

Alachua County Advisory Boards
Annual Workplan/Accomplishments Report
FY 2023-2024

Date: August 22, 2023

Board/Committee Name: Health Care Advisory Board

Chair: William Garst

Board Liaison: Jaye Athy

Brief History of Committee: The Alachua County Health Care Advisory Board consists of community leaders in healthcare that strive for increased access to health care services for low-income and underinsured residents of Alachua County. The Advisory Board seeks to develop strategies for meeting identified health needs within the County and advises the BoCC on actions necessary to better meet the health needs of residents, and to address disparities and inequities affecting residents of Alachua County.

Mission Statement: To identify specific gaps in health services and other issues affecting the health care of low-income, underinsured, and underserved residents of Alachua County.

Major Accomplishments in FY 2022-2023:

- In August 2022, the HCAB presented a plan to address disparities in health care to the BoCC. The Board chose to fund a program to train and deploy Community Health Workers (CHWs) and also funded a health care communications component.
 - Contracts executed for Administrator, Community Mentor/Training Co-facilitator, and Training Coordinator/Lead Facilitator. Agreements for on the job training are also in place
 - Program Administrator position is posted through the Health Department; the FDOH in Alachua County is currently interviewing for the position
 - There have been 3 cohorts of training completed with 19 individuals trained
 - 6 individuals are employed, including one at the FDOH at Alachua County
 - HCAB is currently working with staff to explore options for expenditure of the communications dollars.
- HCAB members participated in the updated Community Health Improvement Plan, released in April 2023.
 - The advisory board supports BoCC policies including financial and/or in-kind support to improve health care access especially for underserved county residents.
- The advisory board continues to monitor updates on and support a syringe exchange program.

Goals & Objectives for FY 2023-2024:

- Increase access to oral health
 - The HCAB will continue to monitor dental therapy legislation as proposed by Floridians for Dental Access (floridiansfordentalaccess.org)
- Increase awareness and encourage use of healthcare resource platforms for agencies/residents
 - As part of the CHW plan implementation, CHW Program Administrator will develop/maintain resource platforms
 - Utilize communication funds to increase awareness of available platforms
- Explore initiatives to increase access to services and resources where residents live (services in place)
- Continue support and monitoring of CHW program implementation
 - Explore options and make recommendations for available Health Care Communication funds
- Receive periodic updates from staff on CHOICES
 - Program monitoring and evaluations