



MEMORANDUM COUNTY OF ERIE DEPT. OF HEALTH

ECLEG FEB16'16 AM10:41

TO: Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive
Maria Whyte, Deputy County Executive
Erie County Legislature

FROM: Benjamin M. Swanekamp, Executive Assistant-Health

DATE: February 16, 2016

RE: Initiatives for Stronger Community-2015 Q3 & Q4 Biannual Reports

In January 2016, departmental staff provided periodic reports on the 49 initiatives comprising Initiatives for a Stronger Community for the time period between July-December 2015. This memo will summarize the reports and highlight the successes already achieved as well as any areas of concern.

Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for a complete listing of the initiatives and the status of each. A full compilation of the reports is also available for your review.

Completed Initiatives

To date, 11 initiatives have been completed, representing 22% of the total. Completed initiatives are: convene pay equity roundtable, re-establish the Welfare Advisory Board, strengthen partnership between CPS and schools, publish annual community resource guide for youth programs, collaborate with stakeholders in improve Kinship Process, co-locate a mental health counselor and a CASAC in CPS, complete a chronic neglect study, increase participation in SNAP program to prevent hunger, establish a New Americans Advisory Council, establish an assisted enroller program for public benefit programs, and implement a Health Home-jail pilot.

In Progress Initiatives

36 of 49 initiatives are in progress, representing 73% of the total. There are initiatives in progress in all four sections. Eight of the in-progress initiatives are at least 75% complete so the total number of completed initiatives in on track to increase by June 2016. These include initiatives like 3.44, Establish a Food Policy Council, and 1.2, Strengthen connections between ECIDA and the Workforce Investment Board.

See the attached spreadsheet for notes on individual projects including notes by initiative supervisors.

Initiatives Not Yet Begun

2 initiatives have not yet begun, representing 4% of the total. These two initiatives currently lack project leads due to recent vacancies.

Areas of Concern

There are no areas of concern to report at this time.

Conclusion

Of the 49 initiatives, a total of 47 (95%) are completed or underway. Substantial progress has been made the plan was launched and even more progress is expected by the next reports in June of 2016. Encouragingly, resources have been found for many of the ongoing initiatives, including significant state grants.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Lead Department	Partners	Resources Secured	Notes	Reports Received ?	Overall Status
1.1	PIVOT Pilot Programs with the Child Care Resource Network and the Amherst Chamber of Commerce	ECDSS	Amherst Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Buffalo	Amherst Chamber of Commerce was not able to provide the identified resources.	Meeting with Leadership Buffalo was held and plan developed to get in front of employers. DSS presented at LB's Eggs and Issues Series. There were 30 employers present.	Yes	With new partnership with Leadership Buffalo, 50% on track.
1.2	Strengthen Connections Between ECIDA and Existing Workforce Development System	ECIDA	WIB, WDC, ECIDA			Yes.	75% complete. In 2016 ECIDA will take the lead on a creating a requirement that any project induced by ECIDA must provide notice of employment opportunities to the WIB.
1.3	Educate Employers on the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities	ECOD	ECEEO, Personnel Department, BNP, ACCESS-VR, WNY Employment Consortium, WNY Independent Living	No	Meeting with employers and holding job fairs in improve education.	Yes	Ongoing project.
1.4	Develop Employment Opportunities for individuals returning from State Prison	ECDMH	NYS Department of Correctional and Community Supervision, Reentry Task Force, Spectrum	Yes, 100% from NYS DCJS	Core challenge is changing employer perspectives as to the value and potential of this population.	Comm. Yes	50% complete.

			Human n Services, Center for Employment Opportunitie s, WDC, ECC, Mental Health Peer Connection				
1.5	Issue Executive Order - Reducing Barriers to employment for people with criminal records	County Executive's Office	Personnel, Purchasing, ECPD, Central Police Services, ECEEO, Center for Employment Opportunitie s			No	
1.6	Convene Pay Equity Round Table	Erie County Commission on the Status of Women	ECDSS, Erie County Workforce Development , the WNY Women's Foundation, Veterans One-Stop Center, American Association of University Women, Junior League of Buffalo, Women's Business Center at Canisus, Planned Parenthood WNY	Yes.	Possible follow up by examining the City of Boston's "Boston Compact" model.	Yes	Complete, and successful.
1.7	Implement Executive Order #13: Pay Equity Certification on County Contracts	ECEEO	Erie County Attorneys' Office, Division of Purchase, and all County Departments	Yes. 75% secured from EC DEEO.	Process beginning this quarter.	Yes	90% Complete. First reports to be issued in early summer 2016.

1.8	Issue Executive Order Expanding Civil Service Outreach to Include a broader population	Department of Personnel and ECEEO	ECDSS, ECPA, ECVSA, ECOD, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, People Inc., Amvets Posts, Buffalo Erie County Public libraries, NAACP	No.	Personnel will continue to require additional interview for non-competitive appointments to insure a broad pool.	Yes.	80% complete, Mindy will continue to plug away.
1.9	Rental Rehabilitation Program	ECDEP	Erie County DCBG Consortium, United State Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$138,000 pending from CDBG -2015 grant application to HUD	3 rental rehab projects completed as of 1/15/16.	Yes.	25% complete. 9 rental rehab loan applications are in the hands of eligible property owners.
1.10	New Rental Housing Incentive Program	ECDEP	TBD Non-profits.	\$75,000 pending from 2015 HOME Investment Partnership grants application submitted to HUD.	Awaiting receipt of grant	Yes.	15% complete. Expected competition May 15th 2017.
1.11	Erie County Fair Housing Law	ECDEP	Town of Hamburg, Housing Opportunities Made Equal	Funding not required.	Draft law has been prepared by HOME and is under review by DEP and Law Department.	Yes.	25% complete. Estimated completion June 2016.
1.12	Re-Establish the Welfare Advisory Board as a Poverty Committee.		Various County Departments	N/A	Complete and meeting.	Yes	100%

2.1	Expand partnership with Say Yes Education to enhance child well-being for Buffalo Schools.	ECDSS	Buffalo Public Schools, Say Yes Buffalo, Catholic Charities	Additional funding for all Buffalo Public Schools has been secured.	An agency will be selected. D to provide Say YES School-Based Preventive Services and additional Site Facilitators will be hired for all Buffalo Public Schools. The Say YES Request for Proposals (RFP) School-Based Preventive Program has been released.	Yes	50%
2.3	Strengthen partnership between CPS and schools when educational neglect is suspected	ECDSS	ECDOH, Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 BOCES, BPS, UWBEC	Yes, utilizing existing county employees.		Yes	100%, caseworkers are now embedded in schools.
2.4	Universal Development Screening and community support for young children	ECDSS, CCRN	Early childhood providers, ECDOH, Health Foundation for Western & Central New York, UWBEC, Early Childhood Direction Center, 2-1-1 WNY, Early Intervention, medical organizations , and community-based health and human service providers	DSS and CCRN scheduled 2 training days with Center Based Providers and Home based providers. Contract language changed to include quality reference and appropriate activities with children.	DSS and CCRN scheduled 2 training days with Center Based Providers and Home based providers. Contract language changed to include quality reference and appropriate activities with children.	Yes	50% complete, training for the staff of the programs will be scheduled. Aiming for June 2016 completion of training module.

2.5	Reduce placements in detention and treatment facilities through intensive community asset partnership.	ECDSS, ECPD	Hillside Family of Agencies, Third Sector Capital	Fully funded through Pay for Success.	Project awaiting formal approval from New York State.	Yes	65%. Finalizing client eligibility criteria.
2.6	Publish Annual Community Resource Guide for Youth Programs	ECDSS	ECDMH and ECPD, Family Court and Voluntary Agencies	100% Secured via Youth Bureau	Available on our website.	Yes	100%
2.7	Collaborate with stake-holders to improve kinship process	ECDSS	Family Court, Voluntary Agencies, Casey Family Programs and Attorney's for Children and Parents	N/A		Yes	100%
2.8	Lobby New York State for CPS Reform	Office of the County Executive	New York Public Welfare Association and New York State Association of Counties	N/A	Numbers of bills we are pushing have been reduced and we will push in upcoming legislative session.	Yes	10%
2.9	Co-Locate a Mental Health Counselor and a CASAC in CPS	ECDMH and ECDSS	Mid-Erie Counseling and Treatment Services, NYS OCFS	100% Secured through Preventive Dollars funding.	Continues to be regular implementation meetings. Conducted 203 home visits, and 217 screenings.	Yes	100%
2.10	Complete a Chronic Neglect Study and Incorporate Finding Into Child Welfare Response	ECDSS	UB School of Social Work	Funds from 2014 Budget.	Study complete.	Yes	100%
2.11	Develop and deliver an education curriculum to teach Children	ECPA	ECDSS, Erie County Coalition Against Family	Not yet. Currently no identified funding source.	Really need \$10,000 from the county to properly implement.	Yes	50% Complete. "Dating Matters" curriculum

	and their families how to have "Healthy Families and Healthy Relationships"		Violence, Child & Family Services, Crisis Services, Family Justice Center & Hispanics United				chosen. Next step is to rollout at schools.
3.10	Reinvigorate and Expand Healthy Choices Food Initiative	ECDOH	WNY Chapter NYS Restaurant Association, UB/SUCB School of Dietetics, Local Restaurants, Local Health Plans	30% of the funding has been secured from community partners.	Confirmed UB intern Summer 2015; Connected w/ SUCB to utilize dietetic students to promote nutrit. /healthy choices F2015. May recruit restaurants near BNMC incl. Allentown and the Fruit Belt, for Healthy Choices.	Yes	20% complete. This will be a rolling program, trying to constantly add new restaurants. 3 new ones recently.
3.2	Provide and Promote Healthier Food in Neighborhoods underserved by major supermarket chains	ECDOH	P2 collaborative, Oshei foundation.	County funding needed, approximately 675 dollars for the first round.	First two stores have begun participation. Looking to expand to 2 more locations soon.	Yes	80% complete.
3.3	Increase Participation in SNAP Program to Prevent Hunger	ECDSS	Food Bank of WNY, Local Food Pantries	100% Secured from DSS/Food Bank of WNY and Food Pantry Staff	Outreach completed to ensure that staff and the community are aware of the additional food pantries available.	Yes	100% - Outreach completed in June through December.

3.4	Expansion of Stay-Fit Dining Program	ECDSrSv	Senior and community centers, refugee community stakeholders, community activists, Meals on Wheels of WNY, Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels, the Town of Amherst, Senior Services Advisory Board Members	100% secured.	Main obstacle is that potential new sites don't have enough seniors to meet program requirements. Two new sites in Buffalo recently failed to qualify.	Yes	20% complete. New breakfast program at Amherst Senior Center going well. Aiming for completion by 4th quarter 2016.
3.5	Increase the availability of reimbursable chronic disease self-management and diabetes self-management classes	ECDSrSv	Niagara County Office for the Aging, Catholic Charities, Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, P2 Collaborative, UWPEC, Erie and Niagara County Senior Centers	Yes, 100% secured from Title III.	Identified and have signed MOU's with 9 out of the 10 perennial sites. Application for accreditation is 75% complete.	Yes	65%. Completion by Spring of 2016.
3.6	Increase the availability of fall prevention programming in Erie County	ECDSrSv	BCBS, Independent Health; Univera, local senior centers, the Erie County Step Up to Stop Falls Coalition	Yes, 100% secured from CSE grant	Trained over 20 class leaders, two standard sites set up (Amherst and Springville).	Yes	50% complete. Expected competition 3rd quarter 2016.
3.7	Erie County Million Hearts Campaign	ECDOH	US DHHS, Catholic Health, Local Health Plans	50% Secured from community partners.	Initial surveys are complete, and heart disease mortality zip code maps	Yes	25% complete, ongoing through the end of 2016.

					have been developed.		
3.8	Mr. Fitness Active Aging Video Clips	ECDSrSv	Stall Geriatrics, TBD Senior Centers	Yes, 100% secured from Title III B.	Completed filming 10 active aging videos	Yes	75% complete. Aiming to have videos distributed by Fall Prevention Week.
3.44	Food Policy Council of Buffalo and Erie County	EDCOH	Erie County Board of Health, Healthy Kids Healthy Communities , BNMC, SUNY UB, D'Youville, CCE, School Districts, Local Famers, WNY Restaurant Association, local waste hauler, Buffalo City Council.	No. Part time support from Councilman Rivera's Office and BNMC keep the project going.	\$50,000 for salary and fringes part time as well as office/supports including phone, computer access, etc. This is still a need if the Food Policy Council is to progress substantially. BNMC has currently agreed to provide staff support on a limited basis to ensure coordination of efforts short term.	Yes.	90%. Council has been formed and formalized as a subcommittee of the Erie County Board of Health.
4.1	Establish a New Americans Advisory Council	Office of the County Executive	Erie County Departments , Buffalo Office of New Americans	N/A	Board has begun meeting	Yes	100%
4.2	Assess service access for individuals with limited English proficiency	Office of the County Executive	County Departments , Resettlement Agencies	N/A	Surveys completed and are being assembled.	Yes	50%. To be complete by March 2016.
4.3	Increase languages spoken by employees to	Personnel Department	ECDSS and Resettlement Agencies		NYS Civil Service examinations require English	Comm.	Ongoing Project.

	reflect language diversity in community				proficiency.		
4.4	Implement Microenterprise Child Care for Refugee Communities	ECDDSS	CCRN, Buffalo State College Business Development Center, Journey's End, Jewish Family Services	Unfortunately, no additional funding was awarded to support the expansion of the program. DSS continues to work with CCRN to support current enrollees and look for funding opportunities	Plans are being developed to continue this program.	Yes	Remains at 55% on track, seeking additional funding to expand program.
4.5	Implement a consumer-directed home care program for old adult refugees and immigrants in urban settings	ECDDSrSv	Local Refugee Resettlement Agencies	Previously identified funding source is no longer available.	Most of the target individuals for this project are on Medicaid, and are ineligible for this Medicare funded program.	Yes	5% complete
4.6	Assist Faith-based communities in rural Erie County to start and maintain older adult group respite programs	ECDDSrSv	Faith-Based Organizations	100% secured from Community Services for the Elderly	Early successes have already been highlighted by Monroe County and at a conference in Albany.	Yes.	50%. 5 of 10 contracts are signed with faith-based organizations and program are up and running.
4.7	Establish an assisted enroller program for public benefit programs	ECDDSS	BECPL, Faith-Based Organizations, Food Bank of WNY	Interns and community sites identified and selected.	100% complete for implementation. Currently in ongoing phase.	Comm. 4D-5 Yes	100% Complete. 10 interns enrolled in the project. Assisted enroller program implemented in 11 community based sites,

							including libraries and other organizations in the rural areas.
4.8	Assist Older Adults to Access Buffalo Senior Centers and Stay-Fit congregate dining sites	ECDSrSv	Buffalo Car Share; Salvation Army	\$9,000		Yes.	50% complete
4.9	Establish a short-term community based peer respite using a "Living Room" Model	ECDMH	Having Options Made Easy, BPC, Behavioral Health Service providers, NYSOMH	Yes. 100% from NYSOMH	Current 3 bedroom 1 bath location is less than 1 mile from ECMC and thriving.	Yes.	90% Complete. Larger site still desired.
4.10	Pursue the expansion of broadband internet access	ECDEP	Erie County Legislature, ECIDA	100% Secured through 2016 budget	Consultant selected. An authorizing resolution will be clocked in for 2/18/16.	Yes	15% Complete. Expected completion August 30th 2016.
4.11	Improve the coordination and delivery of care for mentally ill individuals in contact with the criminal justice system	ECPD and ECDMH	Law enforcement agencies, Crisis Services, Mental Health Providers, the Courts, ECDS, NYSDCJS	No. Funding from NYS DCJS did not come through. Full funding from other programs is available from the NYS Department of Mental Health.	Crisis Intervention Training has continued despite lack of funding, and Buffalo PD is scheduled to be trained next.	Yes	60% complete with initial trainings. Going forward there will always be a need to train local police in Crisis Intervention Teams. Additional programs are being rolled out to aid in the diversion of mentally ill individuals from the

							prison system.
4.12	Reduce Housing-Related Problems for those with behavioral health issues	ECDMH	BPC, ECMC, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, NYSOMH	Yes. 100% from NYSOMH	29 of 56 beds are occupied. Full occupancy expected by mid-2016.	Yes.	52% complete. NYS has awarded 20 additional beds.
4.13	Establish professional/peer mobile support teams to help those discharged from psychiatric inpatient facilities transition to community-based services	ECDMH	Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services, ECMC, Mental Health Peer Connection, BPC, NYSOMH	Yes. 100% from NYSOMH	Two teams working full time. 61% of the times they are able to get the client help without hospitalization, and without police intervention.	Yes.	85% complete. Goal is to increase referrals in 2016.
4.14	Implement a health home-jail pilot	ECDMH	Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, Erie County Sheriff's Office, Area Health Homes	100%, no additional funding required.	3 times per week a list of health home patients who have been arrested is sent to area Health Homes.	No.	100% complete. Phase II to increase referrals from the Jail and Holding Center to Single Point of Access to be complete by early 2016.
4.15	Training programs on benefits allotted to veterans	ECVSA	All Erie County Health and Human Services Departments, Personnel Department, Contract Agencies				

4.16	Comprehensive outreach plan to better reach the again and disabled population in Erie County	ECDSrSv	Senior Services Advisory Board, Erie County Long Term-Care Council, Erie County's EISP Case Management Contract Agencies, the WNY Evidence-based Wellness Council	Yes, 100%.	Matt Davidson PR point contractor.	Yes	50% complete. Aiming to be 100% by end of the first quarter 2016.
4.17	Service Animal Awareness Campaign	ECOD	Commission for the Blind, Wounded Warriors, WNY Heroes, Olmsted Center for Sight, National Federation for the Blind, WNY Independent Living, NYS Commission for the Blind	No	Ongoing awareness campaign.	Yes.	Ongoing campaign. Expected to be completed supper of 2016.
4.18	Establish a data clearinghouse for Erie County Human Services	DISS	All Health and Human Services Departments	100%	Currently upgrading Drupal to include Open Data module to allow public to better access data.	Yes.	40% complete. DISS is working with pertinent departments to build database for the site.