes programs on nutrition and the importance of being active.

- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** promoted physical activity and healthy eating at Bayview Park: *Sun Safety and Sugar Savvy*. Americans eat almost **100 lbs.** of added sugar every year. This added sugar can lead to obesity, type two diabetes, and heart disease. “Rethink your Drink” game was played. Visitors to the table would guess the amount of sugar in popular summer drinks, like ice tea, lemonade, sports and coffee drinks. After revealing the true answer, nurses would discuss healthier options to decrease the amount of sugar. Options like diluting juices, using fresh fruits to flavor water or unsweetened seltzer were discussed. **30** families participated.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** participated in Kiwanis Bike Safety Events attended by **300** students.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** entered into agreement with St. Francis Preschool to provide Childcare Health Consultation, which will include review of nutrition and oral practices, educational presentations to students and staff.
- **OHI** School based programs were expanded to the high school wellness program. This included the School based Zumba program with OHI Wellness Educator and health scheduled programs.

Increase the involvement of healthcare professionals in obesity prevention:

- **CHEMED’s** annual Uniform Data Systems (UDS) Measures require not just the measurement of Body Mass Index (BMI) for our patients, but counseling when a patient is overweight or underweight as well.
- **OHI** added pediatric and family medicine providers to see patients. BMI is conducted on all patients at each visit, and educational handouts are available to patients in all OHI facilities. A full time Registered Dietician is on staff to educate and counsel patients on nutrition and healthier lifestyles.

Educate the residents of all cultures on the options to make healthy choices:

- **CHEMED** has an onsite Nutritionist.
- **OCHD Health Education Division** includes routine programming for nutritional programs like Making Healthy Choices, targeting children in elementary school to deliver innovative programs aimed at giving young children the skills they need to make smart nutritional decisions.
- **OCHD WIC Program:** Children enrolled in the OC WIC Program account for **56%** of its total caseload enrollment of **18,190** (as of Sept. 2017). The OC WIC Program has satellite clinics in Manahawkin, Brick and is also onsite at OHI in Toms River and in Lakewood. The following outreach was provided in 2017: attended numerous health fairs in Ocean County and Head Start Policy meetings and Food Banks were visited where we provided information to attendees about the WIC Program. The goal of this outreach was to promote healthy eating for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. Information was also provided for the breastfeeding services offered from the WIC Program.

- **OHI** Outreach Events throughout the year focused on community wellness with emphasis on family health and obesity health information, including Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. The School-Based Health Centers educates children to enroll in physical activities and sports.

#### Moving Ahead-A Call to Action

- Schools can promote and increase participation in the school breakfast programs since only **33%** of eligible students in Ocean County participate in the program.
- Increase funding for hiring more Registered Dietitians.
- Faith and Community-Based Organizations can promote healthy eating and exercise in their children's programs.
- Referrals to the Ocean County WIC Program from various agencies can assist in improving children's eating habits.

## Health Issue: **Immunization Compliance**

---

### Key Strategies:

- Enhance access to vaccination services in the county.
- Implement a countywide education campaign to educate preschools and childcare providers on the importance of immunization compliance.
- Enforce the immunization requirements at childcare centers, preschools and public schools.
- Ensure healthcare providers provide timely vaccination to children.
- Encourage the use of the NJ Immunization Registry.

### Key Highlights in 2017:

#### Enhance access to vaccination services in the county:

- **CHEMED** provides vaccines to the uninsured and the underinsured.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** Annual Standard Precautions Staff Development for St. Francis Preschool included information about immunization requirements. **30** staff members attended.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** utilized social media to observe National Immunization Awareness Month.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** promoted *Childhood Immunization: a Public Health Priority*, the NJDOH webinar for child care providers.
- **OCHD Clinic Services** maintains Vaccines for Children and Adult **317** programming for adult vaccines uninsured and underinsured adults are not able to receive otherwise including TDAP and shingles. Clinics also provide vaccines for influenza, pneumonia, pre-exposure rabies, and occupational hepatitis B.
- **OHI** is successfully continuing and participating in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program, a federally funded state operated vaccine supply program that provides vaccines at no cost to the doctors who serve uninsured or underinsured patients. The VFC Program keeps patients in a medical home for comprehensive healthcare.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** distributed **350** HPV immunization flyers for parents through school nurses.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance** members provided HPV immunization education to **76** parents from **6** schools serving **9** municipalities; **10** parents/adults in supported work programs, and **555** Presentations made to students in **3** high schools and **5** alternative schools 8th through 10th plus.



Implement a countywide education campaign to educate preschools and childcare providers on the importance of immunization compliance:

- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** continued to provide childhood immunizations to uninsured children through VFC Program.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** ensured compliance with immunization requirements at childcare centers, preschools and public schools.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** provided guidance to local healthcare providers to ensure timely vaccination to children.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** utilized the NJ Immunization Registry for all childhood vaccines administered.
- **OCHD** mailed letters to preschools, childcare providers and elementary schools were mailed stressing the importance of the immunization requirements. Posters on the importance of childhood immunizations were posted at all Public Health and WIC Clinics in the county. The Truth about Vaccines brochures were distributed to all Ocean County libraries, childcare and preschools in Ocean County, County Connections, OC Department of Human Services, and Social Services, and Pediatrician offices waiting rooms.
- **OCHD** continues audits all CC, PREK, and grade schools (public and private) annually for compliance with NJAC 8:57-4.
- **OHI's School-Based Health Center** located in the Lakewood High School helps children receive vaccines while in school.
- The **OHI Medical Mobile Unit** is used to provide childhood immunizations and flu shots throughout Ocean County.

Enforce the immunization requirements at childcare centers, preschools and public schools: Ensure healthcare providers provide timely vaccination to children:

- **CHEMED** is required to report annually on vaccination rates. Our providers follow CDC guidelines for vaccinations and work to encourage all parents/guardians to stick to the recommended schedule.
- **The Electronic Medical Record (EMR)** utilized by **OHI** automatically sends notification to our healthcare providers when a patient is due for a recommended vaccine and send communication through the EMR to promote vaccine awareness to patients.
- Working with HMOS and special tools, **OHI** can now track and recall patients that need immunizations so that the gaps can be closed in patient care. The Patient Care Navigators work to call and schedule patients who are in need of immunizations per **OHI** records.

- **OHI** has a VFC Coordinator on staff to coordinate vaccination schedules and educate all clinical teams have been on NJIS and keeping up with appropriate immunization schedules and best practices. OHI also now implements VFA program for adults at Toms River and Lakewood Health Centers.

Encourage the use of the NJ Immunization Registry:

- **CHEMED** uses the NJ Immunization Registry.
- **OHI** will continue to work with the EMR vendor to develop a cross directional interface with the NJ Immunization Registry.
- **Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance's** recruited Ocean Health Initiatives to participate in a Quality Improvement project to increase HPV immunization rates.

Moving Ahead-A Call to Action

- Pediatricians are encouraged to promote and offer childhood immunizations in a timely manner following the vaccination schedules.
- All Providers should be required to enter vaccines in the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIS).
- Encourage Healthcare Providers to provide the HPV vaccine to adolescents in order to increase HPV immunization rates.
- Faith and Community-Based organizations can post flyers on the importance childhood immunizations in their waiting rooms or community bulletin boards.

[Key Strategies:](#)

- Reduce the barriers to care by increasing the safety net.
- Increase the proportion of residents with a primary care provider.
- Decrease the use of the emergency room for ambulatory care conditions.
- Implement community-based preventive services that enhance linkages with clinical care.

[Key Highlights in 2017:](#)

[Reduce the barriers to care by increasing the safety net:](#)

- **CHEMED's** Outreach and Enrollment Department works actively to ensure that patients have information on the health coverage available to them. Our Presumptive Eligibility unit signs up children and pregnant women who are eligible but not yet enrolled in Medicaid. As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), **CHEMED** provides care to all patients, regardless of ability to pay.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** ensured that all participants in Adult Health Promotion clinics have a primary care provider.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** provided approximately **100** referrals to physicians, specialists and social services.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** provided referrals to local physician groups and urgent care center to discourage use of the emergency room for ambulatory care conditions.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** promoted Emergency Preparedness to the community by way of talks, PSAs, and social media.
- **The Long Beach Island Health Department** represented on Local Emergency Planning Committee and received training as administrator for NJ Register Ready. Promoted Register Ready for those individuals with access or functional needs that require assistance in the event of an emergency.
- **Ocean County Health Department Special Child Health Services** continues to monitor clients and focuses on transitioning special needs children into adulthood. Discussions regarding guardianship, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), which now goes into effect at 21 years of age instead of birth, are provided to families.

- **OHI** vastly improved patient compliance for colon cancer screenings by working in partnership with the New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) Program to provide screenings to all patients regardless of ability to pay. Same day appointments were made available at all departments, as well as late night and weekend hours. Majority of staff are bilingual and an effort was made to expand bilingual positions, including patient centered care navigators. The Mobile Medical Unit conducts outreach events to enroll new patients and provides screenings at all outreach events.

Increase the proportion of residents with a primary care provider:

Decrease the use of the emergency room for ambulatory care conditions:

- **CHEMED’s** “FastTrack” and “MyCare” departments provide walk-in appointments at off hours including weekends and late evenings. These services keep patients from accessing the Emergency Room for non-acute conditions.

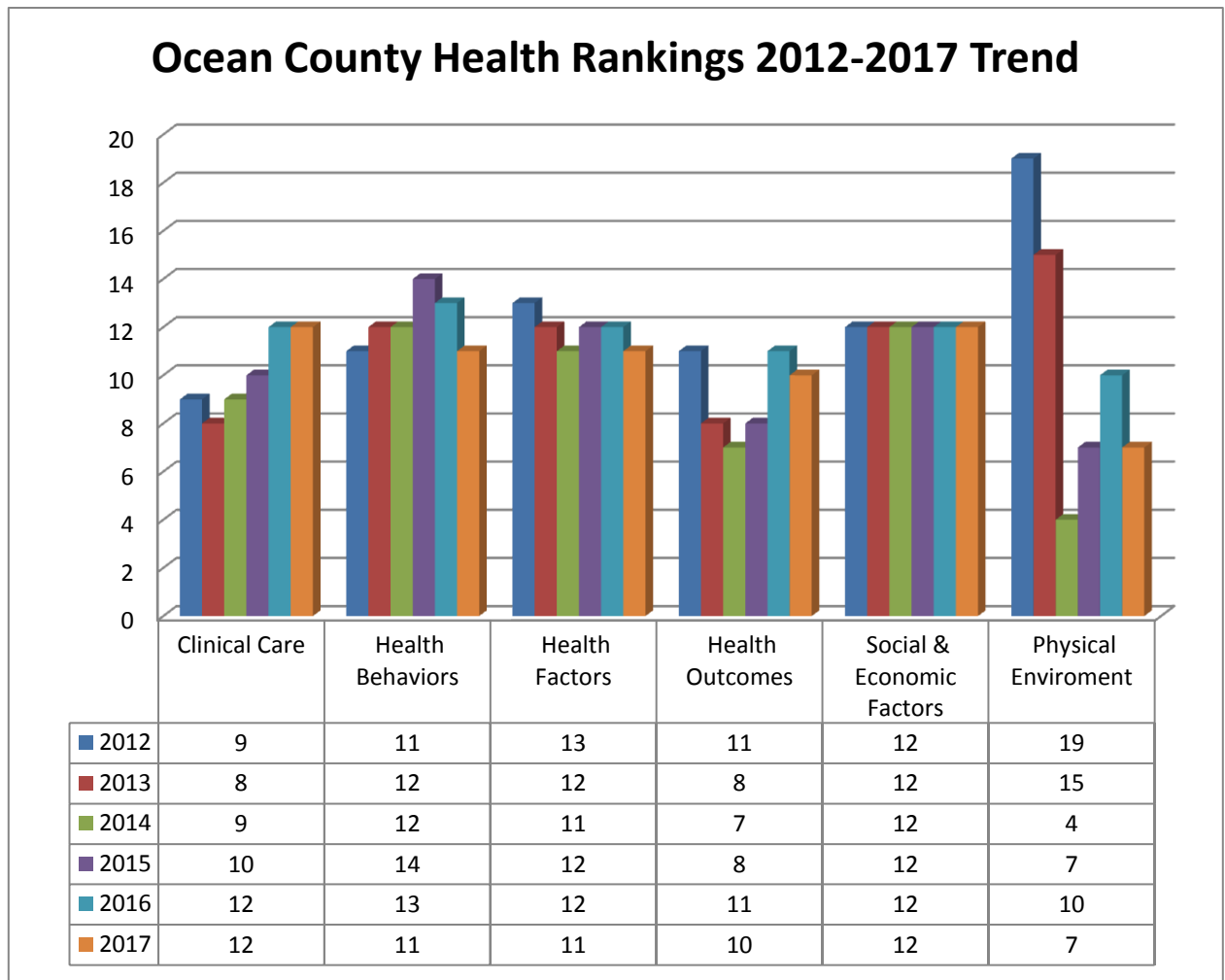
Implement community-based preventive services that enhance linkages with clinical care:

- **OCHD Clinic Services** provides diabetes education and chronic disease screening services in community-based locations with referrals to primary and acute care facilities based on results received.
- **Hackensack Meridian** has their Church Challenge program which involved several churches that receive an initial screening to get a baseline of their wellness numbers (including total cholesterol, BMI, glucose, stroke risk and blood pressure). For the next six to twelve month, the church is educated on a variety of different health topics from stroke awareness/risk, cholesterol information and fitness/wellness. At the completion of the education, the church does another wellness screening to see how effective the education was on improving their health.
- **Hackensack Meridian** provides enrollment services to inform the community of health coverage programs for the uninsured and underinsured.

### Moving Ahead-A Call to Action

- Faith and Community-Based Organizations are encouraged to refer their congregants and clients to the two Federally Qualified Health Centers in Ocean County: Ocean Health Initiatives or CHEMED, where routine care is provided on an ongoing basis, thus reducing the use of the hospital emergency rooms for preventable chronic diseases.
- Open enrollment period should be extended to allow more residents to enroll in health insurance exchanges.
- Retaining specialists in Ocean County (who accept Medicaid plans) is the key to ensuring adequate access to care for the poorest residents.

## Ocean County Health Rankings



Source: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/rankings/data/NJ>

**Thank you to all of our  
partners for all that they do  
keep Ocean County residents  
healthy!**



Long Beach Island Health Department  
*"Serving the Entire Island"*



**"A Countywide Approach to Improving Community Health"**

## **Additional Comments on Year 2**

The Annual Health Status Update – Year 2 2016 provided updates on the progress of the objectives for the five Ocean County prioritized health issues. In 2017, the Ocean County Health Department along with the Health Advisory Group continues to meet the goals and objectives put forth in the Community Health Improvement Plan 2014-2018. The goals identified are:

Goal: Drive the strategic direction of healthcare and delivery of services in Ocean County

Goal: Increase awareness and provide an annual report on healthcare and prevention programs in the county to stakeholders, state, county and local officials and county residents

Goal: Improve access to and quality of care to Ocean County residents

Goal: Improve health literacy in Ocean County

Goal: Improve communication and data sharing among healthcare agencies to help improve access to data on health indicators and health outcomes in the county

In order to achieve the above goals, the following objectives were put forth by the group. A status update of each objective is provided below:

Objective: To coordinate and communicate among each healthcare agency and public health entity the prevalent health issues in Ocean County

Status: The Health Advisory Group continues to meet quarterly to discuss the CHIP 2014-2018, status of achieving the goals as well as discussing health issues evidenced throughout the county and within their health sector. An Annual Health Status Update document is reviewed, finalized and distributed every January.

Objective: To communicate in a unified voice to state, county, local government officials, and county residents the health status and health issues of Ocean County

Status: The Ocean County Health Department continues to utilize LINCIS to send prevalent health messages to the county. LINCIS at the OCHD sends out approximately 15 messages a month with a total of 1,350 community contacts.

Objective: To improve the health literacy to the underserved and uninsured in the county through proper prevention and education programs

Status: The Ocean County Health Department provides community training and information on prevalent health topics. As a public health agency, programs are offered in every municipality to reach as many residents as possible. The Ocean County Health Department operates in 3 locations throughout Ocean County which provides convenient access to services for our residents.

Objective: To address health disparities among the different populations in the county

Status: The Ocean County Health Department along with their community partners continually review the county demographics and plan to meet the needs of all populations living in Ocean County.

Objective: To coordinate programs or resources addressing specific health issues

Status: The Ocean County Health Department can utilize their community partners for the coordination of programming to address specific health issues. Several departments, such as Alcohol and Drug, Intoxicated Driver Resource Center and Health Education, develop innovative programming to address specific health issues.

Ocean County Community Health Improvement Plan 2014-2018: Annual Public Health Update Report

Health Indicators	Ocean County CHIP	New Jersey 2020	United States 2020	Status: using most recent data set available
<b>Childhood Obesity</b> Measurement: Reduce the proportion of children aged 2-19 who are considered obese	37% (2010) 12% under 5 years 25% of 6-17 years old	Target: 10.3%	Target: 14.5%	<b>Ocean County: 12.3%-19% (Youth, 2012) <sup>6</sup></b> <b>New Jersey: 8.7% (Youth, 2013) <sup>1,2</sup></b> <b>United States: 13.7% (Youth, 2013) <sup>1,2</sup></b>
<b>Immunization Compliance</b> Measurement: Increase the percentage of children aged 19-35 months who receive doses of DTaP, Polio, MMR, HiB, Hepatitis B, Varicella and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)	89% (2011)	Target: 80.0%	Target: 90.0%	<b>Ocean County: 79% (2016) <sup>7</sup></b> <b>New Jersey: 76.5% (2015) <sup>1,2</sup></b> <b>United States: 72.2% (2015) <sup>1,2</sup></b>
<b>Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Substance Abuse</b> Measurement: Increase the proportion of primary care facilities that provide mental health treatment on site	5.7 rate of physicians by specialty (2008)	No Target	Target: 87.0%	<b>Primary Physician (2017) <sup>3</sup></b> <b>Ocean County: 2140 to 1 population to provider ratio</b> <b>New Jersey : 1170 to 1 population to provider ratio</b> <b>United States: 1040 to 1 population to provider ratio (top US performer)</b>  <b>Mental Health Provider (2017) <sup>3</sup></b> <b>Ocean County: 830 to 1 population to provider ratio</b> <b>New Jersey: 580 to 1 population to provider ratio</b> <b>United States: 360 to 1 population to provider ratio (top US performer)</b>
<b>Behavioral Health: Mental Health and Substance Abuse</b> Measurement: Reduce the proportion of adolescents reporting the use of alcohol or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days	7.2% alcohol	No Target	Target: 16.6%	<b>Ocean County (2010): <sup>4</sup></b> <b>14.8% (alcohol, middle school, past 30 days)</b> <b>9.5% (tobacco, middle school, past 30 days)</b> <b>6.2% (marijuana, middle school, past 30 days)</b>  <b>New Jersey (2010): <sup>4</sup></b> <b>10.7% (alcohol, middle school, past 30 days)</b> <b>4.4% (tobacco, middle school, past 30 days)</b> <b>3% (marijuana, middle school, past 30 days)</b>
<b>Chronic Disease Education and Prevention</b> Measurement: Increase the proportion of community health programs that are linguistically and culturally appropriate	N/A	No Target	No Target	<b>The Health Advisory Group and the Ocean County Health Department are dedicated to increasing community health programs.</b>  <b>LINCS at the OCHD sends out approximately 15 messages a month with a total of 1,350 community contacts.</b>  <b>Language Line and Bi-lingual staff are utilized at the OCHD. <sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Access to Care</b> Measurement: Increase the proportion of adults aged 18 and older with a personal doctor or health care provider	82.3% (2012)	Target: 90.0%	Target: 83.9%	<b>Ocean County: 84.4% (2011-2013) <sup>5</sup></b> <b>New Jersey: 82.5% (2011-2013) <sup>5</sup></b> <b>United States: No updated data <sup>5</sup></b>

Sources:

Healthy NJ 2020 (<http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/hnj2020/>) <sup>1</sup>

Healthy People 2020 (<https://www.healthypeople.gov/>) <sup>2</sup>

County Health Rankings (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/new-jersey/2017/rankings/ocean/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>) <sup>3</sup>

Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Chartbook, pg. 95,

(<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhas/publications/epidemiological/State%20Chart%20Books/Ocean.pdf>) <sup>4</sup>

NJ State Health Assessment Data (<https://www26.state.nj.us/doh-shad/home/Welcome.html>) <sup>5</sup>

The National Minority Forum: Child Obesity Index (<http://maps.z-atlas.com/ChildhoodObesityIndex/main.cfm>) <sup>6</sup>

Ocean County Health Department <sup>7</sup>