KANKAKEE COUNTY
FORCES OF CHANGE ASSESSMENT
2021

Acknowledgements

The Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community would like to acknowledge and thank the many individuals and organizations that contributed their valuable time and expertise to this report.

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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 2020, the Kankakee County Partnership for a Healthy Community continued to use the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process, for the fourth 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
- Legal
- Environmental
- Technological
- Ethical
- Scientific

Assessment Methodology

In October 6th, 2020, the Partnership for a Healthy Community emailed and invited key stakeholders in the community to participate in a FOCA survey though 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 force that has recently occurred or may occur in the future (in the County, in Illinois, nationally or globally) and can 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. The survey link recipients had until February 26th, 2021 to complete the survey, giving them a total of 5 months. Survey results were analyzed by the FOCA Subcommittee and used to determine the top identified forces. A total of 23 complete surveys were used for this assessment.

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. FOCA 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 forces that came up more frequently than others in the responses of the top three most impactful forces that were identified by the participants.

- Lack of trust in policymakers and science
- Job and insurance loss due to the pandemic
- COVID-19 social impacts
- Lack of access to healthcare
- Racial divisions and inequality
- Mental health
- Increasing use of virtual technology
- Educational opportunities

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
Lack of trust in policymakers and science	Provide resources to creditable non-bias news sources.
	Educate the community on the facts surrounding COVID-19 vaccinations and guidelines.
Job and insurance loss due to the pandemic	Support small businesses that are struggling due to the pandemic.
	Create more jobs within the community including those with advancement opportunities and competitive benefits.
COVID-19 social impacts	Utilizing technology to stay connected, provide telehealth services, sustain education and workforce.
Lack of access to healthcare	Assist underserved areas to reduce barriers to access to care (transportation methods, insurance options, affordable treatment options).

	Open new healthcare facilities in underserved areas to make care physically accessible.
	Allocate more funding into healthcare.
Racial divisions and inequality	Work together as a community to acknowledge racial disparities and adjust actions.
	Engage the community in racial and cultural sensitivity training opportunities.
Mental health	Increase opportunities for more affordable treatments.
	Increase outreach and support programs for community members to support each other.
	Reduce stigma behind seeking mental healthcare.
Increasing use of virtual technology	Utilize telehealth for people living in rural areas that cannot travel far to see a provider.
	Provide additional technology for the underserved and rural areas.
Educational opportunities	Provide resources for students and others who are struggling to navigate technology.
	Educate the community on effective ways to live a healthy life with a focus on preventative care.

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) Results

The FOCA survey was developed, tested, and emailed on October 6th[th], 2020 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.

Although 118 respondents started the survey, only 23 respondents completed the survey. 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 2021 survey represented these following agencies.

- AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital
- Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School
- Easterseals Jumpstart Home Visiting Program
- Economic Alliance of Kankakee County
- Garden of Prayer Youth Center
- Kankakee High School District 111
- Kankakee Community College
- Kankakee County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Kankakee County Health Department
- Kankakee Valley Symphony board member
- Kankakee Workforce
- Local Government
- Manteno Police Department
- Maternity BVM Church, Bourbonnais
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Pembroke Public Library District
- Project SUN
- Riverside Medical Center
- Zip-Pak

Results

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
- Community violence and police brutality - Changes due to COVID-19, such as isolation, social distancing, online schooling, and work - Technology advances due to being online because of COVID-19 - Lack of access to technology for rural and underserves areas - Unemployment rates and businesses struggling due to COVID-19 shutdown - Stigmas related to reaching out for mental health-related medical assistance - Social norms changing due to COVID-19 guidelines - Stigma behind receiving government assistance. - LGBTQ+ community and normalizing different gender roles. - Political divisions, protests, and disputes on social media - New social media platforms - Spreading of inaccurate information on the internet - Inadequate education plans and lack of support with going virtual - In need of community outreach programs, daycare, aging healthcare, and recreation centers.	- Job and insurance loss due to COVID-19 - Businesses closing due to the pandemic and because of online competition - School closings and additional childcare resources during the pandemic - State and Federal legislations due to pandemic such as stimulus checks - Prevalent homeless population - Economic struggles due to the pandemic are impacting mental health - High taxes - Increased poverty level - Inadequate workforce & lack of jobs with advancement opportunities - State budgeting will affect the social services vitality - Need for increase workforce insurance plans & benefits to retain workers
Political	**Technological**
- Presidential election; tense political climate & divisions - Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and political unrest; Challenges with equality, diversity, and accessibility - Lack of separation of Politics and science - COVID-19 related policies, such as mask mandates	- Lack of technology accessibility - Lack of transportation - False information spreading during the election and pandemic - Virtual technology introduction - Technology has taken away some interpersonal skills & reduce physical activity - Telehealth is becoming more prevalent

• Policy issues causing lack of healthcare accessibility • Funding is not being allocated well by government officials • People are not informed how to advocate for themselves and their community	• Digital divide with poor access for rural and underserved areas. • Need for cyber-security to prevent hacking, identity theft, cyber-bullying, or spreading false information • Children are learning remotely with parents who may be working and unable to help them
Environmental	**Scientific**
• Global warming, pollution, and climate change • Increases in flooding • Residents location is impacting their access to food or water • Need to advance green initiatives including sustainability, local food, solar energy, wind energy. • COVID-19 building regulations and access to PPE • Issues with access to clean drinking water; Drying of wells in rural areas • Poor life expectancy and health status in low-income neighborhoods • The homeless population need aid during the winter months	• COVID-19 regulations • COVID-19 vaccine distribution • Lack of health education for underserved areas • Lack of separation between politics and science • Advances in healthcare, such as telehealth, new technology, and methods to treat COVID-19 • Mistrust in public health and medicine due to false claims
Legal	**Ethical**
• Mistrust in the police force • People of color not getting fair treatment within our legal system • Fear due to immigration status is deterring people from obtaining legal assistance or medical care • Lack of support for domestic issues regarding divorce, domestic violence, and child support • Lack of updated public policies causing panic when a crisis occurs • COVID-19 regulations • Inequality in availability to obtain legal services or support • Poor advocacy for seniors and children in foster care	• Disparities amongst death rates (people of color having high COVID-19 death rates) • Privacy concerns with patient information and protected data • The political climate has blurred the line of right and wrong • Not teaching ethics in school and lack of mentors (No ethical guidance) • Divisions amongst different races, political parties, and religions • Individuals only caring about themselves; ignoring guidelines and negatively impacting the well-being of the community

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.

- Lack of trust in policymakers and science
- Job and insurance loss due to the pandemic
- COVID-19 Impacts (social distancing, masks, vaccinations, closing small businesses)
- Lack of access to resources (healthcare, nutrition, and technology)
- Racial divisions and inequality
- Mental health
- Increasing use of virtual technology
- Educational opportunities

Part III of the Survey

Part III of the 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?"

Seventeen out of the total twenty-three responses mentioned an issue that would negatively impact certain groups more than the others.

Majority of the responses did not clearly state if they believed the forces were "negative" or "positive" in their responses. Most responses explained how issues could be resolved. This demonstrates that the respondents may have been confused on what the question was asking.

Below are the top responses on factors that impact health equity:

- There is a need for the community to become more united
- Better job opportunities and insurance options can make healthcare more equitable and accessible
- There are disparities amongst people of color and people with low socioeconomic status in relation to access to health care
- There is need for equitable health and wellness education
- There is a need for equitable access to nutritious food in schools and homes
- Employees should have training on topics that involve the LGBTQ+ community and communities of color

Forces of Change Assessment Conclusion & Evaluation

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

- Lack of trust in policymakers and science
- Job and insurance loss due to the pandemic
- COVID-19 social impacts
- Lack of access to healthcare

- Racial divisions and inequality
- Mental health
- Increasing use of virtual technology
- Educational opportunities

118 surveys were opened, of those surveys, 59 were incomplete, 34 were duplicates, 2 were from individuals who did not work or live in Kankakee County, and only 23 were fully completed. From evaluating the survey results, below are areas for improvement to increase the quantity and quality of the responses.

Methodology Suggestions:
Survey Monkey does not display data trends for short-response questions; therefore, responses need to be manually entered into an excel sheet to be analyzed. For efficiency purposes, other survey software options should be considered for the next survey, such as Google Forms. Additionally, there needed to be set parameters on how many questions need to be answered for a survey to be considered complete as well as if the use of incomplete responses should be used in the data collection. Lastly, if indicated that someone does not live or work in Kankakee, they should be blocked from continuing the survey.

Email Prompt Suggestions:
The email prompt for the survey states the survey will take 10-15 minutes, which is a low estimate. Some of the more in-depth responses took upwards of 40 mins to complete. There should be a more accurate time estimate to ensure the individual allows enough time to finish. Additionally, it should be clear there will be only one gift card/survey submission per individual, and that individual needs to either work or live in Kankakee County.

Survey Suggestions:
The survey needs to be shortened and include multiple-choice elements as possible. The use of multiple components to be answered under one question appears to be overwhelming for the respondents. In survey Parts 2 and 3, many responses in these two sections were incomplete or did not have direct answers due the use of multiple components.

Overview of Suggested Changes:

- Set clear expectations in the email prompt:
    - Regarding how long the survey will take
    - Stating only one gift card/survey submission per individual and individuals need to either work or live in Kankakee County to participate in the survey
- People who indicate they do not live or work in Kankakee should not be able to continue the survey
- The survey needs to be shortened and include multiple-choice elements
- There should not be multiple components to be answered under one question (such as question 13)
- Explore other survey software options for efficiency purposes
- Set parameters as to what qualifies as a complete survey

Appendix A: Survey Link Email Prompt

Good afternoon,

To thoroughly assess the forces impacting community health in Kankakee County, The Partnership for a Health Community has created a brief survey. You have been identified as a key stakeholder, and your experience will provide the information needed to identify forces of change that impact this community. **Please take 10 to 15 minutes to help us determine what forces impact community health.**

Please click on the following link to complete this survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCFOCA2020

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, AMITA Health St Mary's Hospital, Riverside Medical Center, and United Way of Kankakee and Iroquois Counites to conduct routine health assessments of the Kankakee County community, identify priority health issues, and identify strategies to address these health issues.

Please complete this survey by Friday, February 26th

We value your commitment to the health of our community.

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 l 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? Please address all 3 questions in your answer.

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? Please address all 3 questions in your answer.

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? Please address all 3 questions in your answer.

Part III. Health Equity

13. Please explain if any of the forces you listed in parts I and/or II will (positively or negatively) impact equal opportunity for health and access to care based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion and/or education level? What patterns of decisions, policies, investments, rules and laws affect the health of our community? Who benefits? Who is harmed? What interests support or oppose actions that contribute to health equity? What forces now and in the future can reinforce health inequity in our community? How can we mitigate or prevent these forces?

Contact Information

14. Please list the organization and program you work for in Kankakee County.
a. Organization
b. Program

15. Please provide your contact information.**Note: Must provide contact information to be considered for the gift card drawing.

Name:
Email Address:
Phone Number:

16. I would like to participate in the Local Public Health System Assessment .Conducting the Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA), answers the following questions: What are the activities, competencies, and capacities of the local public health system? How are the 10 Essential Public Health Services being provided to the community?

Yes / No

17. Please include me in the drawing for a $25 gift card for a local Kankakee County restaurant. **Must Complete Contact Section

 Yes /   No