

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships Forces of Change Assessment September 2012

The Forces of Change (FOC) Assessment is one of four assessments completed as part of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process. The purpose of the FOC Assessment is to identify trends, events, and factors that could impact community health improvement planning. These forces can be local, statewide, or global in nature. The impact from these forces could be in the form of both challenges and opportunities.

The Sumter County FOC Assessment was conducted using a combination of brainstorming sessions and a *Survey Monkey* open-ended survey. The participants were the Sumter County Health Department Accreditation Task Force (ATF) and the MAPP Steering Committee.

Methodology

The two brainstorming sessions were conducted on August 2, 2012 and August 30, 2012. Members of the Sumter CHD ATF engaged in a thought provoking discussion that generated a free flow of ideas and information (Appendix A). On August 21, 2012, the Sumter CHD ATF e-mailed a *Survey Monkey* survey (Appendix B) to the members of the MAPP Steering Committee. The following summarizes the results of these activities and the potential impacts of these Forces of Change.

FORCES OF CHANGE

- **Trends are patterns over time**, such as migration in and out of a community or a growing disillusionment with government.
- **Factors are discrete elements**, such as a community’s large ethnic population, an urban setting, or the jurisdiction’s proximity to a major waterway.
- **Events are one -time occurrences**, such as a hospital closure, a natural disaster, or the passage of new legislation.

TREND	Opportunities	Threats
Slow economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impetus to seek more cost efficient ways of delivering services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer people able to afford insurance/healthcare
Build-out of The Villages residential housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for employment in support and caregiver roles for aging population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of jobs in construction/housing industry
Growth in chronic disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased morbidity and mortality
Significant drought across country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of drought-related health issues/concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased incidence of diseases • Increased cost of food • Impact to potable water supplies
Increased demand for Healthcare services due to aging population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Possible functional or structural improvements to healthcare system • Educational programs to fill these needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of trained workers • Rising costs
Aging healthcare workforce/ Shortage of competent, skilled health professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young talent to join the workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient workforce to handle demand • Loss of institutional knowledge
Growing internet use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased patient knowledge/awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients self-evaluating through internet research • Illegal/improper use of prescription medications
Shrinking budgets and increasing need for social programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs/services discontinued • Increased population based morbidity

FACTOR	Opportunities	Threats
Socio-economic differences within Sumter County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unequal access to care • Disparate needs
Undocumented workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization/payment of healthcare • Disease surveillance challenges
Drug use/abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime • Increased disease prevalence • Social disruption
Electronic Health Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier access to patient information/better healthcare • Better/faster sharing of information among providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidentiality concerns • Cost • Misuse of aggregate data
Mobility of population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded reach of targeted health information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease transmission
Rural nature of Sumter County outside The Villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to care • Targeted health education programs • Preserve open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of access to care
EVENT	Opportunities	Threats
Healthcare reform (Medicaid/Medicare)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion could lead to improved access to healthcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to care
New hospital east of Wildwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to care • Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-emergency ER visits

APPENDIX A



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APPENDIX B



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