

Putnam County

Forces of Change Assessment 2016-2017

The Forces of Change Assessment is designed to help determine what is occurring or might occur that affects the health of the community or the local public health system. Participants in the assessment were asked to identify specific threats or opportunities that are generated by these occurrences. Trends (patterns over time), factors (discrete elements such as a rural setting or population demographics) and events (one-time occurrences such as a natural disaster) are considered when reviewing the results of the Community Health Assessment as a whole and in determining priorities for the Community Health Improvement Plan.

The Forces of Change Assessment was conducted in January and February 2017. The members of the Partners for a Healthy Putnam County were asked to answer the following two questions through Survey Monkey:

- In thinking about forces of change – changes that are outside of your control – what is occurring or might occur that affects the health of community or the local public health system
- What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

Forces	Threats	Opportunities
Changes or Repeal of Affordable Care Act	-May increase the number of uninsured -Lack of healthcare for families -Hospitals may lose reimbursement if need to care for large uninsured population -Lack of preventable health care	-Healthcare may be more affordable
Aging population	-Health status of patients/residents can decline quickly	-More healthcare and personal care services needed
Heroin/Opiate/Other Drug/Alcohol Use	-Heroin/Opiate issues can lead to increase in morbidity and mortality for those affected -Alcohol use seems to be in the “culture” so difficult to make change	-People have come together to discuss solutions -Promote education -Increase awareness to all substance issues -Need services for drug treatment
Mental Health Counseling	-Minimal services available for mental health -Will healthcare reform affect availability of services? -How does mental health of parents affect children	-Provide treatment with employment as a goal -Focus on those most at-risk -More programs for children

Climate Change/Global Warming	-Increase in extreme weather such as floods, drought, tornadoes	-Advocate politically to reduce carbon emissions and increase recycling
Shortage of Workforce	-Industries may not come to Putnam County or stay here if cannot get workforce -Lack of health staff to employ -Immigration law changes could affect those that rely on migrant help	-Help with placement of employees -Immigrants fill jobs that others may not want to do
Legalization of marijuana	-Medical use legal now but may be recreational use in the future -Legal recreational use could lead to more overdoses in adults in children -Increase in “harder” drug use	-Business opportunities for legalized sale
Emerging new diseases	-Increase in drug-resistant bacteria -More superbugs -Leads to more diseases and death	-May be an opportunity for new treatments
Civil Unrest	-Facility not set up for civil unrest in community -People want to blame others for all issues -Rioting/Protest – not in Putnam County yet but are we ready if so?	-Should plan in case something happens here
Funding Changes (Putnam County Health Department)	-Grants are paid differently -Health department may be forced to decrease or make changes in activities	-Educate the community regarding the importance of health department services