

2024 Community Benefit Report



A note from our Executive Director

On behalf of the Center for Population Health (CPH), we would like to welcome you to our 2024 Annual Report. This past year has provided incredible opportunities to continue our mission of collaboration, outreach, and education.

In this report, you'll read about the continued growth of our Community Care HUB, Community Health Worker program, which helps to connect vulnerable populations in our communities to vital health and human service resources. You'll also read about several collaborations with community partners on health education and outreach with community health fairs, educational sessions, and a health ministry initiative.

Other new CPH initiatives include addressing dental and mental health, health hazards, and the upcoming launch of the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment process. All of these initiatives highlight our use of data to expand and support much needed programming to improve health in the region.

Finally, none of this work can be done without support from many community partners and grant-makers. We highlight some of the great collaborative programming and funding opportunities that occurred this year, which will allow us to continue to grow our work.

Special thank you to 1889 Foundation for their continued generous support.

We are so grateful for partners, providers, agencies, and residents in our communities who have joined us on this journey for health improvement in the Cambria-Somerset region.

If you are interested in learning more and collaborating with us, we welcome the chance to speak with you. We look forward to continuing this work in 2025 and achieving our vision of an empowered community where all people have access to equitable health opportunities.

Jeannine McMillan

Jeannine McMillan, Executive Director

Mission

Improving health through collaboration, outreach, and education

Vision

An empowered community where all people have access to equitable health opportunities

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Our Team

Jeannine McMillan, *Executive Director*

Kimberly Roberts, *Associate Director*

Allie Byers, *Communications Coordinator*

Amy Bunn, *Referral Coordinator*

Leann Lovejoy, *Data Analyst*

Nan McNinney, *Local Food Systems Coordinator*

Our Board of Directors

Lladel Lichty, *Chairwoman*

Alanna Wilson, *Vice Chairwoman*

Susan Mann, *Secretary*

Michael Alberts, *Treasurer*

Scott Becker

Jim Cascio, *Esquire*

Oscar Cashaw

Susan Williams, *MD*

Barb Zaboltny

LaShae Jeffers

Trevor Anderson

Jeannine McMillan, *Ex-Officio Member*



Thank you to our AmeriCorp volunteers Kayla and Jade for all of their hard work this year.

Community Care HUB

CPH launched the HUB in September of 2020. The HUB’s goal is to improve the health outcomes of vulnerable populations in Cambria and Somerset counties. A HUB is an organized, outcome-focused network of Care Coordination Agencies (CCAs) who hire and train Community Health Workers (CHWs) to reach out to those at greatest risk. The HUB’s CCAs are Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy, Beginnings, Inc., and The Women’s Help Center.



The HUB follows the nationally recognized and evidence-based Pathways Community HUB (PCH) model. CHWs meet with participants face-to-face and guide them through completion of one, or more, of 21 Pathways designed to address their needs. Pathways include connections to housing, transportation, medical and social services, and more.

Current HUB Eligibility:

- Pregnant and Parenting (0-18 months)
- School-based (Greater Johnstown Elementary School and Somerset Area School District)
- Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder
- Housing Insecure



Certified November 2024-November 2027



In 2024, the HUB was recertified through Pathways Community HUB Institute® (PCHI®).

To obtain recertification, the Community Care HUB met the stringent national standards for quality community care coordination services and is dedicated to excellence. To become certified for three years, it means the HUB went through a rigorous peer review process.

Community Health Worker Stephanie served on the Social Determinants of Health Panel Discussion during the 2024 Cambria-Somerset Community Health & Human Services Summit.

For more information on the Community Care HUB



Agency Partners

2024 HUB Highlights



7 Community Health Workers (CHWs)



1,042 individuals served



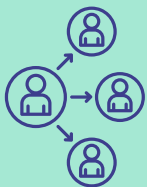
1,886 visits from CHWs



1,811 needs met



600 Learning modules



819 social service referrals



77 babies born



89% born at a healthy weight (>5.8 lbs)



94% completed a postpartum visit

Top Pathways

1. Social service referral

2. Medical referral

3. Learning

4. Pregnancy

5. Oral health

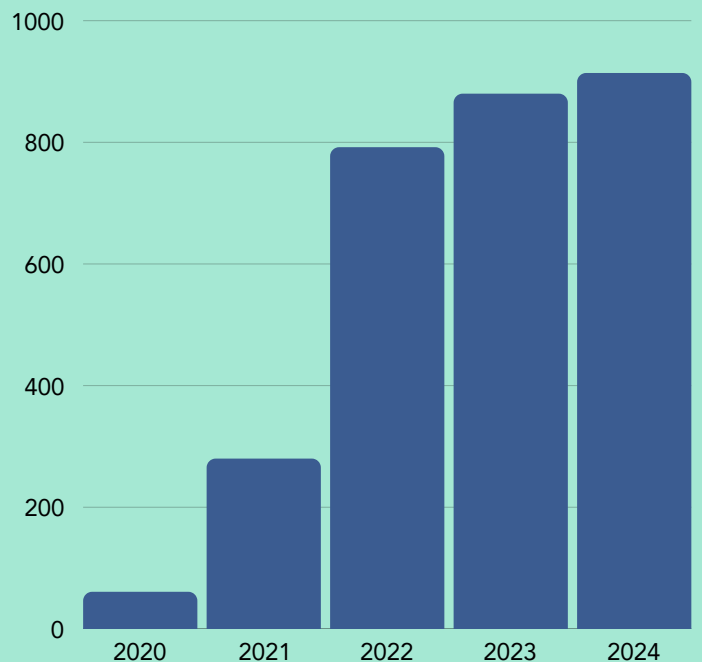
Top 3 Social Service Needs

1. Household/personal items (clothing, diapers, furniture)

2. Financial (utilities, rent)

3. Childcare

Referrals over time



CHW Advocacy/Sustainability

The Community Care HUB is a proud member of the Pennsylvania Community Health Worker Collaborative (PACHW), a group of CHWs and Allys dedicated to raising awareness about the critical role of the CHW workforce in improving health and wellness. PACHW advocates for sustainable financing approaches that support the long-term employment of CHWs in PA. Kimberly Roberts is co-chair of the PACHW Community Based Organization (CBO) subcommittee whose work includes petitioning for a State Plan Amendment (SPA) that would create sustainable funding in Medicaid billing. Additionally, Kimberly attended a series of listening sessions with Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide critical feedback on the CHW workforce and services provided.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the CY 2024 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) which authorizes payments for CHW services to address health-related social needs (HRSNs). Continued efforts are underway to position CHW employers in accessing these reimbursement opportunities.

CHW Advocacy

PACHW Rally Day

Center for Population Health staff and Community Care HUB Community Health Workers attended PACHW Collaborative's Rally Day at the State Capital in October. The group met with PA State Representative Jim Rigby and Senator Pat Stefano to discuss some of the HUB's work.



Camden Conference

In October, Jeannine McMillan and Kimberly Roberts attended Putting Care at the Center, a national conference for those working to improve care for people with complex health and social needs. Presented by the Camden Coalition's National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs, this year's annual event was held in Pittsburgh and was co-hosted by UPMC Health Plan.

Staff presented during the Exploring the Community Care HUB model: Examples from Pennsylvania and New Jersey panel discussion. The discussion was moderated by Pathways Community HUB Institute's (PCHI) Amy Vreeland, who explored the importance of creating networks of community-based organizations using the PCH model of care. They highlighted the work of the HUB and provided an overview on how the Community Health Worker's data collection drives the CPH's systems-level efforts in the community.

State Conference

Community Care HUB staff, CHWs, and a CHW Supervisor attended Pennsylvania's Third Annual Community Health Worker Conference in State College in September.



University of Pittsburgh's Rural Health Panel

Kimberly Roberts participated as a panelist during the University of Pittsburgh's Rural Health & Well-Being in Western Pennsylvania Zoom Webinar.

Conversation centered around health challenges in Western PA, opportunities to address these challenges, and the work currently being done at universities, centers, and non-profits to benefit the health of rural populations.

Washington, D.C. meetings



This year, Jeannine McMillan and local community leaders met with legislators and staff in Washington, D.C., which included discussions in regard to local health and human service needs. Among other meetings, the group met with Sophia Sokolowsky, Senior Advisor, White House of Intergovernmental Affairs.

2024 Community and Public Health Conference



CPH staff traveled to State College in April to attend the 2024 Community and Public Health Conference.

Kimberly Roberts and Leann Lovejoy spoke at the event during the morning educational sessions. Their presentation "Improving Maternal and Infant Health in Rural Pennsylvania Through Community Health Workers: The Impact of the Community Care HUB" highlighted the CHWs and how the HUB aims to reduce disparities and improve outcomes in high-risk populations.

During the conference, staff attended other educational sessions to learn more about public health and how to integrate other programs into CPH work.



Health & Human Services Summit

From physical and behavioral health to violence, abuse, safety, jobs, transportation, and even drones, all topics health and human services were discussed at the 2024 Cambria-Somerset Health & Human Services Summit.

Over 100 people gathered in August at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown's Living-Learning Center to learn about successes over the last year and challenges we are still facing.

Read more about the Health & Human Services Summit



2025 Community Health Needs Assessment

CPH coordinated the last Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2022 with community partners including Conemaugh Health System, United Way of the Southern Alleghenies, and 1889 Foundation. The CHNA is a systematic collection, assembly, analysis, and dissemination of information about the comprehensive health of the community. Its role is to identify factors that negatively affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community to address those factors.

Seven priority focus areas were identified and have been the focus of community health initiatives over the past three years. The current focus areas include physical health, mental health, substance use, social determinants of health, jobs/socioeconomics, early childhood, and violence/abuse/safety.

The next CHNA process will be launched in early 2025. As part of this assessment, a community health survey will be distributed throughout the two-county region.

In addition, focus groups will be held to gather additional feedback and the annual Community Health Summit will be held in August to discuss additional data, the results of the survey, and develop action plans around opportunities identified through the survey process.

Website Data

Part of the mission of CPH is to provide education to the community on health and human services resources. CPH has created a webpage dedicated to providing this information for community members and agencies alike.

Visit CPH's data and resources page



Social Determinants of Health

One of CPH's major initiatives is to address social determinant of health needs, including food education and insecurity. Through the hiring of Local Food Systems Coordinator Nan McNinney, great advancements have been made through a myriad of initiatives, including:

- Expanding nutrition education
- Creating community gardens
- Promoting matching Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funds at the Downtown Johnstown Famers Market
- Exploring grants and best practice opportunities
- Launching college food pantries

Major success this year include:

- \$5,000 in matching SNAP funds were used at the Downtown Johnstown Famers Market and community resource tables were added
- Nutrition and cooking classes held at Morrell Neighborhood Preschool, Cambria County Library, The Women's Help Center (WHC), and Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
- New college food pantry at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College and a rejuvenated pantry at Mt. Aloysius College
- Active participation in the Pennsylvania Hunger Action Coalition (senior work group), Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, and Cambria County Child Nutrition Coalition
- Holding Local Food Local Places meetings that bring all food sectors together to brainstorm best practices
- Collaboration with community partners to address food deserts in the region

Food Systems



Nan McNinney helped plant vegetables at WHC's community garden. Nan worked with WHC and Penn State University to construct garden beds for the residents.



408 food pantry users surveyed on how their needs can be better met



88 SNAP referrals to Greater Pittsburgh Community Food bank



3 food sharing cabinets installed at Johnstown Housing Authority buildings



2 new resident gardens at The Women's Help Center and the Community Help Center

Dental

Lack of oral healthcare opportunities in our region was identified as a significant health need through the CHNA process. Through a collaborative effort between the University of Pittsburgh Dental School, 1889 Foundation, Hyndman Area Health Center, Conemaugh Health System, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, CPH, and others, plans are underway to bring a dental training program to the community. This collaboration will not only provide individuals with better access to dental care in the region but will also create training and job opportunities for individuals seeking oral healthcare as a profession.

More information will be shared on this initiative in early 2025.

Social Determinants of Health

Mental Health



59 active participants



97% of participants stated their knowledge increased



100% of participants reported an increased capacity to treat patients or support clients with behavioral health disorders

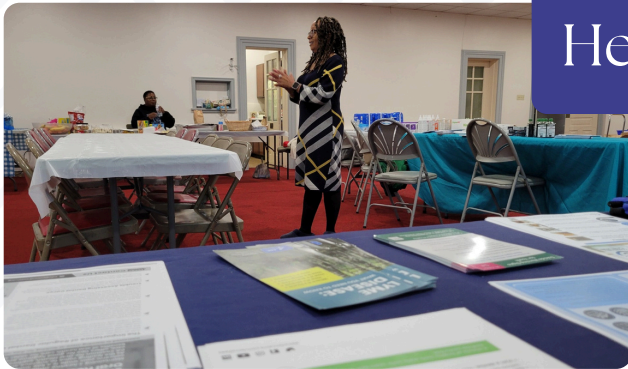
Center for Population Health spearheaded the Cambria-Somerset Mental Health Consortium's Psychiatry/Behavioral Health ECHO (Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes).

Collaborating with Penn State College of Medicine, Project ECHO is internationally recognized and has an evidence-based approach to continuing education and tele-mentoring that leverages the power of sharing knowledge across miles and across disciplines.

The Psychiatry/Behavioral Health ECHO Series' goal was to further increase the knowledge and resources needed for local practitioners to meet the needs of patients with behavioral health disorders.

Funding for the series was provided by 1889 Foundation.

CPH continues to work with local behavioral health providers to identify opportunities for capacity and knowledge building.



Christ Centered Community Church Health Minister Rev. Toni Allen speaks at a health fair about the Health Ministry Initiative.

Health Ministry

CPH launched a Health Ministry Initiative to meet people where they are at with health and human services information.

Church leaders will designate an individual or individuals to provide the health and resource information to the parishioners. CPH will provide health and human services information to the Health Minister, as well as discuss additional resources or health-related information the congregations are needing.

"As we look at areas in our community where folks gather together, we recognize the opportunity to work collaboratively with our faith-based organizations to bring education and resource information to members of the congregations in order to positively impact their health and lives."

-CPH Executive Director Jeannine McMillan.

Health Hazards Task Force

CPH continues to identify opportunities to address barriers to positive health outcomes in our communities. Health fairs are held throughout the year providing opportunities to share health-related information, as well as provide opportunities for vaccinations including Covid-19, flu, RSV and more. In addition, a Task Force comprised of local agencies has been formed to address high lead levels occurring in pediatric patients in our region, with a focus on mitigation and education. If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to address these areas, please email info@centerforpophealth.org.

Outreach Events

CPH attends and spearheads a variety of health and social services fairs as well as community events to provide health and resource information.



Allie Byers waits for an attendee of a Forged Futures event at the Greater Johnstown Community YMCA to spin the exercise wheel.



CPH attended Vintondale Borough's Safety Day to hand out resource information to families.



CPH sponsored a health and social services fair at a Johnstown Mill Rats game over the summer.

Hope 4 Johnstown



CPH tabled at the Hope 4 Johnstown Back-to-School Bash at Roxbury Park.

Over the summer, Hope 4 Johnstown and Vision Together 2025 joined forces to create 3 family-friendly events. At each event, there were resource tables, food, and games for the kids to play.

Outreach Events

WalkWorks

CPH continued collaborating with the Cambria Regional Chamber to promote WalkWorks Johnstown, a 1.8-mile walking route in downtown Johnstown.

The spring WalkWorks session featured a walking challenge, which gave people the opportunity to participate in a friendly competition.

For the four-week fall session, guest speakers joined the walkers and spoke about their organization or business.

2025 plans include continuing to schedule guest speakers to lead the walks.

"The Step Challenge really was a great thing for me - and us! I was really needing an exercise kickstart. At the start, the competition part of it gave me just enough motivation to get out there every day to walk. But after the first week - the pure exercise and healthy lifestyle part of it took over."

-Mark Lazzari, 2024 step challenge winner



Trick or Treat Yourself to Wellness



CPH attended Trick or Treat Yourself to Wellness, a health fair and trick-or-treat event at the Galleria Mall. Allie Byers is a co-organizer of the event.

Westmont Hilltop Back to School Health Fair



Center for Population Health worked with the Westmont Hilltop School District to organize the 3rd Annual Back to School Health Fair. Pictured above: A family uses a CPH jump rope to have some fun at the event.

Other outreach events attended:

- PA CareerLink Job and Resource Fair in Somerset County
- Nurse Family Partnership Celebration
- Squonkapalooza
- Out of the Darkness Walk
- Cambria County Housing Summit

- Health and Human Services Fair at Christ Centered Community Church
- Health Ministry Health Fair at Christ Centered Community Church
- Somerset Child Advocacy Center's Block Party at Georgian Place

Funding and Awards

CPH is grateful for the continued financial support of 1889 Foundation, which supports our programming and is positively impacting the health outcomes of individuals in our region.

ARC Grant

CPH was awarded \$750,000 over three years by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to expand the work of the Community Care HUB, Community Health Worker program in Cambria and Somerset counties.

Pictured along with CPH team members are JARI Vice President of Economic Development, Michelle Clapper and ARC Federal Co-Chair, Gayle Manchin.

JARI also received an ARC Grant.



Learn more about the ARC Grant

Highmark Bright Blue Futures Award

The Center for Population Health was selected for the Highmark Bright Blue Futures Award for nonprofits.

The impactful work via the Community Care HUB was the reason CPH received the award and \$60,000 in funding.

Leann Lovejoy and Allie Byers attended the awards ceremony in Pittsburgh.



Learn more about the Highmark award



Lee Initiatives Grant

The Center for Population Health received a \$25,000 grant from Lee Initiatives to further expand the work of the Community Care HUB.

Allie Byers attended the ceremony to accept the award from Lee Initiatives CEO Jodi Clark.



Celebrating our Achievements



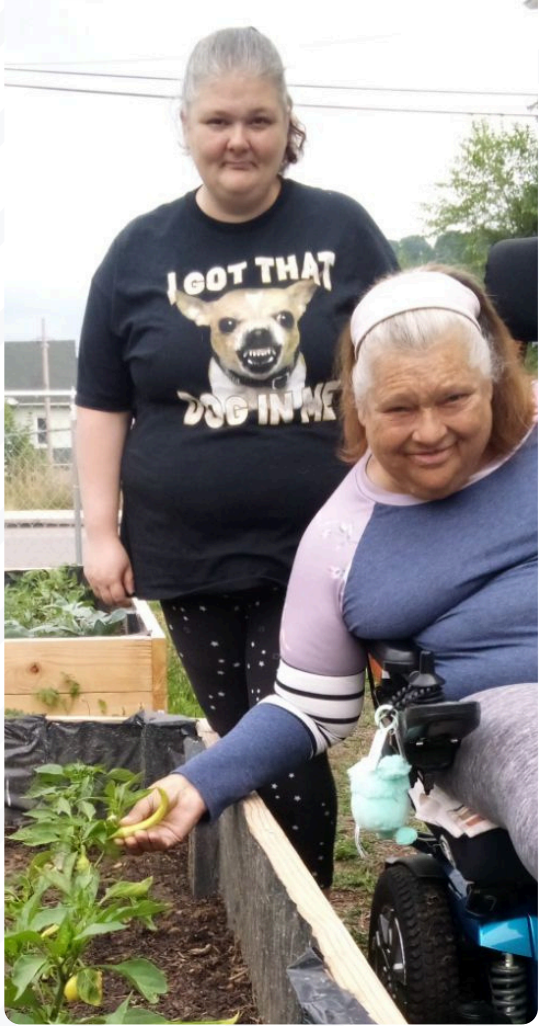
Nan McNinney worked with Adagio Health to hold a "So Many Tomatoes" cooking event at the Cambria County Library. Three tomato recipes were given to the attendees.



CPH was able to connect the Johnstown Housing Authority with Giant Eagle Pharmacy to provide on-location RSV, shingles, COVID-19, and flu vaccines to the residents in Johnstown Housing Authority community rooms.



Allie Byers and Amy Bunn attended the monthly Cambria County Health & Welfare Council meetings. In April of 2024, the group wore blue to raise awareness and advocate for the well-being of children in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Community Help Center residents helped pick sweet peppers in their community garden. Nan McNinney helped secure funding to construct the community garden.



Allie Byers tabled at PA CareerLink Somerset County's Community Resource and Job Fair in September of 2024.

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