

# Washington County Wellness Initiative



## CHIO Partner Information

### What is a County Health Improvement Organization (CHIO)?

- **Serves one to four adjoining counties** – Washington County CHIO serves Washington County
- **Is an independent non-profit Organization** – WCWI filed for and received 501(c)(3) status as of February 2014
- **Acts as a “neutral convener,” bringing multiple partners to the same table and fostering alignment of resources and activities** – WCWI CHIO holds two meetings a year for all workgroups and CHIO representatives to share progress reports regarding the health of the community
- **Includes primary care, public health, mental health, social services, hospital, Turning Point Coalition, and other subgroups** – WCWI CHIO has 20 sector representatives, 11 workgroups, and the Primary Care Advisory Committee (Physician’s Advisory Board)
- **Strives to strengthen primary healthcare and community health** – WCWI CHIO developed Access to Healthcare with a focus on Medical Homes, Physician’s Advisory Board to share healthcare trends throughout the community, and the Suicide Prevention Coalition to reduce suicide rates in Washington County and provide screening tools to primary care providers. WCWI CHIO also sponsored a Medical Home Focus Group and developed five surveys to residents, primary care physicians and workgroups.
- **Positively impacts the county’s health indicators through Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) and the County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** – WCWI CHIO developed four public health focus areas through MAPP: access to healthcare, mental health, preventative care, and poverty. CHIP goal was to address suicide prevention and the CHIO selected suicide/depression screening as its first project. Access to Healthcare Committee developed the FQHC partnership with Morton Comprehensive Health Services to bring a clinic to Bartlesville. Morton’s clinic helped the community improve access to healthcare by providing patients payments via a sliding scale, transportation to/from services, access to dental and vision care and 330B drug pricing for low cost medication.
- **Certified by Public Health Institute of Oklahoma (PHIO)** – WCWI CHIO received certification March 2013.



### Other CHIO Partners May Include

Minority representation, Advocates for children and the elderly, Media, Business Economic Development, School system, Vo-Techs, Colleges and Universities, Parks/Recreation, Cooperative Extension, and the Justice System

WCWI CHIO includes sector representatives from: CHIO Coordinator, Business, Children, Elderly, Faith, Higher Education, Hospital, Law Enforcement, Legal, Media, Mental Health, Minority Populations, Nonprofit, OK Turning Point, Primary Care, Public Health, Schools, Social Services, Technology, Tribal and Volunteer

## What do I need to do to become involved in the CHIO?

- Dedicate one to four hours per month for CHIO meetings and correspondence
- Agree to be a champion among your colleagues regarding community health
- Share your skills and resources to address community health issues

## What are the community benefits of a CHIO?

CHIOs can provide:

- **Opportunities to have a larger impact on community health through the partnership with healthcare providers and primary care physicians** – WCWI CHIO recruited five primary care practices in our county to be active partners in the depression/suicide screening project.
- **More opportunities for funding streams** – WCWI CHIO acquired \$10,000 in funding to implement the Suicide Screening Project and Non-profit status filings, received an \$85,000 HRSA Planning Grant, and a \$20,000 Transportation Consultant. Two other award applications are pending. WCWI CHIO is also a participating county in the multi-million dollar 2015 AHRQ (electronic medical records) project through the University of Oklahoma.
- **A spirit of “community” within the healthcare profession and the team**
- **Enhanced ability to attract and retain healthcare providers within the community** – WCWI CHIO developed the relationship and provided the groundwork to bring the Morton Clinic to Bartlesville.
- **Performance monitoring and feedback assistance on CHIO projects** – WCWI CHIO used OU evaluators for gathering data during the suicide/depression screenings project.
- **Access to experts and information about best practices on a variety of healthcare topics** – WCWI CHIO received training from Dr. Lisa Rubenstein, Dr. Ardis Olson, Dane Libert, Dr. Ray Cordray and Terri Fritz and academic detailing from Dr. Mold.
- **Local learning opportunities on topics chosen by you and your CHIO**
- **Ability to provide greater emphasis on and more consistent delivery system for preventive services** – WCWI CHIO worked together to determine/select the use of PHQ-2 and PHQ-9 as the depression/suicide screening tools. - Through the CHIO, primary care clinics were provided with a Performance Enhancement Assistant to aid practices in the collection of pre-audit data, a mini-audit of charts, and a post-audit analysis.
- **Fewer meetings and better results**

## What are the benefits for physicians?

- Resources and expertise to help you improve your practice effectiveness and efficiency
- An opportunity to work collaboratively with public health, mental health, and community organizations to improve health in your community.

## What do physicians need to do as part of the CHIO?

- **Agree to either serve on the CHIO Board of Directors (1 to 4 hours per month) or on its Primary Care Advisory Committee (15 to 30 minutes per month)** – WCWI has an eight member Primary Care Advisory Committee as a sub-committee of the CHIO/Access to Healthcare Workgroup
- **Become knowledgeable about and support your counties Health Improvement Plan**

*The CHIO will strive to avoid disrupting your practice and office flow.*

## What can the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma do to support us if we want to be a CHIO?

PHIO Certification | 501(c)(3) Status | Primary Care Practice Connections | Funding & Resources

**WCWI CHIO | [wcwiok.org](http://wcwiok.org) | 918.876.3056**