

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

ANNOUNCES THE FINAL EXAMINATION OF

Leslie D. Carroll

FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE
GRADUATE COLLEGE

Health Promotion Sciences

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*COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLANS AT NATIONAL
AND LOCAL LEVELS: AN ANALYSIS OF PLANS AND AN
INNOVATIVE APPROACH IN AN URBAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT*

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE: Thomas A. Teasdale, DrPh, JGSA, FAGHE;
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ABSTRACT: In the past ten years, Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) have become a requirement for both health department accreditation and to maintain not-for-profit hospital exempt status. This dissertation consists of three papers that cohesively describe the planning and implementation of an innovative local CHIP. First, I analyzed CHIPs at a national level by conducting a systematic review of the literature (n=195). Papers #2 and #3 detail a sequential mixed methods research approach to a local CHIP. Paper #2 reports the effectiveness of a nonprofit arm to a health department in the implementation of a local CHIP. A cross-sectional survey was conducted among community partners participating in the CHIP (n=43), semi-structured interviews were completed among facilitators of the CHIP (n=8), and two focus groups were administered among partners and facilitators who attended at least half of the meetings over a three year period (n=14). Paper #3 reports on participatory process evaluation used to meet one specific goal of a local CHIP, to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables among Millennials at a farmers' market using a cross-sectional survey among Millennials (n=44) followed by key informant interviews among Millennials, vendors, and board members two years after the intervention (n=8).

National findings from the literature revealed the following: that over 20% of CHIPs did not use a planning model, that all addressed health equity with social support most likely to be included, that all included cross-sector partnerships, and that local health departments are most often the steering organization. Local findings indicate the CHIP meetings were productive. Facilitators valued formal training, and incentives provided by the nonprofit arm of the health department were critical to partner engagement and collaboration. Focus group data revealed benefits and challenges to CHIP participation. Survey results found food samples, coupons, and recipes influence purchasing behaviors among Millennials. Qualitative findings reinforced the quantitative findings. These findings indicate that with CHIPs, local health departments have the potential to lead community partners toward shared health goals.

Keywords: community health improvement plan, health department, cross-sector partnership, population health.