Health District Invites Public Input on Community Health Assessment

HAYDEN, ID – Panhandle Health District is excited to share with the North Idaho community our recently completed Community Health Assessment (CHA). This was an in-depth process of data collection and analysis which identified county specific health needs and issues.

“The data gathering portion of our CHA involved input from multiple community partners and over 1600 citizens,” said Lora Whalen, director of Panhandle Health District. “Three major themes rose to the top as priorities; Access to Health Care, Mental Health/Suicide and Substance Use Disorder. We are asking our communities to assist us as we move forward in working on these priorities. Together we can improve the health of our communities in the five northern counties.”

Your feedback matters. The Health District is asking community members to please consider providing input on steps our communities can take to make a positive impact on our health priorities. You can access the full CHA results and provide input through the Panhandle Health District website, www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/community-health-assessment-and-plan.

The CHA process took a year’s time. The Health District’s next step is to work with the community again to develop an outcomes based Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP will identify strategic ways in which Panhandle and community partners can address the health needs that were identified in the CHA. The CHIP puts the work into action items that the community can be a part of working towards.

“We look forward to the action items and associated strategies that will be developed as part of the Community Health Improvement plan (CHIP). The CHIP will provide us a map to healthier North Idaho communities,” said Whalen.

The essential ingredients for the assessment and improvement plan are community engagement and collaborative participation. Panhandle Health has the full Community Health Assessment document on their website as well as the data that went into the process. You may also view the last Community Health Improvement Plan that was completed in 2014.
To view the 2018 Community Health Assessment, go to the Panhandle Health District website at, www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/community-health-assessment-and-plan. Panhandle asks that you provide your feedback on the online form, which you can find at the same link.

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Panhandle Health District provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.