

Morrisville Health District (Lamoille County)

Community Projects

March 2, 2023

Backbone Organization: Lamoille Health Partners (LHP)

Website: <https://www.lamoillehealthpartners.org/>

Morrisville's Data Driven Problem Statement:

Data shows that Vermonters who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and who had COVID-19 had a higher rate of pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, pulmonary and cardiovascular disease compared to white non-Hispanic Vermonters with COVID-19, 19.4 versus 12.1 per 10,000 Vermonters, respectively. COVID-19 among Vermonters who are BIPOC (healthvermont.gov). Between March 2021 through April 2022; Lamoille County had 183 COVID-19 cases among identified BIPOC community members, representing 18% of total cases during this time (VDH-Health Surveillance). Vermonters who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are at a disadvantage regarding healthy equity which was highlighted nationally during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Morrisville's Community Goal/Vision:

The collaborative will seek to better understand the problem to support community efforts in developing initiatives that will assist in bridging these gaps in inequities. One fundamental step in understanding these disparities and gaps is to engage a diverse community to join the conversations. The Health Equity Collaborative of Lamoille has agreed for the broader engagement strategy as an initial step in promoting future work.

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Community Engagement Lab

We will be planning and implementing a new regional asset mapping initiative in partnership with youth, community members, and organizations in communities served by the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union. The project will focus on revealing a comprehensive array of community assets that can strengthen the health and well-being of youth and community members, and how to make those assets accessible to youth and their families for BIPOC and other marginalized and oppressed community members.

Intended results: 1. Reveal and understand the community assets that can help bridge the health equity gaps for BIPOC youth and families, and others who are marginalized to improve accessibility to the assets. 2. A comprehensive "map" of community assets, including individuals' gifts and talents; relationships among individuals and organizations; organizations, businesses, and institutions; groups and associations; physical environment; and methods of exchange. 3. A customized asset mapping protocol for the OSSU region to be organic and continually expanding.

Lamoille Backpack Program

The Backpack Program provides backpacks filled with resources for school-aged youth in the community. The resources include school supplies, snacks and health supplies.

The intended result of this program is to help students be successful at school and to help them feel comfortable and confident as they start the new school year.

Green Mountain Technology & Career Center

The Project Director is an Abenaki Community member who directs the "Circle of Courage" after-school cultural program for both Native and non-Native students in Swanton and Highgate, Vermont. The Educational Plan: Two hours of professional development via an in-person course at a designated school which provides teachers with a background on 13,000 years of Abenaki culture in the region. The course will also introduce teachers to decolonization theory, and cultural competency principles.

Intended results: 1. Better understanding of Abenaki culture, history, traditions 2. Better understanding of the youth and their families who identify as Abenaki. 3. Better understanding of how we can help keep these traditions alive and present in our discussions in the classroom. 4. Learn to commune and have conversations around what makes us so wonderfully different and special.

Lamoille Community House

Access to healthcare, grocery shopping, employment opportunities, and support services are limited due to a severe lack of transportation for those in shelter who do not have vehicles. To approach the problem with an equity lens, we must do so from several angles. We have a three-sided approach to making sure people have access to resources once we move into our new, year-round shelter facility in the fall of 2023. Our approach includes: making sure we have space for service providers to come and meet with our guests on location; having proper technology for our guests to increase access to telehealth and other resources; and creating transportation options using electronic bikes (e-bikes).

Intended results: The goal is to have increased access to healthcare and other resources that will improve overall well-being, health, and quality of life for people experiencing homelessness.

Lamoille County Mental Health Services

LCMHS will hire a Mental Health Crisis Specialist who will work out of the Morristown Police Department (MPD) and provide emergency behavioral health-related crisis services working toward de-escalating crisis situations with the MPD. The primary goal is to divert mental health and or substance use incidents from criminal justice involvement and provide individuals with the services and supports they need to remain in their community and avoid hospitalization and/or incarceration. We want to intervene and minimize the use of force, trauma, and future crises.

Intended results: To divert cases involving people with disabilities (mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders), BIPOC individuals, veterans, homeless individuals, LGBTQIA+ individuals and youth from the criminal justice system and in-patient hospitalization whenever possible.

Lamoille Restorative Center

1. Build organizational capacity: Expand professional development and create new learning opportunities. The Creative Discourse Group (TCDG) conducted a thorough organizational audit and a final report, released last spring, illuminates clear pathways forward, including facilitated learning sessions for staff, board, and volunteers

Intended results: 1. Through training and professional development activities, LRC staff, board, and community volunteers will have increased skills and knowledge related to issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. 2. LRC's participants – almost all of whom represent historically marginalized populations who experience health disparities – will have access to timely and appropriate care within LRC and in the community. LRC will develop a system to respond to participants' concerns related to equity.

Lamoille Union High School

Intervention Pilot Plan Part 1: An Integrated Behavioral Health Clinician will come into our school early January and meet the youth from our Glow group briefly. Beginning late January 2023, they will start to meet with the Glow group once a month from 1:00 to 1:40pm on Fridays. They will structure the meetings around themes such as: Building trust and relationships, Understanding and nurturing relationships, What is consent? Understanding boundaries, expectations, and how to support one another in their individual journeys.

Intended results: The hope of our district is to support the needs of our LGBTQ+ youth so our youth can live happier, healthier lives in their school community and in the community at large. We want to make sure that our youth have the opportunity to feel what they feel, be valued, be heard, to feel supported and to learn how to be there for one another. We want to create a safe and healthy school community for all of our youth.

Lamoille South Unified Union

Lamoille South Unified Union is committed to building an inclusive and equitable school culture. One way to achieve this is through a universal and tiered health curriculum that is co-created and co-facilitated by young people and adults to build awareness and address issues of equity, including: Mental Health, Bullying, Hazing and Harassment, Use of technology, Suicide Prevention, Sexual Abuse, Violence Prevention, Tobacco, Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention, Wellness Programming and First Aid, CPR & AED knowledge.

Intended results: Provide preventative / proactive education measures for students and families in the form of a tier 1 health education curriculum offered to all middle level students and professional development training for adults. Increase representation of BIPOC speakers, presenters, and others in positions of authority and expertise. An inclusive and equitable school culture, elevates youth voice, validates and celebrates youth and adult experiences, knowledge, expertise, builds & sustains youth voice and youth-adult partnership through day-to-day practices.

Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union

OSSU identified a need to increase student access to comprehensive, inclusive, and equitable sexual health education. This intervention brings in a consulting health educator prepared with a Masters degree in Reproductive Justice and Sex Education. Teachers and staff will gain confidence with materials and methodologies to educate students about physical and emotional wellness, including a healthy understanding of sexuality.

Intended results: 1. Equitable comprehensive and inclusive sexual health education for students at all OSSU schools 2. Teachers and staff with increased knowledge and confidence regarding LGBTIA+ issues in the school setting. 3. Students of all gender identities and sexual orientations feel represented in their sexual health education 4. Students of all gender identities and sexual orientations feel seen and valued in their educational setting.

United Way of Lamoille County

This project will support UWLC staff and the newly hired full-time Mobile Rural Resource Navigator (MRRN) who is providing Lamoille County residents with full, supported access to available resources. This grant will enhance outreach efforts and UWLC's ability to be a physical hub in the center of Morrisville and support the purchase of I.T. hardware and the creation of a UWLC Resource Center, to be utilized by community members needing support. The equipment would include iPads, computers, headphones, hybrid meeting technology, MiFi devices, and ergonomic office equipment. The project also includes a bathroom renovation to create a public shower.

Intended results: UWLC will create a Resource Hub advancing health equity and community well being. UWLC space will be welcoming and meaningful for people seeking services, build knowledge of local resources, and offer community meeting space. Resources in the office (iPads or laptops) will allow people to hail micro-transit, access telehealth services, research relevant resources and make vital connections. The projection device and screen will allow hybrid meetings and convene local nonprofits, collaboratives and community groups.