**Community Health Department Spotlight**

The Community Health Department focuses on creating and sustaining innovative programming that addresses identified needs in the community. The small, yet nimble, team consisting of Population Health Medical Director Megan Shirley, PA-C, MBA, Maria Martin, Maison Power, Lizzy Henasey, and Brooklyn Dreher relies on collaboration with other TFHS departments, key stakeholders and community organizations to tackle a wide variety of complex population health needs from multiple angles. Community Health Priority Areas include-

* Health Disparities
* Substance Misuse
* Chronic Disease Management
* Mental/Behavioral Health
* Preventive Care

**A year in retrospective:** In FY24, Community Health reached 37,440 individuals through programming, community outreach, and education. Community Health programs you may have heard of include Harvest of the Month, BFIT, Diabetes Prevention Program, and Community Health Labs.

**Leadership:** Community Health facilitates multiple workgroups such as Zero Suicide Initiative and the Immunization Coalition, and is deeply involved in collaborative work with Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, Placer County Public Health, Nevada County Public Health, and the Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee.

**Grants:** In addition to writing and managing grants to support programming and services targeting identified needs, Community Health provides financial support to Gateway Mountain Center and Sierra Community House to do community-based work that fills a gap in services for at risk youth and socioeconomically disadvantaged community members.

**Looking ahead:** Community Health has launched the 5th Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This includes key informant surveys, focus groups, randomized surveys and targeted outreach with Sierra Community House to reach historically low response subpopulations. Between March and June, you may receive a phone call requesting your input for Tahoe Forest CHNA. We encourage you to participate. Your feedback helps identify the biggest health needs in our primary service area and drive community programming.

**CHI Workgroups:** Community Health is a key driver in launching multiple workgroups to support the Community Health Index as part of the Community Peak. Launched workgroups include Diabetes in Control (A1C<9) with Provider Champion Alison Semrad, DO, and Youth Substance Use with provider champions Chelsea Wicks, MD, and Jonathan Lowe, DNP.

If you interested in learning more, check out our previous annual reports, needs assessments, and improvement plans on the Tahoe Forest Community Commitment website. <https://www.tfhd.com/commitment/community-health/needs-assessments-reports/>