

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Board of Health
INITIATED BY



Alison Chouinard
DRAFTED BY

Board of Health
SUBMITTED BY

11/1/21
DATE DRAFTED

Recognizing Access to Care and Mental Health as Rock County’s Community Health Improvement Plan Priorities

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Public Health Accreditation Board defines a Community Health Improvement Plan
- 2 (CHIP) as a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems on the basis of the results of
- 3 community health assessment activities and the community health improvement process; and,
- 4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the Rock County Public Health Department is to act as a chief health
- 6 strategist to assure, promote and protect the health of the people of Rock County in partnership with
- 7 the communities we serve; and,
- 8
- 9 **WHEREAS**, the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) is a multi-sector partnership
- 10 (including health systems, nonprofits, and local government) dedicated to eliminating health inequities
- 11 through the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- 12 to ensure that Rock County reaches its full health potential; and,
- 13
- 14 **WHEREAS**, health equity is incorporated into the foundations of Health Equity Alliance of Rock
- 15 County as a corner stone for the CHA and the CHIP so that residents have a fair and just opportunity to
- 16 be healthier; and,
- 17
- 18 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted mental health and had exacerbated health issues and
- 19 outcomes for many, including groups that have been historically marginalized and/or disadvantaged; and,
- 20
- 21 **WHEREAS**, the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) will help to ensure the commitment
- 22 of the Rock County Board of Supervisors to address racism and the disparate health outcomes that
- 23 result from racism is carried out through targeted and specific initiatives in the CHIP; and,
- 24
- 25 **WHEREAS**, through a collaborative process, access to care and mental health were identified as the
- 26 priorities to address in the CHIP; and,
- 27
- 28 **WHEREAS**, the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County, which is coordinated through the Rock
- 29 County Public Health Department, will plan and implement upstream evidence-based strategies, policies,
- 30 system, and practices to address mental health and access to care.
- 31
- 32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
- 33 this 18th day of November, 2021 moves to recognize access to care and mental health as Rock
- 34 County’s Community Health Improvement Plan Priorities.

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Priorities

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Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF HEALTH

/s/Louis Peer
Louis Peer, Chair

/s/Dr. Connie Winter
Dr. Connie Winter, DDS, Vice Chair

/s/Tricia Clasen
Supervisor Tricia Clasen

/s/Shirley Williams
Supervisor Shirley Williams

/s/Eric Gresens
Eric Gresens, R.PH

/s/Kaitlyn Meyers
Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers, DVM, MPH

ABSENT
Supervisor Danette Rynes

/s/Dr. Vinkaya Somaraju
Dr. Vijaya Somaraju, MD, MPH, FACP

/s/Debra Kolste
Debra Kolste

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) is coordinated through the Rock County Public Health Department (RCPHD) and includes multi-sector stakeholders across Rock County who assess the health status of Rock County and work towards implementing strategies to improve health outcomes of residents. Over the past year, several community health assessments were conducted as part of a comprehensive Community Health Assessment. The results of the assessments indicated that mental health and access to care were areas of concern and through a collaborative process, they were selected as the priorities for improving the health of Rock County residents. COVID-19 has exacerbated many already existing health issues related to mental health and access to care. It is the intent of the Community Health Improvement Plan to address the structural and systemic health inequities between groups and communities. HEAR is committed to developing meaningful engagement with community partners and will continue to incorporate health equity into the development of strategies to improve access to care and mental health.