



Brazos Valley

Community Health Improvement Plan

2023-2025



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a three-year community-driven plan that outlines goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used by coalitions, organizations, and citizens to make strides to improve the community's health.

In January 2016, the Brazos County Health District (BCHD) formed the Brazos Valley Health Coalition (BVHC). BVHC will collaborate with numerous social services, healthcare, and governmental agencies to act as a coordinated group to address health issues in the Brazos Valley. The two main goals of the coalition include:

- Conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every three years to identify the health needs and strengths of the Brazos Valley.
- Develop a CHIP to determine health priorities and specific strategies that the coalition can implement to address the issues identified in the CHA.

The BVHC Steering Committee developed the BVHC mission statement to guide the coalition's work:

“The Brazos Valley Health Coalition is a collaboration transforming people, places, and communities for a stronger and healthier Brazos Valley.”

To develop a community-based plan to address health issues, the BVHC engaged community partners in the following ways:

- Steering Committee members developed the BVHC framework.
- BVHC members provided feedback on the CHA components and determined the priority issues to address in the CHIP.
- BVHC members and other community partners formed Task Groups to create goals, objectives, and strategies to address priority issues.
- Once the CHIP is approved, by the BVHC members, BVHC members will break into new Task Groups to begin the work needed to achieve the CHIP objectives.

Development of the CHIP was accomplished using findings from the 2022 CHA. The assessment process incorporated existing secondary data and qualitative data from community discussion groups held across the Brazos Valley region. The CHA is accessible at <https://ccha.tamu.edu/products.html>.

Findings of the 2022 CHA demonstrated that the priority issues to be addressed are access to resources and access to mental health resources. These priority issues comprise three goals that form the basis of the CHIP.

These goals are:

1. Brazos Valley residents will have access to high quality and affordable health care resources.
2. Brazos Valley residents will have increased awareness of, and access to, community resources.
3. Brazos Valley residents will have access to targeted mental health resources.

Goals 1 and 2 will be addressed through the work of the BVHC membership, with Task Groups working the action steps required to achieve those goals. Goal 3 will be addressed through a Task Group formed in 2023, Brazos Valley Patient Assistance Through Health (BVPATH), that will continue to work toward achieving Goal 3's scope.

BACKGROUND

The Brazos County Health District (BCHD) saw the need to form the Brazos Valley Health Coalition (BVHC) as part of their Public Health Accreditation efforts. Public Health Accreditation provides a measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards. Public Health Accreditation is recognition of achievement by a nationally recognized entity.

To develop a community-based plan to address health issues, the BVHC engaged community partners in the following ways:

- Steering Committee members worked on developing the framework for the BVHC, the assessment design and timeline, while securing sponsors.
- BVHC members provided feedback on the components of the CHA and determined the priority issues to be addressed in the CHIP.
- Task Groups were formed by BVHC to create goals, objectives, and project strategies to address the priority issues.

Formation of the Brazos Valley Health Coalition

In the fall of 2015, the BCHD organized representatives from local healthcare and social service agencies to serve as a Steering Committee to assist with the formation of the BVHC. These agencies included the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, St. Joseph Regional Hospital, College Station Medical Center, Health for All, HealthPoint, Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of the Brazos Valley, and the Center for Community Health Development at the Texas A&M School of Public Health.

The Steering Committee developed the vision and mission statement for the BVHC to guide the work of the BVHC.

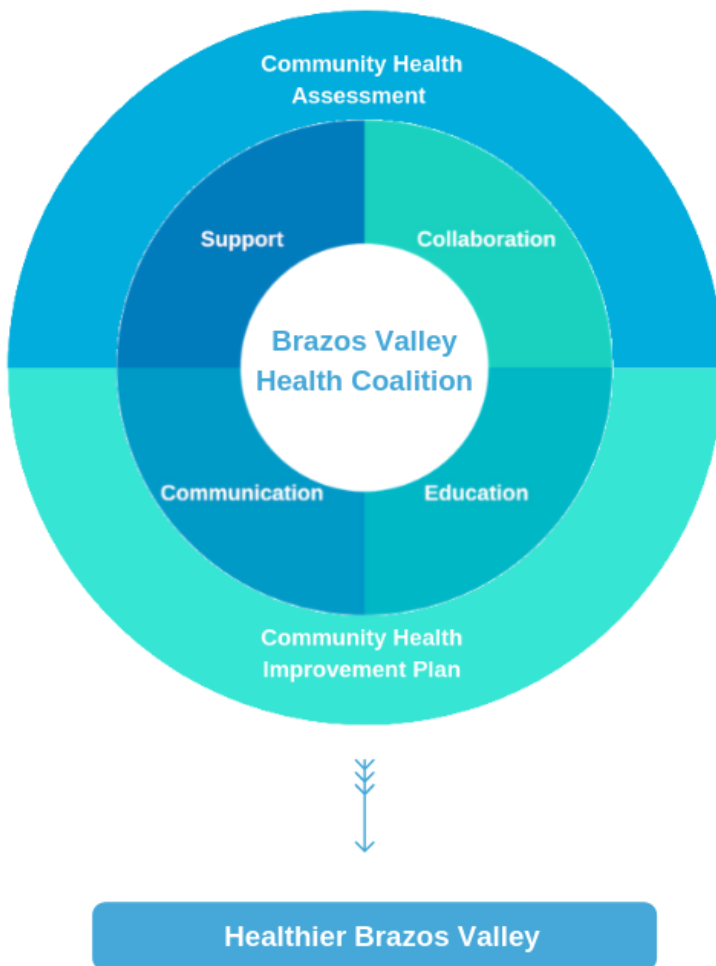
Vision

A Healthy and Productive Community Through Collaborative Partnerships

Mission

The Brazos Valley Health Coalition is a collaboration transforming people, places, and communities for a stronger and healthier Brazos Valley.

The infographic below provides a summary of the BVHC’s mission, vision, and plan to improve the Brazos Valley.



In January 2016, BCHD, in collaboration with the Steering Committee and numerous social service, healthcare, and governmental agencies, formed the Brazos Valley Health Coalition (BVHC) to act as a coordinated group to address health issues in the Brazos Valley. The two main goals of the BVHC include:

- Conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) to identify the health needs and strengths of the Brazos Valley.
- Create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to determine health priorities and specific implementation strategies to address the issues identified in the CHA.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) PROCESS

Community Health Assessment:

The most recent CHA was conducted in 2022. The Steering Committee members determined the assessment design and timeline. The assessment process incorporated data from existing sources (secondary data) and qualitative data from community discussion groups held across the greater Brazos Valley region, which includes Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Lee, Leon, Madison, Milam, Robertson, and Washington counties. BVHC members provided feedback on the geographic scope and the components of the assessment. They also recommended specific population sectors for inclusion in the discussion groups, as well as secondary data reported in the CHA. The complete CHA is accessible at <https://ccha.tamu.edu/products.html>

Priority Issues & Task Groups:

The BVHC reviewed the results from the CHA and selected the priority issues by presenting the results to the BVHC members which voted on the top issues along with three goals to be addressed.

Priority Issues: Access to resources and access to mental health resources.

These priority issues comprise three goals that form the basis of the CHIP.

- Goal 1:** Brazos Valley residents will have access to high quality and affordable health care resources.
- Goal 2:** Brazos Valley residents will have increased awareness of, and access to, community resources.
- Goal 3:** Brazos Valley residents will have access to targeted mental health resources.

During meetings, each Task Group created objectives and strategies to address their specific goal. The BVHC created Task Groups, comprised of current BVHC members, and assigned each group a specific goal to develop objectives and strategies designed to address their designated goal. Action steps to employ will be determined through the work of the BVHC Task Groups formed after approval of the 2023-2025 CHIP.

The 2023-2025 Brazos Valley CHIP began development in December 2022 and continued throughout 2023. The final CHIP was approved in February 2024.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The CHIP outlines the priority issues and goals for the Brazos Valley for 2023 through 2025. The objectives and strategies below serve as a guide to implementing programs and processes that will further the mission of the BVHC.

PRIORITY ISSUE	ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES
GOAL 1	Brazos Valley residents have access to high quality and affordable health care resources.
OBJECTIVE 1	By August 31, 2024, the BVHC will identify a web-based program that will be utilized to create, track, and manage referrals and resources across service providers in the Brazos Valley.
OBJECTIVE 2	By June 30, 2025, demonstrate through tracked data that increased numbers of social service organizations are joining as members of the web-based platform, are being trained, and are using the referral process in the platform.
STRATEGY 1	Investigate, research, and choose the most appropriate web-based platform available to coordinate resources and resource referrals among providers.
STRATEGY 2	Provide training and collaboration opportunities for social service providers in the Brazos Valley to increase the awareness of and knowledge of the chosen referral system.
GOAL 2	Brazos Valley residents will have increased awareness of, and access to, community resources.
OBJECTIVE 1	By December 31, 2024, BVHC will have in place a program that employs multiple methods of communication to inform residents about available resources and services
OBJECTIVE 2	Expand membership in the BVHC.
STRATEGY 1	Increase public visibility of the BVHC as a provider of information and its member organizations as providers of services and resources through a dedicated BVHC website.
STRATEGY 2	Increase social media engagement through a BVHC Social Media Task Group that will design and post information for the public.
STRATEGY 3	Plan and implement an annual Brazos Valley Community Connection Resource Event.
PRIORITY ISSUE	ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
GOAL 3	Brazos Valley residents will have access to targeted mental health resources
OBJECTIVE 1	By December 31, 2024, BVHC (BVPATH) will implement programs to address the gaps in mental health care in the Brazos Valley, focused on care for persons in crisis.
STRATEGY 1	Provide a Crisis Stabilization Center as an effective alternative to care in the ER, to provide immediate stabilization, reduce costs, jail diversion, and reduce inpatient psychiatric interventions.
STRATEGY 2	Establish clinical aftercare plans for patients seen by the Brazos Valley mental health community.
STRATEGY 3	Establish community aftercare plans for patients seen by the Brazos Valley mental health community.

NEXT STEPS & SUSTAINABILITY

The BCHD and the BVHC will continue to lead the implementation of the CHIP. Over the next two years, BVHC members, through Task Groups, will work on meeting the goals derived from the priority issues.

The BVHC will employ an alternating monthly meeting agenda. One agenda will provide focused time for BVHC Task Groups to work on strategies towards meeting their designated goals and objectives. The second agenda will focus on Task Group reports on their progress and achievement to the entire BVHC membership, fostering opportunities for discussion and collaboration to meet goals and address priority issues. Timelines and agendas will be created by the Steering Committee and/or Task Group Leaders to facilitate this process.

In June 2024, the BVHC will begin work on the 2025 CHA. To develop a community-based assessment to address health issues, the BVHC will engage community partners in the following ways:

- Steering Committee members will work on the assessment design, timeline, and sponsors.
- BVHC members will invite pertinent community partners and agencies to be involved with the BVHC.
- BVHC will seek necessary funding through grant and partnership opportunities and develop a funding outreach Task Group to facilitate financial sustainability.
- BVHC members will provide feedback on the components of the CHA and determine the priority issues to be addressed in the CHIP.
- Task Groups will be formed from BVHC and other community partners to create goals, objectives, and project strategies to address the newly identified priority issues.

APPENDIX A: STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sara Mendez, DrPH, Texas A&M School of Public Health

Bill Poland, Brazos County Health District

Sarah Sanchez, Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol & Substance Abuse

Jillian Warriner, The REACH Project

Patricia Schoenemann, St. Joseph Regional Hospital

Alaina Jalufka, Brazos Valley Food Bank

APPENDIX B: BRAZOS VALLEY HEALTH COALITION MEMBER AGENCIES

3rd Day Treatment Center
Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach
Amerigroup Insurance
Angels of Care
Area Agency on Aging
Baylor Scott & White
Blinn College
Brazos County Health Department
St. Joseph Regional Hospital
Brazos Valley Care Coordination Program
Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living
Brazos Valley Community Action Programs
Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol & Substance Abuse
Brazos Valley Council of Governments
Brazos Valley Food Bank
Bryan Independent School District
Burleson Health Resource Center
Catholic Charities of Central Texas
CHI St. Joseph Health
Christ United Methodist Church
City of Bryan
City of College Station
College Station Independent School District
College Station Medical Center
Grimes Health Resource Center
Health For All, Inc.

HealthPoint
Hospice of Brazos Valley
La Hacienda
Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of the Brazos Valley
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Brazos Valley
Project Unity
REACH
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas
Scotty's House Child Advocacy Center
Sexual Assault Resource Center
Single Moms Created4Change
Somerville Independent School District
Strengthening Families of the Brazos Valley
Telehealth Counseling Clinic
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Texas A&M Health Science Center
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
Texas Department of State Health Services
Texas Health & Human Services Commission
Texas Medical Foundation Health Quality Institute
The Prenatal Clinic
Twin City Mission
United Health Care
United Way of the Brazos Valley
Wake Up, Aggieland
Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley

APPENDIX C: THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework that guides the work and the responsibility of the Brazos County Health District and the community it serves.

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets.
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health.
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health.
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health.
7. Ensure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy.
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce.
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement.
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

