

# 2022 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

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The Taney County Health Department (TCHD) and community partners worked together in 2022 to complete the Community Health Assessment (CHA) process. One of the goals of this project was to identify areas where the community’s health needed to improve. Through ranked-choice voting, the community chose three areas for health improvement. They are Obtainable Housing, Substance Use, and Mental Health.

These overarching priorities helped guide TCHD and community partners in setting objectives and activities to improve health in these areas. The priorities, objectives, goals, activities, timeframes, and participating community organizations are outlined in this Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

## **Community Priority 1: Improve Obtainable Housing in Taney County**

The CHA revealed that housing is a significant concern for those in Taney County. When community survey respondents were asked, “What do you wish you could change about our community?” 1 in 4 mentioned housing or homelessness. When asked to select the top three health problems which need to be addressed in the community, 1 in 3 respondents selected housing. The 2023 Housing Study commissioned by the Taney County Partnership revealed that Branson, Forsyth, Hollister, and Merriam Woods were lacking nearly 2,000 affordable housing units, most of which are needed by families making less than \$25,000 per year.

**Obtainable Housing Goal:** 200 Taney County households experiencing unstable housing will secure permanent housing by December 2032.

**Obtainable Housing Objective 1:** Provide support, as appropriate, for at least 2 existing housing initiatives in Taney County by December 2032.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contributing Community Organizations</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Engage in activities that support the development and dissemination of Taney County Partnership’s 2023 commissioned housing study. Activities may include sharing survey links with the public and helping to promote the results of the housing study to the community.	TCHD; Cox Health; Ozarks Wellness Network; Taney County Partnership; Branson Chamber of Commerce	January 2023 to June 2032
Engage in activities that support projects which help to transition people from insecure housing to permanent housing. Activities may include connecting those in transition to existing resources, helping those in transition	TCHD; House of Hope; Boys and Girls Club; Taney County Partnership;	January 2023 to December 2032

<p>during the moving process, and creating partnerships with organizations building housing units.</p>	<p>Elevate Branson; Restoration Connection; Salvation Army; Charis Group</p>	
<p>Engage in activities that support the continuation of the Emergency Closure Response Team. Activities may include attending response team meetings, assisting in updating the motel emergency closure plan, and responding to multi-family housing crises as they occur.</p>	<p>Ozark Mountain Country Cares, Boys and Girls Club, House of Hope, Charis Group, Cox Health, Sanctuary of Hope: Restoration Connection, Christian Action Ministries, Elevate Branson, Salvation Army, TCHD, City of Branson, Taney County Animal Control, Preferred Properties of Branson, Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints – Branson West.</p>	<p>January 2023 to December 2032</p>

**Obtainable Housing Objective 2:** Provide wraparound services for those who are homeless or housing unstable through January 2025.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contributing Community Organizations</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<p>Provide community wraparound services to tenants living in former hotels converted to affordable housing and to tenants in low-income housing through 10 new onsite classes or meetings. These may include classes such as Housing Hygiene and meetings such as 12-step programs.</p>	<p>TCHD; Elevate Branson; Christian Action Ministries; Standing by the Door; Sanctuary of Hope: Restoration Connection; Charis Group; Communities Of</p>	<p>January 2023 to January 2025</p>

	Recovery Experience	
Provide community wraparound services to long-term residents of hotels through 5 events providing onsite services. Services may include food distribution and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) appointments.	TCHD; Christian Action Ministries; Charis Group	January 2023 to January 2025

**Obtainable Housing Objective 3:** Strengthen coordination of housing resources in Taney County by January 2025.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contributing Community Organizations</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Encourage collaboration among Resource Coordinators through developing and implementing a Community Health Worker Group.	TCHD; Cox Health; Mercy; Neighbor’s Pharmacy; Empower Abilities; Foster Adopt Connect; Stone County Health Department; Ozarks Technical College; Elevate Branson; Fordland Clinic	January 2023 to December 2023
Investigate options for implementing a shared referral system among providers.	TCHD; Ozarks Wellness Network; Healthy Families Task Force; Cox Health	January 2023 to January 2025

## Community Priority 2: Reduce Substance Use Issues in Taney County.

Another topic that rose to the surface during the Community Health Assessment was substance use. When Taney County Community Survey respondents were asked what they wished they could change about the community, 1 in 5 wrote about addiction, recovery options, and substance use. When asked to select the top three most common risky behaviors in the community, 85.3% of survey respondents selected “alcohol or drug use”.

These results led to an overarching priority of reducing substance use issues in Taney County. Communication with community members, led to five objectives being identified to accomplish this priority.

**Substance Use Goal:** Reduce the accidental poisoning death rate by 5%<sup>1</sup> by January 2026.

**Substance Use Objective 1:** Establish a practical data system for substance use in Taney County by January 2026.

Activity	Contributing Community Organizations	Timeframe
Collaborate with partners to develop and implement a system for sharing county-level overdose information.	TCHD; Standing by the Door; Cox Health; The Brook Wellness Center; Sanctuary of Hope: Restoration Connection; Taney County Sheriff; Taney County Ambulance District; Branson Police Department; Forsyth Police Department; Hollister Police Department, Burrell Behavioral Health	January 2023 to January 2026

**Substance Use Objective 2:** Promote opioid overdose response strategies in the county through January 2026.

Activity	Contributing Community Organizations	Timeframe

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 2018-2020 accidental poisoning and exposure to noxious substances rate of 21.24 per 100,000 residents, age-adjusted to the US 2000 standard population. This rate will be reduced from 21.24 to 20.18.

Distribute 1200 boxes of Narcan (or other overdose-reversal medication).	TCHD; Cox Health; Taney County Sheriff's Office; Taney County Ambulance District; Local Fire Departments	January 2023 to January 2026
Educate the public on ways to mitigate negative outcomes of substance use through 3 educational activities.	TCHD; Cox Health, Taney County school districts	January 2023 to January 2026
Conduct training to help bystanders during overdose events. Train 25 community members.	TCHD; Community Partnership of the Ozarks	January 2023 to January 2026

**Substance Use Objective 3:** Provide support to community organizations applying for grant funding to address substance use in Taney County through January 2026.

Activity	Contributing Community Organizations	Timeframe
Provide letters of support for grant applications.	TCHD; The Brook Wellness Center; Cox Health; Boys and Girls Club; Standing by the Door; Ozarks Wellness Network	January 2023 to January 2026
Share data to support grant applications.	TCHD; Cox Health	January 2023 to January 2026

### Community Priority 3: Improve Mental Health in Taney County

The CHA further revealed that mental health is a concern for those in Taney County. According to Taney County Community Health survey respondents, 1 in 5 people have difficulty accessing mental healthcare. Nearly 2,700 hospitalizations in 2019 were due to or related to mental disorders in Taney County. Community partners were able to select goals for improvement in mental health. They are outlined below.

**Mental Health Goal:** Reduce the number of Taney County hospitalizations where the primary or secondary diagnosis is mental health related by a total of 2%<sup>2</sup> by 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 2019 number of 2,693 hospitalizations in Taney County.

**Mental Health Objective 1:** Implement communication strategies to normalize mental health in the community by January 2026.

Activity	Contributing Community Organizations	Timeframe
Develop and disseminate talking points for discussing mental health and suicide with a wide variety of audiences.	TCHD	January 2023 to June 2025
Engage new <sup>3</sup> community partners in mental health conversations.	TCHD, Burrell Behavioral Health, Veterans Military Coalition of the Ozarks, Ozarks Serenity Club	January 2023 to January 2026

**Mental Health Objective 2:** Deliver mental health training to 750 community members by January 2025. Mental health training may include suicide-prevention training, mental wellness training, and Mental Health First Aid.

Activity	Contributing Community Organizations	Timeframe
Deliver mental health training to at least 100 school-aged children. Trainings may focus on mental wellness, stigma, suicide prevention, and/or trauma-informed care.	TCHD; Be-Well Initiative through Burrell; The Brook Wellness Center; Community Partnership of the Ozarks, University of Extension	January 2023 to January 2025
Deliver mental health training to at least 20 first responders. Trainings may focus on mental wellness, stigma, suicide prevention, and/or trauma-informed care.	TCHD; Be-Well Initiative through Burrell; The Brook Wellness Center; Community Partnership of the Ozarks, University of Missouri Extension	January 2023 to January 2025
Deliver mental health training to at least 50 professionals in community-based organizations. Trainings may focus on mental wellness, stigma, suicide prevention, and/or trauma-informed care.	TCHD; Be-Well Initiative through Burrell; The Brook Wellness Center; Community Partnership of the Ozarks, University	January 2023 to January 2026

<sup>3</sup> “New” partners are identified as those who were unable to participate in the CHA and CHIP meetings, as evidenced by the “participating partners” list in the CHA report.

	of Missouri Extension	
Provide 5 community education opportunities about mental wellness, stigma, and/or trauma-informed care. Educational opportunities may include health fairs, conferences, or town hall events.	TCHD; Be-Well Initiative through Burrell; The Brook Wellness Center; Cox Health; Community Partnership of the Ozarks, University of Missouri Extension	January 2023 to January 2026
Conduct 6 mental health resource promotional activities to improve community knowledge of mental wellness. Promotional activities may include ad campaigns, billboards, or public service announcements (PSAs).	TCHD; Be-Well Initiative through Burrell; The Brook Wellness Center; Cox Health; Community Partnership of the Ozarks, University of Missouri Extension	January 2023 to January 2026

**Mental Health Objective 3:** Support initiatives that improve community access to telehealth services through January 2026.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contributing Community Organizations</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Engage in activities that support policies and infrastructure promoting telehealth options for community members such as (988). Activities may include providing letters of support during grant applications and promoting opportunities for community engagement with service providers through online reporting of internet availability.	TCHD; Cox Health; Boys and Girls Club; Taney County schools districts, Hope Counseling Center	January 2023 to January 2026

## **Community Assets and Progress Tracking**

Taney County holds many assets that will help it to achieve its objectives. Speaking broadly, the assets identified during the 2022 Community Health Assessment process can be broken into four groups – Taney County’s people, its culture and values, its environment, and local organizations. These groups are outlined in detail in the 2022 Taney County Community Health Assessment document. Additionally, there are assets that weren’t specifically identified during the data collection process that will still help to move the CHIP along.

For the Obtainable Housing CHIP priority, additional assets include the local housing workgroup which responds to multi-family housing crises; the Taney County Partnership, which is working toward business-oriented housing solutions; and a host of non-profit organizations that are gearing their efforts towards helping those who are experiencing poverty.

For the Substance Use CHIP priority, additional assets include organizations that have expressed willingness to collaborate and professionals who have expressed an interest in working toward the creation of a detoxification unit. For the Mental Health CHIP priority, additional assets include the recent implementation of Medicaid expansion.

The CHIP document establishes a foundation for action within a community. These actions must be measured to demonstrate progress to the community. Taney County Health Department utilizes a Public Health Performance Management System called Vision, Mission, Services, Goals (VMSG) to track the activities outlined in the CHIP. This system allows users to input multiple layers of goals, track progress on said goals, and develop reports that display progress.

## **Conclusion**

The 2022 Taney County Community Health Assessment showed community concerns for Obtainable Housing, Substance Use, and Mental Health. The CHIP will serve as a guiding document to address local health needs collaboratively. These strategic initiatives and partnerships are tailored to meet the needs of the community. As goals and objectives are achieved, TCHD will adjust the community health improvement plan priorities to fit future needs.