



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Public Health Department Releases SLO County's First Community Health Improvement Plan
95+ community partners work together to identify priorities and take action**

San Luis Obispo, CA—The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department, in collaboration with more than 95 partners in the non-profit, health care and government sectors, is pleased to announce a first for San Luis Obispo County: the release of the county's comprehensive community health improvement plan. Together, the partners make up a collaborative known as SLO Health Counts.

This five-year plan represents a strategic and collaborative approach to achieving a shared goal: ensuring all San Luis Obispo County residents have the opportunity to be healthy. It provides a path to measurable improvement in eight priority areas, from infectious disease to social and emotional wellness.

"I am thrilled to see this plan in action and especially to see so many organizations from across our community come together to achieve this first for SLO County. I offer my sincere appreciation for the careful thought and hard work that it represents," said Dr. Penny Borenstein, Health Officer of the County of San Luis Obispo. "This is a true community effort and I hope new partners will continue to join us as we embark on this ambitious plan."

The community health improvement plan is informed by the [2018 County of San Luis Obispo Community Health Assessment](#), which paints a point-in-time picture of the county's health and highlights the important social, economic and health conditions that affect SLO County. After sharing this assessment, the Public Health Department brought together partners from across the community to develop a shared vision, identify eight priority areas, and form teams around those priorities. Team members used data, best practices and their own expertise to define goals, develop measurable objectives and outline strategies for the community health improvement plan. Now, these teams are working to put the plan in action.

"The true power of this plan is in the diverse partnerships behind each goal," said Dr. Borenstein. "Working together means we can focus fresh attention on challenging issues and pool expertise and resources to create the greatest collective impact."

To see the full plan and get involved, visit www.slohealthcounts.org/CHIP.

For an overview, see the attached executive summary and list of partners.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Challenge and Opportunity

Health improvement is a true community effort. San Luis Obispo County is home to a vast and diverse range of dedicated individuals and organizations working to create a healthy and vibrant future for our community. The work ahead is also vast. Resources are limited. It is through working together that we can most effectively leverage resources and create the greatest collective impact.

Collective Impact through Planning and Collaboration

For these reasons and more, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department convened community partners to help develop a comprehensive and coordinated community health improvement plan. More than 95 community partners—including service providers, advocates and subject matter experts—came together to identify priorities and plans for action over the next five years. This plan represents the start of that collaborative effort.

Measurable Improvement in Priority Areas

The plan is organized into eight priority areas. Each priority area includes a brief introduction to the topic, an overview of the partners involved in the planning process, and a work plan for each goal in the priority area. Work plans detail how the partners will achieve the goals and measure improvement over the next five years. In summary, the priorities, goals and objectives include:

Access to Care

Improve coordination of health care among service providers.

- Increase number of entities participating in the county's Health Information Exchange
- Re-establish Care Coordination Group
- Establish a recognized lead entity to coordinate consumer navigation services
- Ensure ongoing comprehensive and accurate referral information through 211

Increase the proportion of low-income children in SLO County with routine and adequate dental care.

- Increase the percentage of children on Denti-Cal who visit a dentist
- Increase the number of dentists incorporating Re-Think Your Drink and Tobacco Cessation campaigns into their practice
- Provide workforce development in oral health in underserved areas

Recruit and retain providers to the Central Coast.

- Increase number of health care provider training program slots
- Create at least two incentive programs to retain providers

Social Determinants of Health

Increase CalFresh enrollment to reduce hunger and improve health among SLO County residents.

- Increase enrollment of eligible individuals within SLO County

Improve access to affordable, attainable, safe and supportive housing.

- Support the development of very low income, low income, moderate and above moderate housing units throughout SLO County

Visit www.SLOHealthCounts.org/CHIP
to download the full plan or get involved.

SLO
HEALTH
COUNTS

Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health

Improve social and emotional supports for new mothers.

- Increase Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder screening for new mothers

Implement a Help Me Grow™ (HMG) system in SLO County.

- Garner participation to perform universal developmental screening by county pediatricians
- Launch a centralized information and referral hub for HMG

Infectious Disease

Reduce the rate of undiagnosed hepatitis C in SLO County Jail inmate population.

- Increase testing and referrals of hepatitis C in jail population

Reduce the rate of influenza in high-risk SLO County populations.

- Increase the number of flu vaccines given to jail population

Reduce the rate of syphilis in SLO County population.

- Decrease the rate of new syphilis cases

Chronic Disease & Health Behaviors

Improve diets and increase physical activity in the environments where people eat, live, learn, work and play.

- Reduce rates of adult obesity
- Achieve national goal for reducing childhood obesity

Reduce rates of chronic disease among county residents.

- Reduce prevalence of type 2 diabetes among adults in SLO County

Reduce smoking initiation, tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

- Increase the number of smoke-free outdoor spaces in the county
- Decrease the percentage of youth in the county who use e-cigarettes



Injuries

Reduce falls among seniors.

- Decrease fall-related injuries among seniors
- Increase the provision of fall prevention materials at hospitals for seniors treated after falls

Reduce vehicle-related injuries.

- Reduce number of bicycle-involved motor vehicle collision injuries
- Reduce number of pedestrian-involved motor vehicle collision injuries
- Reduce the number of all motor vehicle collision injuries

Social & Emotional Wellness

Improve consistency of care across the continuum of social and emotional wellness services.

- Adopt a countywide Social and Emotional Wellness Standards of Care policy

Improve the social and emotional support network for teens in SLO County.

- Reduce percentage of teens who report chronic sad or hopeless feelings

Environment

Increase awareness of Valley Fever within the agriculture community.

- Provide outreach information to County AWM permittees

Improve water quality at high priority beach / creek interfaces.

- Collaborate with organizations for regular collection and sharing of surface water quality data
- Seek grant funding to determine causes of exceedances so they can be corrected

Reporting Progress

More detail about activities and measurement is available in each section of the plan. The Public Health Department will release a report on the progress toward these goals each year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Public Health Department acknowledges and thanks the many community partners whose representatives contributed their ideas, expertise and energy to develop this plan.

5 Cities Homeless Coalition
ACTION for Healthy Communities
Aegis Treatment Centers, LLC
Air Pollution Control Board
American Cancer Society
Alliance for Pharmaceutical Access
Alzheimer's Association
Arroyo Grande Community Hospital
Big Brothers Big Sisters SLO
Bike SLO County
California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly)
CalFresh Nutrition Education
CalFresh Alliance
California State Parks
Cambria Community Healthcare District
Casa Solana Inc.
CenCal Health
Center for Family Strengthening
Central Coast Dental Society
City of Paso Robles
City of San Luis Obispo
Cayucos Elementary School District
Coast Smiles on Wheels
Commission on Aging
Community Action Partnership
Community Foundation of SLO County
Conifer Health
Community Health Centers
County Office of Education
County of San Luis Obispo Departments:
 Behavioral Health
 District Attorney
 Libraries
 Planning & Building
 Public Defender
 Public Health
 Probation
 Social Services
County Health Commission
Cuesta College
Diringer and Associates
Dignity Health Central Coast
First 5 of SLO County
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo
French Hospital Medical Center
HEAL SLO
Health Navigator Project
HomeShareSLO
Integrated Waste Management Authority
Latino Outreach Council
Leadership SLO
The LINK Family Resource Center
Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of San Luis Obispo County
Meals that Connect
Noor Foundation
Oral Health Coalition
Peoples' Self-Help Housing
Planned Parenthood CA Central Coast
Promotoras
RISE
San Luis Coastal Unified School District
San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
San Luis Obispo County YMCA
San Luis Sports Therapy
Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center
The Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo County Chapter
United Way of San Luis Obispo County
University of California Cooperative Extension of San Luis Obispo County
Transitions Mental Health Association
Twin Cities Community Hospital
Plus unaffiliated community members, dentists, physicians and other health care professionals



SLO Health Counts is a collaborative focused on working together for a healthy San Luis Obispo County.

Learn more at www.SLOHealthCounts.org.