

Jefferson County Health Alliance

Overview

June 9, 2020, revised July 7, 2020

The Jefferson County Health Alliance (Alliance) is a collaborative, cross-sector partnership committed to a connected, thriving community where health and opportunity are possible for all. It is born out of the recognition that to move the needle on complex community conditions, it takes collaboration across multiple sectors and topic areas as well as connection between people, within neighborhoods and across coalitions and organizations.

While the Alliance's emphasis on connection and collaboration came out of discussions and input with community members in 2019, its relevance could not be more evident now as communities are facing the impact of covid19. We are seeing dramatic use of technology across services and within neighborhoods to aid in connection, yet many people are being left behind and feeling even more isolated than ever before. Furthermore, Jefferson County is seeing some collaborations on scales only previously imagined, while at the same time misalignment of systems is highlighted while needs are so great.

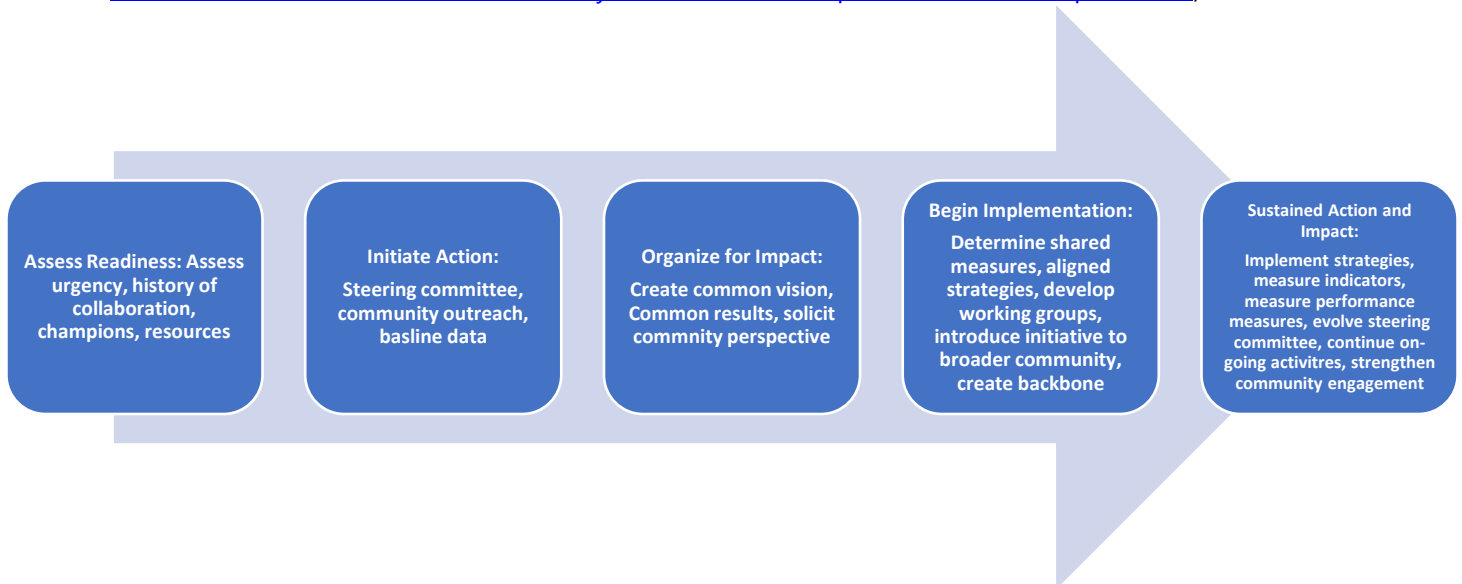
Looking for models of what it looks like when collaborative alliances are done well, Jefferson County leaders have looked to the Live Well San Diego model (<https://www.livewellsd.org/>) as an example of a comprehensive approach. The Alliance aspires to draw from this model as well as build on past efforts to provide the platform for building a unified coalition centered on community voice.

With support from the Community First Foundation, the Alliance is working with The Civic Canopy through a collective impact process (<https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/overview/models-for-community-health-and-development/collective-impact/main>) that incorporates Results Based Accountability ® (<https://clearimpact.com/results-based-accountability/>) to develop as a backbone to this collective effort within Jefferson County.

During its startup year (2019-2020), the Alliance moved through the first three phases of collective impact (Figure 1). It assessed for readiness, initiated action and organized for impact. However, while it was launching into its next phase – implementation – covid19 emerged in our county. At that time, partners suddenly found themselves reassessing their families' and communities' needs, adapting their service models and launching into a full-scale emergency responses.

As we emerge out of this initial response, partners are again focusing on the opportunities presented by the Alliance and its emphasis on building connections and strengthening collaboration. With the continued support of the Community First Foundation, the Alliance is ready to move ahead with implementation which includes building partnerships, determining shared measures, aligning strategies across partners and introducing the Alliance to the broader community.

Figure 1: Phases of Collective Impact (from the Community Toolbox <https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/overview/models-for-community-health-and-development/collective-impact/main>)



Partners

Partners are the strength of the Alliance. They are community members, businesses, organizations, government agencies and coalitions that share its principles and values and are committed to a shared vision. These partners will share power in the Alliance. During 2020, the Alliance will broaden and clarify partnership. It will explore both formal and informal partnership structures, as well as expectations and benefits.

Its current steering committee comprises executives from the following businesses and organizations – Jefferson County Public Health, Jefferson County Human Services, Jefferson County Public Schools, Stride Community Health Centers, Jefferson Center, St. Anthony’s Centura, Lutheran SCL, Colorado Community Health Alliance and Signal Behavioral Health.

Additionally, Alliance development thus far in 2020 also includes active participation from the Adelante Network, Communities That Care, Jefferson County Public Libraries, Aging-Dynamics, The Action Center, Jefferson County Substance Use Partnership, Jefferson County Launch Together, Jefferson County Food Policy Council, Senior Resource Center and Lakewood Faith Coalition.

These initial partners are diverse in their executive and community expertise. They have an exceptional understanding of the communities and people in Jefferson County across the lifespan. These partners are committed to a sustainable, effective Alliance that works across jurisdictions and populations to promote a connected, thriving community.

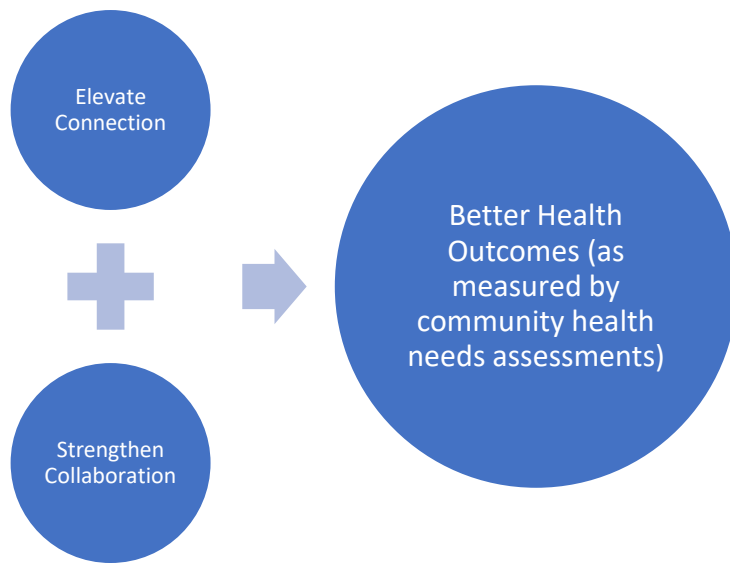
How will Jefferson County Be Better Off?

The investment in the Jefferson County Health Alliance will provide benefits to communities and people throughout Jefferson County through:

1. *Elevated connection* between people, neighborhoods, communities and organizations; and
2. *Strengthened collaboration* between communities, organizations, businesses and coalitions.

By focusing on these fundamental areas first, the Alliance aims to emerge as a unifying force supporting connections and strengthening collaboration in the county. With this in place, work done by our partners to assess community needs and address specific health issues such as housing, food insecurity, access to care and substance use will be strengthened and elevated. See Figure 2.

Figure 2: Theory of Change



The specific activities of the Alliance are currently under development. As its work is driven by collective impact, its specific actions must be based in the needs and aspirations of its partners, not driven by government and organizational decision-makers. At the time of this writing, the Alliance is building its partnership while at the same time designing and implementing actions to increase connection and collaboration. See Appendix 1 for the draft Alliance action map, which is in development.

Organization and Management

The Alliance will be operated by a full-time staff person in a manager role, who may hire additional staff and contractors to support its work. Although the hiring of this staff person has been delayed due to the virus, the Alliance anticipates completing this process during 2020. In the meantime, the Alliance’s current implementation manager continues to fill this role.

The Steering Committee provides general direction and key organizational decision-making. Partners determine the overall strategies and specific activities.

Looking forward

The Jefferson County Health Alliance is a long-term initiative that is possible through the generous support of the Community First Foundation. It is emerging as a unifying coalition and becoming a backbone support for collective impact in the county. Its partners are ready to begin implementation and look forward to continued opportunities to work with the Community First Foundation as it moves beyond this initial implementation toward sustained action and impact.

Appendix 1

Jefferson County Health Alliance Draft Action Map

