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## A MESSAGE FROM THE FLORIDA DEPT OF HEALTH IN NASSAU

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## TOP FIVE HEALTH CONCERNS TO BE ADDRESSED IN NASSAU

### 2019-2021 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

On Wednesday, September 26, 2018 more than fifty people convened in Yulee for the Nassau Health Summit to review the latest health data and findings of four community assessments. These assessments were completed by the *Partnership for a Healthier Nassau (PHN)* using the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) guidelines, known as “*Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership*” (MAPP). The process supported the completion of four county-wide assessments over the last six months which included large community meetings, focus groups, survey collection, and data review. Attendees of the meeting are members of the PHN initiative. You are also invited to join this Nassau health effort – The PHN vision is: “*To have healthy communities in Nassau County that support optimal health and quality of life through collaboration, strong leadership, policy and environmental change and resident empowerment.*”

The assessment findings were extensive, but were ultimately categorized by the attendees into twelve top areas of health concern. These areas include: Housing, Access to Care, Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse, Health Disparities, Community Support, Rapid Growth and Expansion, Community Safety, Limited Transportation, Education and Prevention, Lack of Safe Places to Exercise, Chronic Disease and Distance to Healthy Foods.

After a detailed discussion of these topics, the attendees voted on the areas they believed were most important. They next voted on issue areas which were perceived to have the most resources and influence to change. The top five issue areas were simplified to include:

- **Housing** – includes: affordable housing/resources and continuum of care retirement communities (CCRC)
- **Access to Care** – includes: hours, cost, provider shortage, competitive pay for providers

- **Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse** – includes: affordable and accessible care, care for the socially isolated
- **Health Disparities** – in the areas of cancer (breast, colorectal, prostate), heart disease, infant mortality, low birth weight, chronic diseases (stroke, diabetes) and HIV
- **Community Support** – to enhance help to caregivers and parents, address the Yulee and Westside area by creating new “community systems for connection” and address affordable childcare

Over the next three months, goals and action steps will be created by local workgroups. We are recruiting members for the workgroups. The new goals will be included in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to be launched in January 2019. If you are interested in these five topics and want to help create action steps, call Mary von Mohr who will link you with the workgroup chair. We need your ideas and energy – and welcome your interest.

To stay informed visit <http://nassau.floridahealth.gov/> - [Community Health Planning link](#) or call Mary von Mohr at 904-557-9133 or email: [mary.vonmohr@flhealth.gov](mailto:mary.vonmohr@flhealth.gov)

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