Cameron Foundation
Service Area
Health Needs Assessment

Forces of Change:
Prince George

THE CAMERON FOUNDATION

December 2018
FORCES OF CHANGE
ASSESSMENT, 2017
Prince George, Virginia
The Forces of Change Assessment (FOCA) identifies trends, factors and events that are occurring or will occur that affect the health and quality of life of the community or the effectiveness of the local public health system.

- Trends are patterns overtime
- Factors are discrete elements of a community
- Events are one-time occurrences

This report summarizes the FOCA in the County of Prince George, Virginia that occurred on Friday, November 3, 2017 with a diverse group of community stakeholders. Prince George County governmental representatives were invited but chose not to participate. The forces are grouped into the categories: Legal and Political, Health Factors, Access to Care, Environmental, Cultural and Economic, Social, and Education. This assessment was facilitated by Karen Cameron, an Independent Healthcare and Strategic Planning Consultant, recorded by Freda Williams, Community Health Assessment Planner, Southside Health District with the Virginia Department of Health, and organized by Valerie Liggins, Program Officer with the Cameron Foundation.

FOCA participants responded to the following questions:

i. What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of the community or the local public health system?

ii. What are specific threats or opportunities generated by these occurrences?

The findings compiled into the attached report represent a comprehensive matrix of key forces and their associated impact upon the health of the Sussex community. Those forces that appeared to be particularly significant include:

- The County generally has positive socio-economic indicators that sometimes allow the needs of vulnerable populations to be overlooked.
- While the County itself is diverse, the County leadership hasn’t always reflected that diversity.
- Affordable access to health care insurance is a growing issue for County residents and employees.
- The County’s schools and considerable post-secondary and technical educational resources represent significant strengths and opportunities for economic and social improvement.
- While the growing opioid epidemic represents a threat, the County has a good number of resources to respond to it and other substance abuse needs.

The information gathered from the FOCA is an important component of the Community Health Assessment Process (CHA). The findings in this report, in conjunction with the results from other assessments, will identify key strategic issues and priorities for community health improvement.
### Strengths
- Local government is well managed
- GAP/ARTs programs supported by State funds
- Drug Court
- Lethality Assessment instrument used for domestic violence calls

### Weaknesses
- Increase in health care costs (causing increased court activity for health care bills)
- No public transportation

### Opportunities
- Medicaid expansion in Virginia

### Threats
- Anti-immigration sentiment can create exploitation of immigrants
- Overall positive trends in County can make it easy to turn a blind eye to problem areas
**HEALTH FACTORS**

**Strengths**
- John Randolph Medical Center is accessible
- State formally recognized opioid epidemic/REVIVE trainings available
- John Randolph Foundation funds safety net providers
- Increase in health care providers/specialists in Puddledock area
- Farmer's market at Scott's Park

**Weaknesses**
- Area hospitals not excellent (lower quality)
- Health rankings have declined over last three years
- Prince George has not hosted any REVIVE trainings
- Coordination of care not always available for insured population

**Opportunities**
- Training opportunities in “trauma informed care” by the health department
- Further development of public spaces: Scott Park, PG Appomattox River Park, etc.
- REVIVE trainings and other substance abuse education

**Threats**
- Opioid epidemic/associated potential increase in HIV
- At risk sexual behavior associated with substance abuse
- Obesity epidemic/contributes to chronic disease
- Major changes to the ACA impacting eligibility, access, and cost of healthcare

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**Strengths**

- John Randolph Medical Center is accessible
- Doctors, including specialists and urgent care, in Puddledock area
- Community Health Center serves County and City of Hopewell
- D19 CSB has a full time children’s services case manager/therapist for Hopewell and Prince George County

**Weaknesses**

- Limited transportation
- Lack of affordable health insurance, e.g. PG government only has high deductible option
- Lack of understanding about lifestyle effect on health and understanding how insurance works

**Opportunities**

- Improved Medicaid transportation as part of new managed care programs
- Medicaid (CCC Plus) offers additional services/options for older and disabled individuals

**Threats**

- Increased untreated needs due to lack of insurance and/or high deductible plans
**Strengths**
- Mix of suburban and rural areas in the county
- Access to major transportation routes creates economic opportunities

**Weaknesses**
- Limited cell phone and broadband depending upon location
- No public transportation
- I-95 traffic brings traffic accidents, human and drug trafficking

**Opportunities**
- Continued development of public spaces for fitness
- Use community centers/libraries to increase health care and insurance knowledge
- Cell phone options that can use towers throughout area for less cost
- I-95 can attract business opportunities

**Threats**
- Rural areas may increase social isolation
Force
CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC

Strengths
- I95 provides opportunities for business and economic growth
- Ft Lee is large employer with good wages and benefits
- Housing base is good
- Unemployment rate is low
- Business friendly/active economic development program
- County is fiscally responsible

Weaknesses
- Limited awareness of the needs of lower income populations
- No public transportation for access to jobs
- Affordable housing not available for some populations
- Very few women or minorities in County leadership

Opportunities
- Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce

Threats
- Increase in health care costs and high deductible plans threaten family budgets and long-term stability
- Opioid use impacts family economic stability
- Limited "safety net" for people in U.S.
- Increasing tension between wealthier suburbs and rural areas over resource allocation

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**Strengths**
- Diversity of people due to military presence
- Summer programming for youth is strong
- Recreation programs for kids are affordable
- Domestic violence services available
- Strong/committed faith community and civic organizations

**Weaknesses**
- Lack of diversity in County leadership

**Opportunities**
- Increase political will to diversify leadership
- Collaboration with faith organizations

**Threats**
- Opioid/Substance Abuse impacts family stability and puts kids at risk
Strengths
- Good schools
- School nurses have received REVIVE training
- Lots of higher and technical educational opportunities
- Champions before and after school care program

Weaknesses
- Transient student population
- Increased use of school nurses because of increased insurance deductibles and copays
- Fort Lee is designated for special needs kids which can increase local expenses

Opportunities
- Younger population is more aware and accepting of diversity

Threats
- Teachers/County employees may work elsewhere due to health care costs and compensation
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