

Healthy Children and Families Work Group

Charter

Purpose and Scope:

The Healthy Children and Families Work Group will explore the opportunities and necessary actions for structuring a comprehensive regional approach to child well-being in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. The work group will produce a report that identifies the most prominent physical, behavioral and social health problems affecting children in the region and explores their causes, taking into account the social and family supports necessary to equip children to make the strongest possible start in their journey to adulthood. The findings of the work group will be a source of input into the development of the proposed Newco's ten (10) year comprehensive community health improvement plan.

Deliverables:

The work group will produce a document for consideration by Newco that shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:

- Identify the top physical, behavioral and social health and well-being problems experienced by children in the region and explore their root causes;
- Identify gaps in education achievement among children in the region, assessing the impact of these gaps on their ability to thrive as healthy adults. Identify opportunities for how Newco can contribute to improving education achievement, particularly in the area of literacy and basic skills;
- Produce an inventory and gap analysis of past and current efforts that address regional:
 - Pediatric physical and behavioral health services and accessibility;
 - Health and social support services available for children with special needs, such developmental disabilities and physical limitations; and
 - Social service and family and parenting supports available in the region (such as nurse family partnership, Healthy Start, etc.);
- Identify evidence-based best and promising practices in use regionally or elsewhere that may be replicated to improve children's health and well-being;
- Assess the relative ability of the region's public and private sector to improve health outcomes by addressing root causes through evidence-based best and promising practices;
- Identify opportunities to enhance children's health research, training, education, and service provision through existing partnerships with East Tennessee State University and potential new partnerships; and

- Prioritize improvement goals according to their relative importance to children's health and well-being, the commonality of impact across the region, the disparate impact on disadvantaged populations, and the ability of the community to reasonably make an impact on the goals in a sustainable timeframe.

The work group's report will focus on achieving sustainable and measurable improvements in population health in the context of an accountable care community, with prioritization on those areas most likely to be high impact in the region.

Schedule:

The work group will meet periodically at the call of the chair and as scheduled. The schedule shall include meetings which may be open to the public and announced in order to ensure public input in the process. The work group may invite presentations from organizations and individuals with expertise, and may also permit public comment. The work group may identify sub-committees which may meet more frequently to produce material for public review.

Reporting:

The Healthy Children and Families Task Force will provide its findings to the Integration Council.