

Forces of Change Assessment

KANKAKEE COUNTY 2017



Acknowledgements

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Name	Organization
Torrie Carter	Presence St. Mary's Hospital
Tiffany DeRocco	United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
Aliza James	University of Illinois Intern
Shannon M. Jermal	Presence Health
Laura Sztuba	Kankakee County Health Department
Lindsay Wilson	Kankakee County Health Department

Mission Statement: We are committed to creating a healthy community through comprehensive assessments and the implementation of effective plans.



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Introduction

In 2017, the Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community continued to use the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process, for the third time since 2011, to develop a Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. MAPP is a community-driven strategic planning framework that aids communities in applying strategic thinking to prioritize public health issues in the community, and to identify resources to address these issues as defined by the 10 Essential Public Health Services. There are four assessments within the MAPP process, as shown in the graphic below.



One of the four assessments used in the MAPP framework is the Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA). The Forces of Change Assessment aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system.

Forces can be trends, factors, or events.

- **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.

During the FOCA, participants answer the following questions:

- What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?
- What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

Forces to be considered should include the following categories of influence:

- Social
- Economic
- Political
- Environmental
- Technological
- Ethical

- Legal
- Scientific

Assessment Methodology

On June 9, 2017, the Partnership for a Healthy Community emailed and invited key stakeholders in the community to participate in a FOCA survey through Survey Monkey to help identify the forces of change affecting Kankakee County's local public health system and the community. The survey included multiple choice questions and open-ended questions, with guided prompts, which was intended to help identify the different categories of forces of change. Although diverse community input was encouraged, an answer was not required for every question on the survey. The definition of the forces of change assessment as well as the definitions of trends, factors, and events, which could all be considered as forces, were given in the beginning of the survey.

During the survey, the participants were first asked to list any social, economic, political, legal, technological, environmental, ethical, or scientific forces that have recently occurred or may occur in the future (in the County, in Illinois, nationally or globally) and affect the local public health system or community. Next, the participants were asked to choose the most impactful force, the second most impactful force, and the third most impactful force on the community from the forces they had listed previously. They were also asked to identify any threats or opportunities associated with the top three forces they selected. The participants were also asked a question about the health equity of all the forces they identified addressing if these forces will positively or negatively impact equal opportunity for health and access to care based on gender, race, socioeconomic status, etc.

The survey was open to anyone who lived or worked in Kankakee County. Recipients had until June 30, 2017 to complete the survey, giving them a total of 21 days. Survey results were analyzed by the FOCA subcommittee and used to determine the top identified forces.

At the conclusion of the FOCA survey, an evaluation of the methodology was completed. Two surveys were generated by a student intern and sent to the subcommittee that worked on the FOCA, as well as those who completed the FOCA survey and had also provided their email for follow-up. Survey results were analyzed for future recommendations to the FOCA.

Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) Executive Summary

The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) survey elicited broad community input to identify forces of change impacting the local public health system in Kankakee County. Community members reported on current trends, events, and factors that may have implications on the local public health system and quality of life for Kankakee County residents. The Forces of Change Assessment participants also addressed threats and opportunities posed by each of the three major forces they identified.

An analysis of the forces reported by community members through the FOCA survey identified these seven forces that came up more frequently than others in the responses of the top three most impactful forces that were identified by the participants.

- Health coverage concerns (force that was most commonly identified by the participants)
- Lack of jobs/ high unemployment rate in Kankakee County
- Local and state fiscal challenges
- Substance abuse
- Increasing crime rate and gun violence
- Mental health
- Increasing use of technology

Although most of these forces are external influences and cannot be avoided, the survey participants identified many opportunities for each force, which can potentially create positive changes in Kankakee County regarding the issues at hand. Below are some of the notable opportunities that were mentioned for the main forces identified above.

Forces of Change	Opportunities
Changes to health insurance	Increase opportunities to contact legislators and provide more voter education.
	Develop additional programs for uninsured and find a way to provide low cost clinic care including primary care.
Lack of Jobs/ unemployment in Kankakee County	Focus on utilizing resources and advantages of the County to attract high paying jobs and increase opportunities for young college grads from the community.
	Investigate how other communities have flourished.

Local and state fiscal challenges	Find alternative funding sources for community programs other than the government
	Increase collaboration among community leaders and organizations and manage available resources.
Substance abuse	Create more rehabilitation services free to those suffering from addictions.
	Collaborate on prevention strategies for youth.
Increasing crime rate and gun violence	Increase opportunities for County's youth to work in public services jobs that help teach empathy, self-reliance, and self worth.
	Offer educational opportunities and increase availability of jobs in order to eliminate the social/economic root cause of crimes.
	Create neighborhood watch groups, create partnerships and strengthen relationships with law enforcement.
Mental health	Increase opportunities for more affordable treatments prior to entering the criminal justice system.
	Increase outreach and expansion of mental health services.
	Increase collaboration of local hospitals to find mental health solutions at a community level.
Increasing use of technology	Create an efficient medical system for people living in rural areas that cannot travel far to see a provider.
	Provide additional technology for the underserved community.

The FOCA and the other three MAPP assessments are key resources in identifying and prioritizing health issues in Kankakee County. The issues identified through FOCA, as well as the opportunities stemming from them, will inform future strategic planning in Kankakee County to improve the health and overall quality of life of Kankakee County residents.

Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) Process

The FOCA survey was developed, tested, and emailed on June 9th, 2017 to stakeholders in the Kankakee County community, who were identified by the FOCA subcommittee. The email included a brief prompt explaining what the Partnership for a Healthy Community is, a description of the MAPP framework and the four assessments included in it, and how long it takes to complete the survey (the survey link email prompt is shown in Appendix A). An opportunity to participate in a \$25 gift card drawing was offered to all those who completed the survey.

In this survey, Kankakee County community members who live and/or work in Kankakee County were asked to identify the forces of change impacting Kankakee County community and public health system using eight categories of forces. Then, the participants were asked to identify the top three most impactful forces among the forces they had previously stated along with any threats and opportunities that were associated with their top three forces.

An issue was noted on June 23rd that the FOCA survey link email was not sent to the Riverside Medical Center because of a glitch in the email system. The email was resent to Riverside and there was discussion about extending the survey deadline to accommodate for this issue, but many of the Riverside Medical Center stakeholders were able to complete the survey by June 30th, making it possible to stick with the original timeline. Although 147 respondents started the survey, only 41 respondents completed the survey. This amount of responses still exceeded our initial goal of 40 responses. Below are the participating agencies, and results.

Participants

The names and contact information of those who completed the survey was collected in order to do the \$25 gift card drawing but those names will not be listed in this report. However, the respondents of the FOCA 2017 survey represented these following agencies.

- Catholic Charities
- Hospice of Kankakee Valley
- Jerome Combs Detention Center
- Judiciary
- Kankakee City Police Department
- Kankakee County Coalition Against Sexual Assault (KC-CASA)
- Kankakee County Branch NAACP
- Kankakee County Health Department
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Presence St. Mary's Hospital
- Riverside Medical Center
- Self-employed
- State of Illinois
- Village of Manteno
- United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois County
- Zip-Pak

Results

Part I of the Survey: The table below contains the forces of change that were identified for each of the eight categories in Part I of the survey.

Social	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable housing • Changing demographics of the population • Drug addiction, gang violence • Activism against Planned Parenthood • Patient satisfaction surveys affecting provider reimbursement • Decrease in educational resources • Lack of health insurance • Morbidity and mortality due to chronic diseases • Change in family dynamic • Increasing mental health issues • Media and social media • Unemployment and poverty • Catholic school and church changes (mergers) • State and local funding issues • Increase in access to goods and services in Kankakee County • Increased awareness of the lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, questioning (LGTBQ) community • Accessibility for isolated, impoverished residents • Politics/government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of jobs/ unemployment rates • Companies leaving Kankakee County • Increasing poverty levels • State budget crisis • Changes to US healthcare plan • Decrease in funding in mental health services • Families dependent on social services • High percentage of food insecurity • Lack of resources and inequitable distribution for the education system • Lack of affordable housing • Lack of prenatal care • Higher rate of children eligible for free or reduced lunch higher than in Illinois and the US • High taxes
Political	Technological
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption in politics • Fake newspaper articles • Healthcare changes • State budget crisis/politicians that are unable to collaborate or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of transportation • Increase in internet availability • Availability of patient information via the internet (My Chart) • Increased documentation

<p>compromise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of regulation in marketing of tobacco products • Local political changes/new Mayor in Kankakee/new State’s Attorney/ changes in County Board makeup • Pending laws related to mandatory drug testing tied to eligibility of benefits • Changes in national government/new President • Unethical laws • Lack of public trust in government • Negative political climate – increased benefits for the wealthy while decreasing benefits for middle and low income 	<p>(electronic medical record) taking time away from patients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber crime • Expensive • Lack of current health status data for Kankakee County • Medicaid and changes at state and federal levels • Need for implementation of new technologies in the medical/public health setting • Inadequate access & training of technology • Closing of factories and grocery stores • Social media causing distractions, disengagement, lack of communication • Significant advances in technology offer great promise for better and more cost effective care/telemedicine • Outdated systems in Illinois
<p>Environmental</p>	<p>Scientific</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in violence and crimes • Global warming • Increase use of chemicals in crops • Possible building of GLB railroad station in Manteno, IL • Lack of awareness • Pollution and water contamination • Need for expansion of nutrition promotion, health, and wellness education in schools • Transportation Issues • Poor housing • Opioid abuse increasing • Protection of the Kankakee river • Rural communities that inhibit access • Big business and less regulation creates additional issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New trends in medicine, and new discoveries • New technologies/ treatments not being available due to insurance regulations • Lack of research around specific health issues • Cost of prescriptions too high • Increasing focus on prevention and community and availability of information on evidence-based practice • Energy efficiency technology targeted genomic medicine, digital communications and scientific developments that today sound like science fiction will likely be commonplace. • Cloning

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased flooding • New bike path • Riverfront trail preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of global warming • Increasing antibiotic resistance • Robots replacing humans in the workplace
Legal	Ethical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget cuts • Individuals in need of legal advice • Immigration issues/fear of deportation leading to not seeking help for injuries or abuse • Lack of trust in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. • Ongoing litigation for regulation of e-cigarette devices. • New State's Attorney • Increasing gun violence and other crimes • Increasing death from drug overdoses • Reduction in police officers • Health care reform • Better treatment needed for drug offenders and those suffering prior to entering the criminal justice system. • Sugary beverage tax • Tobacco free park district (Bourbonnais) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to care for the uninsured and underinsured • Corruption • Lack of understanding of and recognition of importance of public health practices and programs • Communication gaps with limited-English • Lack of physical activity & nutrition • Not treating the root of the problems in the county • Increased financial pressure on hospitals • New technology and economic forces • High rate of drug overdoses • Lack of values and morals • Arresting and incarcerating those with mental health issues • Equitable health care, family medical leave • Immigration reform

Part II: Part II of the FOCA Survey asked respondents to identify their top three most impactful forces and the threats and opportunities associated with these forces. The top responses to these questions from Part II are shown below starting with the most frequently occurred response.

- Health coverage concerns (force most commonly identified by the participants)
- Lack of jobs/high unemployment rate in Kankakee County
- Local and state fiscal challenges
- Substance abuse
- Increasing crime rate and gun violence
- Mental health

- Increasing use of technology

Part III: Part III of the FOCA survey addressed the health equity of the forces identified asking, “Please explain if any of the forces listed will impact (positively or negatively) equal opportunity for health and access to care based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and/or education level?” Twenty-nine out of the total thirty-six responses to this question stated that the forces would negatively impact certain groups more than the others.

Forces of Change Assessment Conclusion

After reviewing the FOCA survey results, the FOCA Subcommittee was able to utilize broad community input and refine the data into seven crosscutting themes (listed below). These themes will be used to guide future strategic planning in the MAPP process and throughout Kankakee County initiatives.

- Health coverage concerns
- Lack of jobs/high unemployment rate in Kankakee County
- Local and state fiscal challenges
- Substance abuse
- Increasing crime rate and gun violence
- Mental health
- Increasing use of technology

Appendix A: Survey Link Email Prompt

Dear Stakeholder,

The Partnership for a Healthy Community was established between the Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health, the Hispanic Partnership, the Kankakee County Health Department, Presence St Mary's Hospital, Riverside Medical Center, and the United Way to conduct routine health assessments of the Kankakee County community, identify priority health issues, and identify strategies to address these health issues. The Partnership uses the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) process to conduct community assessments every 3 years, and is currently in the community assessment phase of the MAPP process. There are four assessments that are included in the MAPP process:

Community Health Status Assessment- Provides information on how healthy we are as a community.

Forces of Change Assessment- Identifies what is, or might soon occur that impacts the health of the community.

Local Public Health System Assessment- Examines how well our local public health system is meeting the needs of the community.

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment- Identifies how residents view their community, and how it can be improved.

To thoroughly assess the **Forces of Change** within our community the Partnership has created a survey, and has identified you as a key stakeholder in the MAPP assessment process to complete this survey. Your experience within this community will provide the detailed information the Partnership needs to identify all **Forces of Change** that impact this community.

Please click on the following link to complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XGF7NDN>

This survey will require approximately **10 to 15** minutes of your time. You will have the opportunity to provide your contact information to be involved in other upcoming MAPP assessments, including the Local Public Health System assessment (Save the Date attached). You will also have the opportunity to be entered into a drawing for a gift card as a *thank you* for your time. Please share this link with other stakeholders you feel would have equal insight into the impacting Kankakee County.

Please complete this survey by June 30, 2017

We value your commitment to the health of our community.

Please email Laura at lsztuba@kankakeehealth.org for any questions about this survey or the MAPP process.

Sincerely,

Laura Sztuba, MSN, RN, PHNA-BC

Director of Community Outreach and Planning

Kankakee County Health Department

2390 W Station Street

Kankakee, IL 60901

Appendix B: Survey Questions

This **Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA)** aims to identify all the forces and associated opportunities and threats that can affect, either now or in the future, the local public health system. Forces may be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal and/or ethical in nature.

Forces can be trends, factors or events.

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.

During the FOCA, participants answer the following questions:

What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of our community or the local public health system?

What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

Part I: Identify all Forces of Changes in Kankakee County

1. Check one statement.

- a. I live in Kankakee County.
- b. I work in Kankakee County.
- c. I live and work in Kankakee County.
- d. I do not live or work in Kankakee County.

Please list all forces of changes, outside of your control, that affect the local public health system or community that has occurred recently or may occur in the future. What forces, trends, and/or characteristics are occurring locally in Kankakee County? In Illinois? Nationally? Globally?

2. Social Forces:

3. Economic Forces:

4. Political Forces:

5. Technological Forces:

6. Environmental Forces:

7. Scientific Forces:

8. Legal Forces:

9. Ethical Forces:

Part II: Rank Priority of Identified Forces and Identify Threats and Opportunities of Each Force

In this section, please rank the top 3 forces (of all the forces you identified in part one) based on how much impact you feel each force has on the health of the Kankakee County community (#1 has the most impact on the health of the Kankakee County community, #2 has the second most impact, and #3 has the third most impact).

Then, please identify threats and opportunities that arise from each force listed.

10. **#1 Force** (Most Impactful on the Health of the Kankakee County Community)

Force:

What threats are posed with this force?

What opportunities arise from that threat?

11. **#2 Force** (Second Most Impactful on the Health of the Kankakee County Community)

Force:

What threats are posed with this force?

What opportunities arise from that threat?

12. **#3 Force** (Third Most Impactful on the Health of the Kankakee County Community)

Force:

What threats are posed with this force?

What opportunities arise from that threat?

Part III. Health Equity

13. Please explain if any of the forces listed will impact (positively or negatively) equal opportunity for health and access to care based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and/or education level?

Contact Information

14. Please list the organization and program you work for in Kankakee County.

a. Organization

b. Program

15. Contact Information

Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

16. I would like to participate in the Local Public Health System Assessment meeting on September 29th.

Yes

No

17. Add me in the gift card drawing.

Yes

No

