



Grays Harbor County Public Health

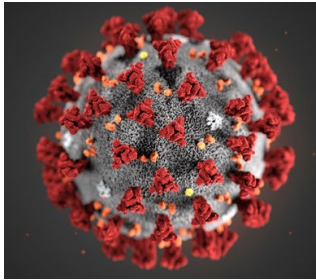
Where we've been, what we've learned and where we're headed

Mike McNickle, Director
Grays Harbor County Public Health

Where we were

The COVID years (2021-22)

Pandemic –
Boo!



Staff fatigue

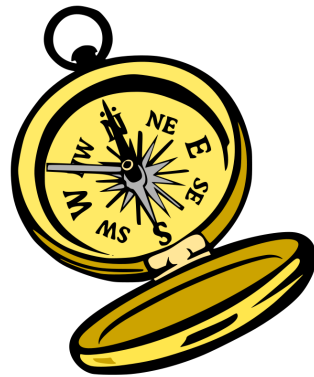


Community
fatigue



Noted lack of
service
provision due
to provider
shortage

No CHA/CHIP in
over a decade



No capacity for
“everyday” public health
work



Mistrust and misinformation obstacles

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
Public Health

What we've done

2022 through 2024

- Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan

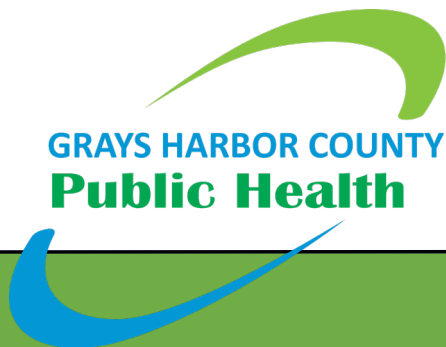


- Public Health Strategic Plan for 2022-2025
- Behavioral Health Gap Analysis
- Crisis Triage Plan
- Youth Services Gap Analysis
- Third Spaces Plan
- Mobile Medical Van
- ER peers with Summit Pacific Medical Center
- Partnered with Summit Pacific Medical Center for a mental health facility and services
- North Beach School-Based Health Center
- Many Homeless Housing Initiatives
- Initiated in-person visits in WIC and Reproductive Health Program
- Initiated a Diabetes Program
- And so much more!



Behavioral Health Gap Analysis

PREPARED FOR
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH



Top findings

CHA/CHIP

- Increase access to culturally appropriate behavioral and physical health providers.
- Expand access to healthy and physical activities.
- Increase access to safe and affordable housing.
- Increase culturally appropriate health communication and education.

CHILDHOOD SUPPORT SERVICES GAP ANALYSIS

- Provide smooth transitions of care between levels of services.
- Better access to childcare.
- Navigation support for families in need of resources.
- Access to basic needs.
- Recreational support for families.
- More formal connections to available services.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GAP ANALYSIS

- Increase availability of youth services.
- Provide a directory of resources within the community.
- Create a system that provides transportation to appointments.
- Develop anti-stigma education campaigns.
- Increase number of culturally diverse treatment providers to the region.

Top findings

THIRD SPACES PLAN

- A single space is not the answer to Grays Harbor County.
- Invest in coordination and collaboration – identify and support an anchor organization.
- Increase community education and raise up existing efforts.
- Create a Hub or Centralized Communication Place.
- Expand and deepen engagement with emerging/young adults.
- Reduce cost to existing resources through scholarships and expand access.

CRISIS TRIAGE PLAN

- In 2022, Grays Harbor:
 - Used more mobile crisis services than any other county in the five-county region.
 - As the third largest county in the region, utilization of 41% of the total usage for the region was a significant outlier.
 - Despite having a population that is 10% smaller than Lewis County, Grays Harbor regularly uses between 22 and 50% more crisis resources than its slightly larger neighbor (*Cowlitz*)
- Recommendations:
 - An EmPATH unit that is co-located at an existing medical facility with an emergency department
 - A Behavioral Health Urgent Care that is co-located at an existing medical facility with an emergency department.
 - Establishment of a multi-agency, cross sector familiar face or high user care coordination team would increase the level of support that individuals who frequently use the emergency department and have frequent contacts with law enforcement for behavioral health symptoms.

Strategic Plan Accomplishments

Healthy Families

- Published the Early Childhood Support Systems Gap Analysis.
- Creating a framework for a county-wide diaper bank network.
- Increased the number of families with young children enrolled in Parents as Teachers home visiting program and receiving Women, Infant and Children (WIC) nutrition and education services.

Healthy People

- Implementation of the School-based Health Center in the North Beach School District.
- Mobile Medical van
- Diabetes prevention/intervention programming.

Communications

- Translated key pages of the website into Spanish and created a standalone Spanish website.
- Increased social media presence (Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.).

Healthy Places

- Behavioral Health Resource Guide development and implementation.
- Crisis Triage Model design phase, completed November 2023.
- Applied for and received additional funds to support youth mental health promotion and suicide prevention.

Healthy Finances

- Balanced budgets
- Excellent audits
- Consistent contracts

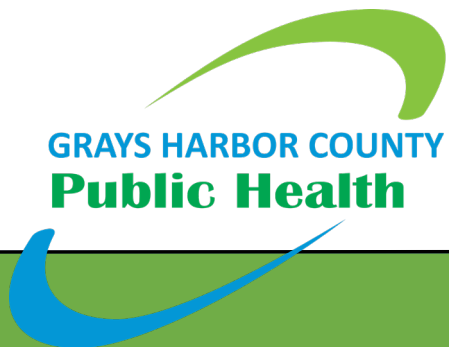
Where we're headed

January 2025 – Opioid Abatement Work

May 2025 – CHA/CHIP

August 2025 – Affordable Housing Summit

October 2025 – 3rd Annual Symposium



THANK
YOU!

