

Northeast Region: Alpena, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Iosco, Ogemaw, Alcona, Oscoda, Roscommon, Crawford, and Otsego counties

Assessment Event Date: April 14th, 2021 via Zoom

Forces of Change Assessment:

The Forces of Change Assessment aims to answer two questions:

- What is occurring or might occur that affects the health and wellbeing of our community?
- What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

Forces of change are trends, factors, and events *outside of our control* that may influence the health of our community or the system of organizations supporting the community, both in the recent past and the foreseeable future.

- **TRENDS** are patterns over time, such as migration in and out of a community or a growing disillusionment with government.
- **FACTORS** are discrete elements, such as a community’s large ethnic population, an urban setting, or a jurisdiction’s proximity to a major waterway.
- **EVENTS** are one-time occurrences, such as a natural disaster or the passage of new legislation.

Threats posed to the health and wellbeing of our community

Opportunities created for the health and wellbeing of our community

Most Powerful Forces: Mental health & Substance Misuse, Provider Shortage, Telehealth, Broadband Access, Affordable Housing, Misinformation & Mistrust causing divisiveness, Rurality, ALICE*

Topic Area	Top Forces of Change	Threats & Opportunities
Government Leadership & Budgets/Spending Priorities	Political Agendas, Influences and Policies	<p>Threats: People are being left out of assistance due to poverty level guidelines; lack of funding and or availability for childcare is a barrier to employment</p> <p>Opportunities: Awareness of gaps is increasing (ALICE*); opportunities to mentor people that are in need; share resources for supports that do exist; advocacy for changing guideline; paid family health leave; increasing awareness of the subsidy; advocacy for increased funding and increased awareness of early childhood supports; new administration is increasing funding for basic support</p>
Sufficient Healthcare Workforce	<p>Monies & Grants for Training</p> <p>Minimum Wage Pending Legislation</p> <p>Lack of Staff in Specific Industries (i.e. mental health & substance abuse)</p>	<p>Threats: Grants allow for expansion, but workforce isn’t there; employers don’t have time to apply for funding or new programs; missed opportunities; sustainability when grants end; extended unemployment benefits- no incentive; lack of childcare and transportation; many don’t have GED which is a requirement</p> <p>Opportunities: Multiple programs available for all education types; multiple colleges are creating short training programs; Collaborative Body can be used to share opportunities’ collaboration between agencies so services can expand.</p> <p>Threats: Small employers won’t be able to afford if imposed all at once, this would not be manageable</p> <p>Opportunities: More of a livable wage is needed which this would address and may assist with issues such as housing; may have tax breaks for small employers.</p> <p>Threats: Educational requirements are high enough that general population can’t apply; small employers can’t compete with large employers who can pay more.</p> <p>Opportunities: Loan Repayment of education; collaboration with larger employers utilize a shared FTE model; opportunities are available for self-help or volunteer led; Trauma and Suicide (mental health First Aid) Training.</p>

Access to Health Services	<p>Cost & Access of Insurance</p> <p>Large Poverty & ALICE* population in our region</p> <p>Provide shortages & Rurality</p>	<p>Threats: People going untreated; self-medicate; unsure of how to access insurance navigators; ineffective insurance referrals; ALICE* populations making too much money to qualify for state insurance but not being able to afford private plan; working people who can't afford insurance</p> <p>Opportunities: Insurance navigators; referrals given by Emergency Room/Department for Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</p> <p>Threats: Increased crime rates; low rates of people with health insurance; uneducated on where to find resources</p> <p>Opportunities: MiWorks job training opportunities; government agency grants; Parent Cafes – agencies filling gaps and educating parents through a virtual platform</p> <p>Threats: Spread of communicable diseases that people are not seeking treatment for; not being able to get to appointments; providers being overbooked, and lack of providers makes it hard to seek care; lack of access to internet</p> <p>Opportunities: Telehealth</p>
Population Demographics	<p>Education and Income Levels</p> <p>Affordable Housing</p> <p>Broadband Internet</p>	<p>Threats: Rehab—three counties in NE have some of the highest rates of opioid use in the country; lack of access, stigma for seeking services re Substance Use Disorder (SUD); challenging to raise issues that may be controversial to decision-makers; losing teachers with increased demands in context of covid</p> <p>Opportunities: Partner across region to secure large grants; legislative advocacy mechanism to secure grants; work with Intermediate School Districts (ISD) to increase trade school options; support teachers who are maxed out with resources, go directly to students</p> <p>Threats: Families who want to migrate are unable to do so because supply is not available (Michigan Economic Development Corp provides some support but it takes time); Bidding wars—often people from outside the area purchase home for summer or to rent; people with Substance Use Disorder have additional difficulty securing housing, especially in downtown areas; perception that if low income housing is available, community will be defined as a low income community; COVID drives people who can work from home to move, reducing supply of housing</p> <p>Opportunities: Renovation of housing and condos; educational outreach for people being reintroduced to the community from rehab or incarceration</p> <p>Threats: Population of older adults (majority of the population) is not comfortable using the internet</p>
Access to Social Services	<p>Lack of housing (public/affordable)</p> <p>Isolation</p> <p>Access to SUD services/ treatment facilities (alcohol, vaping, marijuana, prescription drug)</p>	<p>Threats: Increased homelessness; increased domestic violence/child abuse; more multi-family households</p> <p>Opportunities: Family stability; lower crime rates; larger workforce; school enrollment increases</p> <p>Threats: Increased mental health difficulties; increased violence/crime; increased substance use disorder; higher gambling</p> <p>Opportunities: Social connectedness; lower need for social services; higher self-confidence/empowerment' autonomy; potential increase in the working population</p> <p>Threats: Higher death rates; increase in violence/crime; higher incarceration rates; stress on the social service system; decreased family structure/stability; strain on family and friends; babies born with substance use disorder; overdoses</p> <p>Opportunities: Larger workforce; healthier workforce; healthier community; decrease in hospitalizations, death, incarceration</p>

Social Context	<p>Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>Access to accurate information / discernment of information</p> <p>Affordable housing</p>	<p>Threats: Lack of support for water protection (PFAS)</p> <p>Opportunities: NOW organization seeking Federal help to clean up PFAS; More awareness on how chemicals generationally impact people and hopes that this awareness will prevent future water contamination</p> <p>Threats: Misinformation</p> <p>Opportunities: Staying clear and consistent with evidence-based information; bolster the already trusted local resources and experts to share evidence base information</p> <p>Threats: Lack of support for low income/affordable housing</p> <p>Opportunities: Programs that help change perception around low-income housing; Increasing awareness and advocacy around need for low income/affordable housing</p>
Impacts Related to COVID-19	<p>Vaccinations coming out, recent adverse events</p> <p>Overall decrease in mental health</p> <p>Closing of businesses, loss of jobs</p>	<p>Threats: Adverse events and vaccine hesitancy lead to lowered vaccination rates; polarization of pro-/anti-vaccination; need to stay vigilant with other mitigation measures.</p> <p>Opportunities: The way to end the pandemic; increase understanding of COVID-19 in case of future events Public health is daily; national topic</p> <p>Threats: Increased funding is temporary; mental health decrease in community leads to poverty, crime, overall lower health, etc. decrease mental health leads to decreased physical health, mental health services available were previously strained before an influx of new clients; delays in care</p> <p>Opportunities: More attention to funding for mental health programs; highlights importance and necessity of mental health services</p> <p>Threats: Lack of income can lead to poor outcomes in many different areas of life; overall lack of resources; burden on social safety nets; increase in "gig economy".</p> <p>Opportunities: Increase in unemployment benefits (temporary), increase in "gig economy".</p>

*ALICE refers to the **population in our communities that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed**. The ALICE population represents those among us who are working, but due to childcare costs, transportation challenges, high cost of living and so much more are living paycheck to paycheck.

Thank you to the many community residents and organizations that participated in the Forces of Change Assessment. Your contributions are important to our work:

Many community residents

Alcona County Commission on Aging
 Alcona Health Center
 Alcona Schools
 AMA ESD
 AMA Great Start Collaborative
 AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Authority
 Bay-Arenac ISD & Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance
 Catholic Human Services
 Cheboygan Housing Commission
 Child and Family Services of Northeast Michigan
 CHS - Up North Prevention
 COP ESD

Michigan State Police
 Michigan State University College of Human
 Medicine/SNP-AL Project
 Michigan State University Extension
 Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium
 Munson Healthcare
 Munson Medical Center
 Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency
 Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency- Head
 Start
 Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency-
 Homeless & Prevention Services
 Northern Family Intervention Services
 Northern Health Care Management

COP Great Start Coalition
Crawford County Commission on Aging
Crawford County Commission on Aging-Board Member
Disability Network Northwest Michigan
District Health Department #2
District Health Department #4
District Health Department #10
Drug Free Coalition
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
Grayling Chamber of Commerce
Habitat for Humanity Northeast Michigan
Isabella Citizens for Health
McLaren Northern Michigan
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
(MDHHS)
Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Northern Michigan Regional Entity
NOW- Need Our Water
Presque Isle County Human Services Coordinating Council
Presque Isle District Library
Pulling Together Drug Coalition
Michigan State University Extension, Cheboygan County
4-H
Radical Relief Productions
Resident
Rogers City Area Senior & Community Center
Roscommon County Community Foundation
Senior Center & School
Sterling Area Health Center
United Way of Northeast Michigan
University of Michigan Medical School