

Alachua County Advisory Boards
Annual Workplan/Accomplishments Report
FY 2024-2025

Date: August 27, 2024

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 2023-2024:

- In August 2022, the HCAB presented a plan to address disparities in healthcare to the BoCC. The Board chose to fund a program to train and deploy Community Health Workers (CHWs) and also funded a healthcare communications component.
 - The advisory board is working closely with the Program Administrator to review the strategies, challenges and successes of Year 1 and approve proposed changes to be presented to the BoCC for expenditures in Year 2
- HCAB members participated in the updated Community Health Assessment, released in June 2024.
 - The advisory board supports BoCC policies including financial and/or in-kind support to improve healthcare access especially for underserved county residents.
- In February 2024, the advisory board spoke to the BoCC to support proposed Dental Therapy legislation and requested Alachua County's lobbyist to monitor, support and speak favorably on behalf of the proposed identical Senate and House bills and to approve renewal of Alachua County's membership in Floridians for Dental Access as a government member. Dental Therapy Legislation was successfully passed by 2 legislative committees in 2024.
- The advisory board continues to monitor updates on and support the syringe exchange program.
- The advisory board continues to monitor progress on the eastside urgent care clinic.

Goals & Objectives for FY 2024-2025:

- Increase access to oral health
 - The HCAB will continue to monitor dental therapy legislation as proposed by Floridians for Dental Access (floridiansfordentalaccess.org)
 - The HCAB urges BoCC to continue supporting new legislation for dental therapy in 2025
- Explore initiatives to increase access to services and resources where residents live (services in place)
- Continue to support the CHW Program
 - Develop an advocacy plan for appropriate reimbursement of services provided by CHW
 - Encourage the BoCC to advocate for legislation of reimbursement for CHW services, including having Alachua County's lobbyist monitor and speak favorably on the County's behalf for any legislation
- Participate in the 2025 Community Health Improvement Plan
- Receive periodic updates from staff on CHOICES
 - Program monitoring and evaluations