

To: State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee

From: Mark A. Levine, Commissioner of Health  
Heidi Klein, Director of Planning and Health Care Quality

Date: April 5, 2018

Re: Recommendation of Priority Areas for the State Health Improvement Plan

The [State Health Assessment](#) and the ranking of the health outcomes has been completed.<sup>1</sup> The next task is to identify the three to five top issues for inclusion in the next State Health Improvement Plan. Our recommendation is to adopt the following issues consistently rated by health department staff and 45 members (approximately) of the Advisory Committee as the top five:

- Oral Health
- Childhood Resiliency (Protective Factors, ACES, flourishing)
- Opioid & illicit drug use
- Mental Health
- Chronic Disease (Cancer, Asthma/Lung Disease, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes)

A full report of the rating results is in the attachment. It is important to note the following informed this recommendation submitted for your consideration:

- There are some differences among the top three priorities but consistency among the top five priority areas
- Health department staff rated alcohol significantly higher than members of the Advisory Committee. “Opioid and Illicit Drug Use” could be modified to include alcohol.
- Oral health was not rated among the top five by health department staff; however, it was rated top by the Advisory Committee members and strategically this is an opportune time for collaborative focus on oral health.
- “Child Development” (breastfeeding, lead poisoning, maternal depression, parental substance use) was rated second highest by staff at the health department. It may be possible to revisit the specifics and consider combining some of the items from “Childhood Resiliency” and “Child Development” in creating goals and objectives.
- “Quality of life” (poor mental and physical health) was rated as second by the Advisors at the second meeting. This generic category likely should not have been rated at all; “mental health” will cover this.

As a reminder, the current [State Health Improvement Plan](#) contains three goals with three to six indicators for each. It then outlines three to five evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes. Details of the strategies and interventions are in the appendices.

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<sup>1</sup> See documentation of the ranking process in the March 2018 Meeting Summary on the [State Health Assessment](#) webpage.