

Stories from the Field: Increasing Disability Inclusion in the MAPP Process Project

Richland Public Health, Mansfield, Ohio



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Background

Richland Public Health (RPH) is a PHAB-accredited, county level health department located in Mansfield, Ohio that serves over 120,000 residents. RPH previously used the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework to conduct the 2016 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the 2017 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). For this previous iteration of the CHA/CHIP, RPH contracted a third-party entity to guide the Richland County CHA/CHIP committee through the MAPP model. While the CHA/CHIP were completed in 2016/2017, RPH identified a number of strengths, weaknesses, and learning opportunities that are informing the 2020 CHA/CHIP structure.

Project Goals

The goals of this project were to: 1) obtain valuable and well-needed tools, resources, technical assistance, and subject matter expertise necessary to improve upon the knowledge and skills levels regarding how RPH includes the Richland County disability community in planning efforts, data collection methods, outreach initiatives, community resources, and community programs; and 2) ensure the Richland County's disability community is an active participant in the planning, data collection, and implementation process of the 2020 CHA/CHIP.

Project Description

Once we are able to complete our project activities, we anticipate increasing disability inclusion within the MAPP process by: 1) leading our own CHA/CHIP process independently; 2) providing numerous accessibility accommodations for individuals throughout all phases of the MAPP process to ensure continuous participation; and 3) providing training on disability inclusion strategies from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) as well as experts from the field of disability studies.

Challenges

Due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, RPH had to focus 100% of its service efforts towards COVID-19 response. Therefore, all of our CHA/CHIP and MAPP processes efforts have been put on hold until further notice.

Solutions to challenges

Since RPH was not able to have in-person meetings with our community partners, we used this opportunity to: 1) do internal planning, technology assessments, and tests; 2) pilot test various elements of the MAPP process before full implementation; and 3) attend national as well as statewide webinars to further educate ourselves on the MAPP model (current and upcoming version), CHA/CHIP, disability inclusion, etc.

Results and Lessons Learned

RPH anticipates beginning our CHA and the MAPP process by the end of 2021. If for some reason a local health department's MAPP process is brought to a complete halt, use it as an opportunity to educate, gain new skills, pilot test things, improve communications with community partners, establish additional funding to assist with accessibility needs, etc. This will help alleviate future issues and prepare a department to get their MAPP process back up and running quickly and efficiently.

For more information, please contact: Sara Lyons, Senior Program Analyst, Health and Disability at slyons@naccho.org.

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