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Top Five Health Priorities and Name Change Announced at Coalition Annual Conference

Two announcements impacting the future of Williamson County’s public health activities were announced at the WilCo Wellness Alliance’s Annual Conference on April 24, which celebrated the organization’s 10th Anniversary and the release of the 2019 Community Health Assessment and top health priorities, in addition to topics on community resiliency.

The first step in improving the health of the community is to establish what the population health looks like by conducting a Community Health Assessment (CHA). The Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) led the CHA effort in collaboration with community partners including Ascension Seton, Baylor Scott & White Health, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, Georgetown Health Foundation, Lone Star Circle of Care, Opportunities for Williamson and Burnet Counties, St. David’s Foundation, and the WilCo Wellness Alliance. Information was collected through community surveys, focus groups, “key informant interviews” – interviews conducted with health leaders and elected officials, hospital data, door-to-door questionnaires, facilitated group activities, and listening forums over a span of six months.

Based on the comprehensive findings, the CHA identified five health priorities for the next three years. The priorities are: Behavioral health, stress, and well-being, Chronic disease risk factors, Social determinants of health, Access and affordability of healthcare, and Building a resilient Williamson County. These priorities drive improvement plans and strategic partnerships, ensuring that policies are grounded in what really matters to the community. The 2019 CHA is now published and available for viewing at healthywilliamsoncounty.org/CHA.

A rebranding of the WilCo Wellness Alliance was also announced. “The new name – Healthy Williamson County – emphasizes the mission of the group; our goal is to improve the health of the County through collective impact with our community partners,” said Kelli Becerra, Healthy Williamson County Coalition Coordinator. “Collective Impact is a structured way to unite a community of diverse people and achieve truly meaningful social change. By bringing everyone to the table and building relationships between them, Collective Impact accomplishes community goals.”

The Healthy Williamson County Coalition is comprised of community members and organizations from healthcare, school, government, business, non-profit, and faith-based organizations. The coalition and its activities are guided by the community health improvement process and collective impact. Membership to the Healthy Williamson County coalition is free.