

Community Health Improvement Plan 2020

Update April 2022

OUR VISION

Empowering all individuals, families and communities to pursue healthy behaviors, and enhance physical environments, for improved mental, physical, spiritual, and social health and wellness. Assuring an environment where communities flourish and people are connected.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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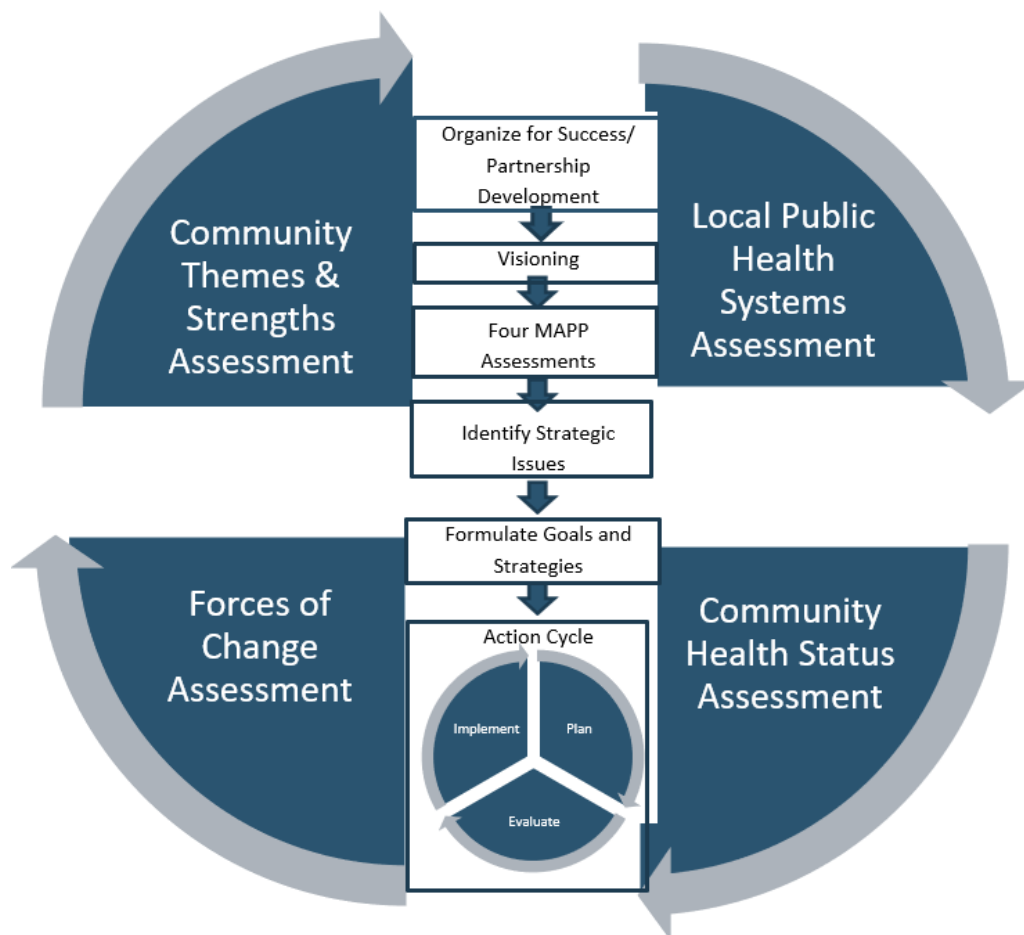
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Background

Beginning in 2019, Two Rivers Public Health Department embarked on a process to complete a robust community health assessment by asking community partners to complete a Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process in tandem with a community health needs assessment.

Two Rivers Public Health Department completed this process in December 2020 through approval of Community Health Improvement Plan 2020 by the district Board of Health. Approval of a Community Health Improvement Plan is the first step in completing the goals outlined in the document. This report will recall the goals created through the MAPP process and the actions taken toward addressing the goals named by the report.

TRPHD’s Board of Health approved the initial iteration of this plan December 1st, 2020. On December 16th, the Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the first COVID-19 vaccine. Two Rivers Public Health Department continued efforts toward the outlined goals but needed to adjust how efforts were completed while coordinating vaccination administration. An update to the work completed toward CHIP priorities was completed during April 2021.

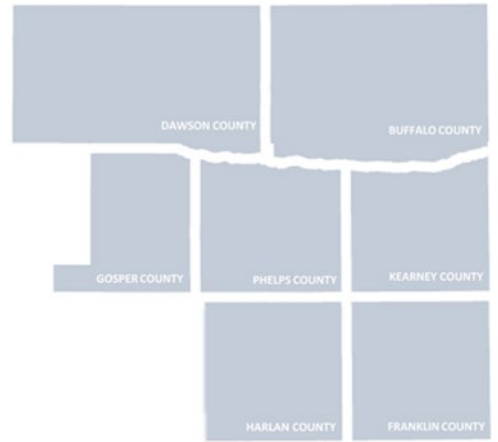


TRPHD continues to work within the action cycle of the MAPP process. The Action Cycle links three activities—Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation. Each of these activities builds upon the others in a

continuous and interactive manner. While the Action Cycle is the final phase of the CHA/CHIP, it is by no means the "end" of the process.

Our District

Two Rivers Public Health Department serves Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps counties in south central Nebraska.



Geography: The district covers approximately 4663 square miles.

The Republican River runs through the southern section of the district, and the Platte River runs along the northern area of the district. A small branch of the Loup River flows through the northern portion of the district. The central region of the district is largely cropland. Both the northern and the southern areas of the district tend to be used as grazing land for cattle.

Health Systems: There are nine health systems, one standalone surgical center, and one psychiatric unit across the Two Rivers Public Health District. Seven hospitals are classified as critical access hospitals, while two are short term acute care hospitals. The hospitals are as follows:

County	Hospital Name	City	Facility Type
Buffalo	CHI Health Good Samaritan	Kearney	Acute Care
Buffalo	CHI Health Richard Young Behavioral Health	Kearney	Psychiatric Hospital
Buffalo	Kearney Ambulatory Surgical Center	Kearney	Acute Care
Buffalo	Kearney Regional Medical Center- Bryan Health	Kearney	Acute Care
Dawson	Cozad Community Hospital	Cozad	Critical Access
Dawson	Gothenburg Memorial Hospital	Gothenburg	Critical Access
Dawson	Lexington Regional Health Center	Lexington	Critical Access
Phelps	Phelps Memorial Health Center	Holdrege	Critical Access
Kearney	Kearney County Health Services	Minden	Critical Access
Harlan	Harlan County Health System	Alma	Critical Access
Franklin	Franklin County Memorial Hospital	Franklin	Critical Access

Rural vs. Urban: The majority of the population is near the I-80 corridor. The largest urban areas are Holdrege (~5,439 people), Lexington (~10,024 people), and Kearney (~33,835 people). The total population of the district is approximately 97,284. This shows that about 51% of the population in the district live in three cities, while the remaining is rurally located.

Linkages to Strategic Planning

TRPHD recently completed a Strategic Planning process and implemented a plan for 2022-2025. This plan further emphasizes the need for specific actions by the health department. The four strategic goals are:

- Strengthen collaboration and increase service availability
- Improved access to care for underserved populations
- Enable sustainable organizational systems and infrastructure

- Become a trusted resource for local data

These strategic goals enhance TRPHD's ability to further address the priorities noted in the CHIP emphasizing the need to link individuals to care through collaboration with partners. Data collection will help provide direction to each priority.

Access to Care

This community health improvement priority has allowed TRPHD to seek and apply for funding that directly addresses work toward communities experiencing disparities. TRPHD is actively working within the following grants to address this objective: Minority Health Initiatives (NE DHHS), CDC Health Disparities (NE DHHS), and Partnering for Vaccine Equity (NACCHO).

Improved Education Objective:

TRPHD will create a communication committee within the next 30 days to discuss the best system for consistent messaging (Joint Information Center-like). Ideally the collaborative group will run a targeted media campaign by [January] and evaluate the efficacy of the first campaign for improvement.

Improved Education Update:

TRPHD formed a Minority Advisory Committee to help direct educational efforts during the autumn of 2021. This committee has worked together to provide several educational efforts in the community. Through this committee, TRPHD collaborated with Total Care Nebraska to provide a training called Cultural Competence: Moving from Cultural Competence to Humility, and COVID-19 vaccine billboards located in Cozad, Kearney, and Minden.

During October, November, and December 2021, TRPHD staff conducted a small assessment of the factors affecting our minority community. This assessment included a survey, focus group discussions, and analysis of census data. The outcomes of this study show:

- Physical and systemic barriers to care included:
 - **Lack of easy transportation** options to healthcare facilities, especially for specialized care
 - **Language barrier to access healthcare.**
 - **Inadequacy of insurance coverage** and the gap between insured and uninsured persons
- Socioeconomic barriers to healthcare were:
 - **Financial,**
 - **Men, in general tended to avoid visiting the doctor**
 - **Undocumented immigrants were less likely to access care** because of a hesitation to engage with the system,
 - **Healthcare provision might be racially influenced,** and that care provided to persons of color might be less comprehensive than that offered to other patients
- Specific health problems:
 - the lack of:

- **Dental** services in the region,
- **Pediatric** care
- Specialized multi-lingual **mental health services**

Improved Education SMARTIE Objective:

TRPHD will complete at least one multilingual educational campaign by December 31st, 2022 within one of the categories suggested by partners: physical and mental health, domestic violence, or access to dental care.

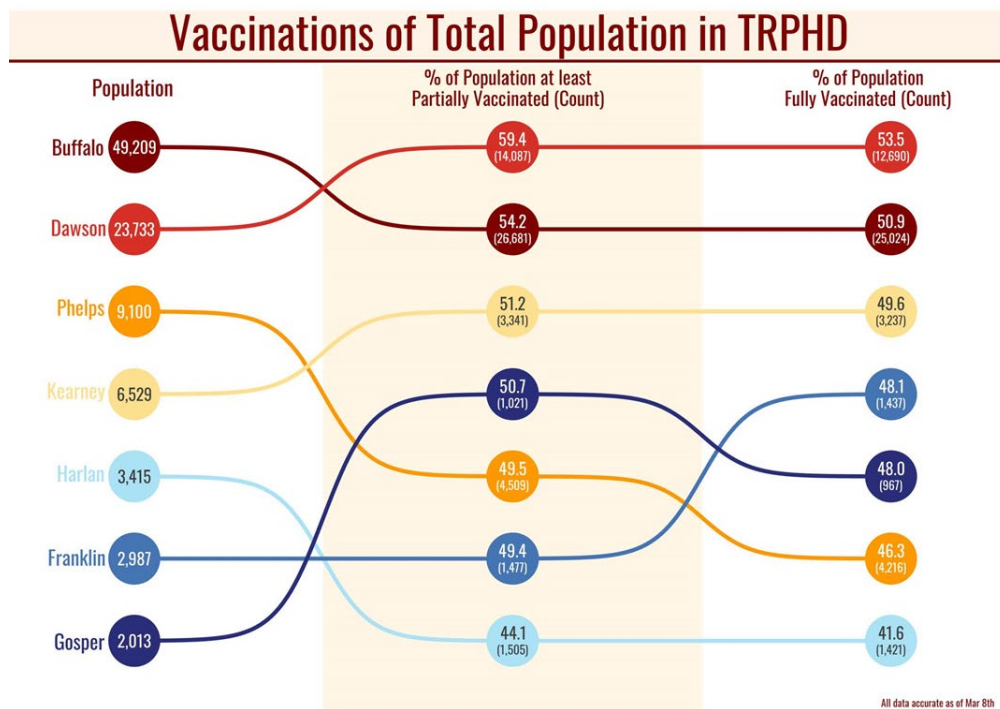
Increasing Vaccination Rates Objective:

TRPHD and partners will increase initial education efforts and build rapport with our community to encourage our community to appropriately use and follow approved vaccine schedules according to individual needs within the next 30 days.

Increasing Vaccination Rates Update:

Much of the focus of funding at this time is directed toward both COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations. Much of this work focuses on partnerships with local clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies. TRPHD continues to distribute COVID-19 vaccine to any clinic in need of vaccine. To date, many partners are unable to meet the minimum orders of vaccine.

TRPHD plans to work with local businesses and clinical partners to ensure both COVID-19 and flu vaccines are easier to access and available at convenient locations like workplaces and community locations.



Vaccination Rate SMARTIE Objectives:

TRPHD will utilize grant funding to increase COVID-19 and flu vaccinations in all communities throughout the district by December 31st, 2022.

TRPHD will gather vaccination data to assess vaccination rates for non-COVID-19 vaccines in the district by December 31st, 2022.

Safe Environment

Assess Current Efforts Occurring Locally

Due to the focused coordination of vaccine administration among TRPHD and local partners, this objective will be extended to 6 months to thoroughly investigate and assess local efforts to address safe housing. TRPHD will attend the Buffalo County Housing & Emerging Issues Taskforce to gain knowledge of efforts in the Buffalo County area.

Effort Assessment Update:

TRPHD has identified several community groups who are integral through the referral pathways. Groups currently attended by TRPHD are:

- Buffalo County Community Response Team
- Buffalo County Housing and Emerging Issues Taskforce
- Lexington Interagency Meeting
- Local Impact Meeting- hosted by NEMA
- Unconnected Youth

These groups use referral networks like UniteUs, and internal collaboration to submit individuals and families to programs like USDA grants, the Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska weatherization program, and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief groups.

Safe Environment SMARTIE Objective:

TRPHD will leverage partnerships with local service providers to improve access to safe environment continuously. Notable partnerships to utilize include: water testing through natural resource districts, addressing substandard housing through South Central Economic Development District and Community Action Partnership, and identifying substandard housing through community service officers.

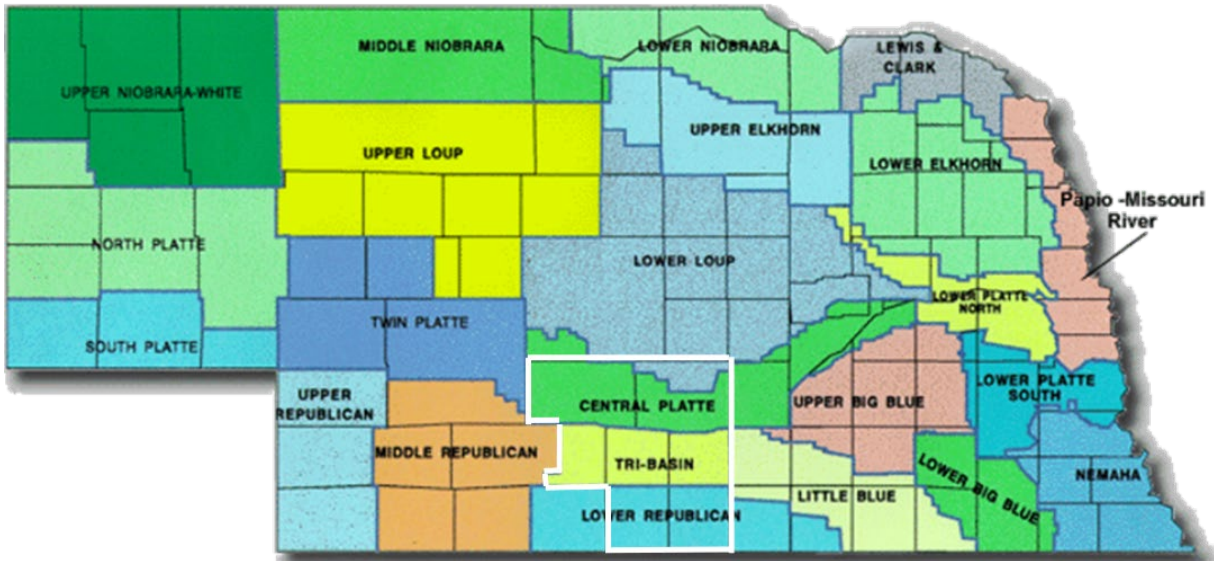


Image above: Map of Natural Resource Districts in Nebraska. Two Rivers Public Health District is outlined in white.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Objective

TRPHD collaborates with local behavioral health Regions 2 and 3, especially the Nebraska Strong program, to share information immediately and improve access to mental and behavioral health resources locally. TRPHD will help both regions address the stigma associated with cost of care and perception of those accessing care.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Update;

TRPHD continues to work with both Region 2 & 3 Behavioral Health to connect individuals to needed mental health care. The Nebraska Strong grant ended, during autumn 2021, but other programs continue to address behavioral health needs during the pandemic.

TRPHD joined with several partners to promote the MyLink Application which helps connect individuals to services in Central Nebraska. This phone application is available in 6 languages and refers individuals to services available locally with contact information.

Mental Health and Suicide SMARTIE Objective:

TRPHD will continuously cultivate partnerships with suicide prevention coalitions such as: McKenna's Rae of Hope, Society of Care, and Region 2 & 3 Behavioral Health. TRPHD will also promote the national 988 suicide prevention lifeline.

Appendix 1: Partner Suggestions

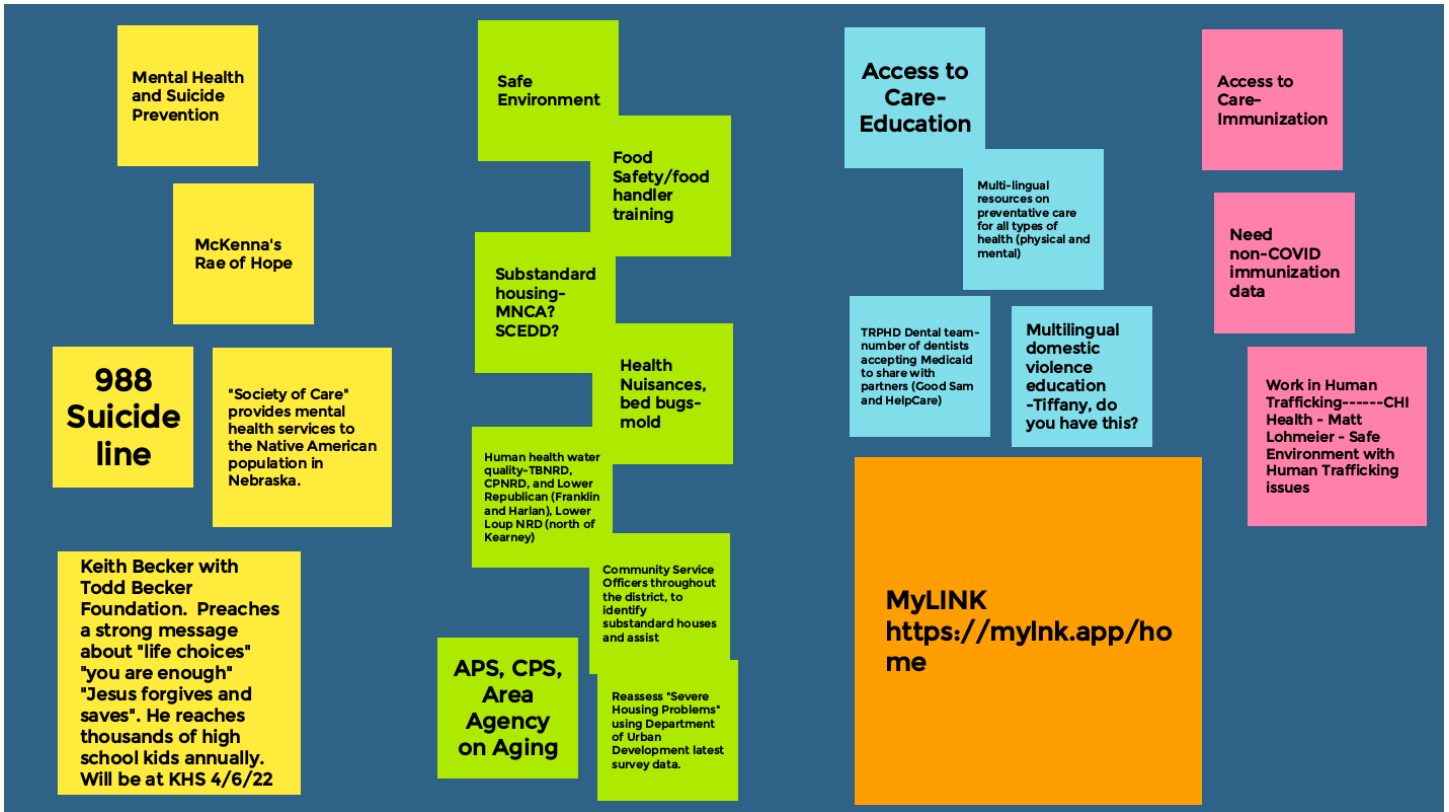


Image above: Google Jamboard used to help identify new partnerships and efforts during a meeting with CHIP partners on March 17, 2022

Appendix 2: CHIP Partners

Phelps County Community Foundation

Kara Faber

Becton Dickinson

Sam Auld

Tri-Basin Natural Resource District

Sasha Hahn

Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska

Kristin Holl

Catholic Health Initiatives Good Samaritan

Tracy Dethlefs

Renae Jacobson

Diane Reinke

Ben Rehtus

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Denise Waibel-Ryceck

Cozad Community Health System

Alison Feik

Kearney County Health System

Chrisoma Villa- Christian Homes

Cherlyn Hunt

Tyson

Heidi Revelo

Buffalo County Emergency Management

Darrin Lewis

Central Community College

Ashley Weets

Gothenburg Health

Trudy Chestnutt

Wanda Cooper

Garrett Vetter

University of Nebraska Kearney

Cindy Ferrence, Student Health Services

Peggy Abels

Harlan County Health System

Leanne Bewley

Early Learning Connection

Connie Linder
Kearney Public Schools
Morgan Bird
Region 2 Behavioral Health
Robin Schultheiss

Choice Family Health Care
Ryan King
Misty Schaecher
Kearney Parks and Recreation
Scott Hayden

Alexandra Dillion
City of Holdrege
Doug Young
Kearney Regional Medical Center
Trish Olson
Amanda Polacek
HelpCare Clinic
Becky Kraenow

Buffalo County Community Health Partners
Denise Zweiner
Region 3 Behavioral Health
Tiffany Gressley

Appendix 3: TRPHD Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Approved by the Board of Health February 1, 2022



Strategic Plan Priorities 2022-2025



Strengthen collaboration and increase service availability

- Connect with community groups, local health systems, schools, and other partners to improve collaborative efforts to address health.
- Assess services and gaps in service in the district annually
- Grow and maintain partners through regular communication and outreach including an annual assessment of TRPHD's impact on the community



Improved access to care for underserved populations

- Conduct a thorough assessment which specifically notes: disparities in the district, partners who are able to collaborate to address disparities, shows quantitative and qualitative data, and is shared widely.
- Release monthly educational topics of wellbeing through a variety of platforms.
- Expand on TRPHD CHIP priority of access to care
- Seek grant funding opportunities



Enable sustainable organizational systems and infrastructure

- Augment strengths-based coaching to develop staff, utilizing individual development plans
- Foster staff relationships through team building exercises
- Create a workforce representative of our district
- Champion innovative, tech-savvy staff
- Complete an assessment of infrastructure needs in order to create a 10 year plan



Become a trusted resource for local data

- Become THE source of health information for our district
- Increase primary data collection of health issues important to our community
- Develop collaboration with academic partners to increase data analysis capabilities
- Develop internal data competencies

Mission: Two Rivers Public Health Department engages collaborative partners, community leaders, and the public to promote healthy lifestyles, provide preventative education, assure environmental quality, and create more healthy and safe communities for all who live within the district.

Vision: Two Rivers Public Health Department envisions a health district where all are able to safely and actively live, learn, work, and play in their communities. Two Rivers Public Health Department facilitates collaboratives, partnerships, and unique approaches that educate, empower, and engage local community partners, health providers, political decision-makers, community leadership, and the public.

Appendix 4: Community Coalitions

- Aging Coalition
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Buffalo County Community Response
- Kearney Intervention Team
- Lexington Interagency
- Rooted in Relationships- Dawson County
- Buffalo County Tobacco Free Coalition
- Minority Health Advisory Committee
- RadRX
- Inclusion and Diversity Group
- Community Connections
- Consumer Family Coalition
- Healthy Minds
- Buffalo County Housing and Emerging Issues Taskforce
- Positive Pressure
- Prevention Coalition Coordinators
- Unconnected Youth
- Phelps County COAD
- Greater Kearney Area COAD