Together we THRIVE
Philadelphia’s Agenda for HEALTH & WELL-BEING 2019

HEALTHY
SAFE
SUPPORTED
Healthy individuals are the foundation for strong communities. Ensuring that every Philadelphian lives in a healthy environment with access to high quality physical and behavioral health care.

Every individual deserves to feel safe in their home and neighborhood. Keeping people safe in their homes and communities.

Address people’s basic needs. Developing pathways for the most vulnerable Philadelphians to gain access to the basic necessities for a prosperous life.

The ‘Thrive’ framework was created in 2016 to guide the HHS cabinet’s plans for the health and well-being of the most vulnerable Philadelphians. We are dedicated to:

1) addressing the risks that shape the health and safety of individuals and communities
2) transforming the way we assess need and match people to resources
3) building infrastructure to ensure agencies are ready to act when new challenges appear.

In 2018, we saw improvement on 25 of 39 metrics — the result of exciting, cross-cutting work. Accomplishments include taking bold steps to stem the tide of the opioid crisis, establishing the Youth Residential Placement Task Force, and expanding inclusive housing opportunities.

Together We Thrive is led by the Managing Director’s Office, Health & Human Services Cabinet (HHS)

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The HHS cabinet members have fostered cross collaborative work to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Philadelphians.

The Youth Residential Task Force was established to focus on improving the safety of youth in congregate care settings. The Task Force consists of HHS members, City and non-City partners.

The Managing Director’s Office established a shared responsibility coalition, The Roadmap to Safer Communities, to develop and implement violence prevention and reduction strategies. While HHS cabinet members are deeply involved with the work, our city partners will track the initiative’s progress.

The Office of Workforce Development (OWD) was established, building in part from the efforts of the Office of Community Empowerment (CEO). OWD will carry on the work to develop and provide the education, training, and support services for job seekers across Philadelphia.
Each year, more youth in the child welfare system have moved into permanency, with the greatest proportion representing reunifications with their family.

Unintentional drug overdose deaths are starting to decline as the City continues to combat the opioid crisis. Approximately 1,125 overdose deaths are projected for 2018, down from 1,217 in 2017.

In Philadelphia, life expectancy has worsened for blacks and Hispanics. Life expectancy was lowest in areas with high rates of poverty, violence, substance use, and other social and economic challenges.

The percentage of children in congregate care continues to decline and is still below the national average of 12%. The number of youth in placement decreased almost a quarter since September 2016.

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Eviction filings have decreased 14% from 2014 to 2017.
Creating a healthy environment is key to ensuring individual health is promoted and protected from a young age. Life expectancy, however, has started to decline for some of our most vulnerable residents. The HHS cabinet is working to remove the barriers and to develop the infrastructure necessary to create the healthy homes, schools, and neighborhoods necessary for a stable life.

IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR BLACK MALES

Compared to other demographic groups, black male health trails behind in critical areas. In 2017, non-Hispanic black male life expectancy was 69.1 years, compared to white males at 73.1 years. Despite historical highs for health insurance coverage, 23% of black men are living in poverty. Healthy outcomes are dependent on improving and supporting the complex network of social, economic, and behavioral conditions in an environment.

Under the Roadmap to Safer Communities umbrella, The School District of Philadelphia (SDP) and DHS will partner on initiatives to increase attendance, reduce truancy, and increase graduation rates among high risk youth. PDPH will work with other City agencies and community organizations to develop media and communication approaches to reduce gun violence.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO COMBAT THE OPIOID CRISIS

Although Philadelphia is projected to experience a decrease in drug overdose deaths, the opioid crisis continues to afflict communities across the City. In late 2018, the Philadelphia Resilience Project was created to address the many impacts of the crisis on the hardest hit neighborhoods using emergency management tools. Under this umbrella, city agencies and other stakeholders are removing barriers to access treatment and housing, and improving the health of individuals and communities.

PDPH and Department of License & Inspections worked with City Council to develop legislation to improve protections for children from the harms of lead exposure and poisoning. Chain restaurants are now required to label dishes with more than a day’s worth of sodium. The State pre-empted a City Council bill banning the sale of candy-flavored tobacco, allowing for the dangers of smoking to continue to disproportionately affect low-income communities and people of color.

Under the HHS cabinet, an opioid fatality review process was created to address the many impacts of the crisis on the hardest hit neighborhoods using emergency management tools. Under this umbrella, city agencies and other stakeholders are removing barriers to access treatment and housing, and improving the health of individuals and communities.

In March 2019, the City of Philadelphia launched the Roadmap to Safer Communities umbrella, which is working to reduce gun violence, lead exposure, and opioid use. PDPH will work with other City agencies and community organizations to develop media and communication approaches to reduce gun violence.

To learn more about our work to promote healthy people, visit www.phila.gov/hhs
Safe neighborhoods and communities are the foundation for individuals and families to thrive. Everyone deserves to feel safe and free from the fear of violence. Developing a safe environment, whether it be at home, at school, or in the community, is integral to healthy youth development and strong community cohesion.

**EXPANDED SCREENING AND SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS**

In 2018, the Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline received nearly 11,700 calls. Many survivors of domestic violence, however, go undetected and unsupported.

The Office of Domestic Violence Strategies became the backbone of Shared Safety, a collaborative of approximately 30 city agencies and community-based organizations focused on improving the City’s response to domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. In collaboration with the Office of DV Strategies, DHS created a new domestic violence position to support child welfare staff working with parents and youth affected by domestic violence.

The Office of Domestic Violence Strategies will provide approximately 30 domestic violence consults per month to CUA and DHS case workers. With support of the Office of DV Strategies, OHS secured federal funds to create a series of mandatory trainings for all Coordinated Entry Staff about the dynamics of intimate and sexual violence and trauma-informed responses to support all survivors. DBHIDS and the Office of DV Strategies will launch a new mandatory intimate partner violence (IPV) online training for all staff and will develop IPV-specialized trainings for clinical workers.

**STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC FOCUS ON YOUTH SAFETY**

With the implementation of Improving Outcomes for Children (IOC), Philadelphia continues to make youth safety a priority across all systems. Significant progress has been made to reduce the use of congregate care, one of the main goals of IOC. The percentage of Philadelphia youth now in group home or institution settings is at an all-time low (10.6%) and below the national average (12.2%).

The new Child Welfare Oversight Board (CWOB) convened regularly to monitor the implementation of the IOC model and prioritize areas for DHS to target for maximum impact on families and children. With declining congregate care numbers, Philadelphia remained committed to ensuring youth safety through the creation of the Youth Residential Placement Task Force to reduce the use and improve the quality of these settings for youth in the dependent, delinquent, and behavioral health populations.

The CWOB will examine trends in service delivery, producing its first annual report to provide transparency into progress toward all IOC goals and guidance to DHS for future focus areas. The Youth Residential Placement Task Force will release strategic recommendations aimed at changing the experiences for youth and their families within a congregate care setting.

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**The rates for screening individuals for domestic violence have increased across the HHS agencies.**

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**MOVING FORWARD**

- Publish the recommendations from the Youth Residential Placement Task Force and implement them in collaboration with HHS partners.

To learn more about our work to promote safe people, visit [www.phila.gov/lhs](http://www.phila.gov/lhs).
Highlights from 2018

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Key Measures of Success

- Number of households safely and effectively diverted from shelter: NA* 760 837
- Increase the percentage of exits from unstable housing situations into permanent housing: 38% 33% 35%
- Increase the number of DHS-involved families within OHS who are placed in permanent housing or a time limited housing subsidy: 158 164 211
- Number of households benefiting from Rapid Rehousing: NA* 380 447
- Number of youth experiencing homelessness who were housed: NA* 1,313 1,322
- Increase the number of clients enrolled in public benefits through BenPhilly: 5,029 5,408 4,452

Key Activities for 2019

- Triple prevention funding, increase focus on families and Latinx community
- Incorporate trauma informed practices into shelter access points; Expand Housing First units by 70 additional subsidies with services through Pathways to Housing PA and Horizon House
- Will double enrollment in Rapid Rehousing for Reunification; Increase the number of housing trainings for DHS and CUA staff
- Implement housing match system based on assessed need, vulnerability
- Make homelessness prevention available at The Attic - an LGBTQ youth center; Train staff system-wide on LGBTQ sensitivity
- Provide support to Philadelphia Health Federation to provide public benefits enrollment at community schools

Key Activities for 2019

- Provide support to prevent evictions and homelessness
- Decrease reliance on emergency shelter
- Prevent homelessness for DSH-involved families
- Help extremely low-income families move into permanent housing
- Expand housing services for young adults, particularly youth aging out of foster care
- Strengthen connections to financial and benefits counseling for at-risk households

2018

- The Philadelphia Eviction Prevention Project (PEPP), was launched to address the eviction crisis in Philadelphia by providing comprehensive resources to tenants in danger of losing their homes. The City oversees and coordinates seven non-profits to run a tenant helpline, conduct outreach to at-risk tenants, provide information and financial counseling inside the courtroom, and represent tenants in court.

2019

- The Small Landlord Loan Repair Program will be launched to help small landlords secure loans to remediate their rental properties to eliminate any lead paint hazards and Property Maintenance Code violations. Community Empowerment & Opportunity (CEO) is launching a series of landlord engagement trainings to inform small landlords of their rights and responsibilities.

To learn more about our work to promote supported people, visit www.phila.gov/hhs

*HMIS was not fully operational in FY16 therefore data completeness and quality makes numbers unreliable. In FY17 HUD certified the City’s numbers as providing reliable data.

Note: The “Support a Citywide Workforce Agenda” strategy was removed because the initiatives and work tracking will now occur under the Office of Workforce Development

EXPANDING CAREER PATHWAYS

With its partners, the HHS cabinet is creating more workforce development pathways for those facing barriers to employment.

- OHS created the Intergovernmental Council on Homelessness, comprised of City departmental leaders to prioritize the needs of people engaged with their systems who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. First Step Staffing provides temporary jobs to the formerly homeless as a pathway to permanent employment. Since its opening in Philadelphia in January 2018, First Step Staffing has exceeded expectations with 670 individuals working weekly, 60% of whom recently experienced homelessness. It has provided an employment pathway for 568 formerly incarcerated individuals.

- The HHS cabinet will continue working with First Step Staffing, Center for Employment Opportunities, and JEVS to engage more people facing barriers to employment pathways. HHS will continue to support the Ile Wellness Center, which provides shelter and supportive services to adult men and women experiencing homelessness. The facility currently serves 40 people and anticipates serving 80 people in spring 2019.

MOVING FORWARD

- Implement a Same Day Work Program Pilot to provide people experiencing economic instability with daily work opportunities. The program would provide a pathway for next step workforce opportunities, either in the public or private sphere.
- Open Beacon House and other additional daytime engagement centers.
Thanks to the many partners that support the work of Together We Thrive, helping residents to grow and flourish.