Loudoun County, Virginia

2013 Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership Assessment: The Forces of Change Assessment

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Introduction

What is MAPP?

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) is a community-wide strategic planning tool for improving community health and the community-wide public health system. This tool, facilitated by public health leadership, is designed to help communities prioritize health issues and to ultimately identify resources for addressing them.

The MAPP model comprises a roadmap of four assessments designed to build a healthier community by providing critical insights into healthcare challenges and opportunities throughout the community. The four MAPP assessments include:

- I. Community Themes and Strengths Assessment
- II. Local Public Health System Assessment
- III. Community Health Status Assessment
- IV. Forces of Change Assessment

This report summarizes the **Forces of Change Assessment** performed in Loudoun County in September 2013 and focuses on the identification of forces such as legislation, technology, and other issues that affect the context in which the community operates. The forces are grouped into the following categories: Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Scientific, Legal and Ethical.

Forces are a broad all-encompassing category that includes trends, events, and factors.

- I. Trends are patterns over time, such as migration in and out of the community.
- II. Factors are discrete elements, such as a community's ethnic population, an urban setting, or the jurisdiction's proximity to a major waterway.
- III. Events are one-time occurrences, such as a hospital closure, a natural disaster, or the passage of new legislation

This assessment, within the scope of the above forces, was completed in September 2013, and addressed the guestions:

- What is occurring or might occur during the next five years that impacts the health of Loudoun County and its public health system?, and
- II. What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

Change in Loudoun County

For more than two centuries, agriculture was the dominant way of life in Loudoun County, which had a relatively constant population of about 20,000. That began to change in the early 1960s, when Dulles International Airport was built in the southeastern part of the county. The airport subsequently attracted new businesses, workers, and their families to the area.

At the same time, the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area began a period of rapid growth. Major road improvements made commuting from Loudoun County much easier, attracting more and more people to the eastern part of the county. In the last three decades, the population of Loudoun County nearly quadrupled.

Today Loudoun is a growing dynamic Virginia county of about 333,253 people as of 2012. Loudoun is known for its beautiful scenery, rich history, healthy diversity of expanding business opportunities, comfortable neighborhoods, and high quality public services.

A similar Forces of Change Assessment was last conducted in 2008. With multiple changes occurring among all the forces it was deemed necessary to re-assess the previous results in order to more accurately create effective strategies for the next five years.

Methods

A Loudoun County Health Department team, consisting of a facilitator, a health educator, and a volunteer, planned a series of focus groups to address the above issues. Each session lasted two hours and was conducted throughout the county during the morning, afternoon, and evening to attract maximum attendance.

A comprehensive list of potential participants representing a wide number of public and private health and human service agencies, county agencies, public schools, law enforcement, safety net groups, the Loudoun Health Council and consumers was identified. An invitation was emailed (*Attachment I: Participant Letter of Invitation*) to 79 persons.

Multiple two-hour facilitated brain storming sessions were conducted from September 9th through September 13th. Flip pads and scribe notes documented all discussions. Each session began with an introduction to the MAPP process (*Attachment II: Forces of Change Presentation*) and an introduction of participants. Participants completed a brief questionnaire following the introductions. Using brainstorming and force field analysis tools, all forces were extensively discussed. Participants in each group then voted their individual top five priorities.

Participant data was compiled and analyzed. All the brainstorming data was compiled and the collective top three issues were documented for this report (*Attachment III: Focus Group Discussion Summary*).

Results

Focus Groups

Six Focus Groups were conducted as part of this assessment.

Participants

Seventy-nine participants were invited and 29 persons (37%) participated throughout the week. Of the participants: 19 were female, 7 were male, and 3 did not provide their gender on the participant survey.

Ages were self-reported in groups with zero in the 18-29 group, nine in the 30-49 group, 16 in the 50-65 group, and four in the over 65 group.

Race was reported as 26 Caucasians, 1 Black/African American, 1 Pacific Islander/Asian, and 1 Other.

When measured for highest level of education there was one High School, two from two-year colleges, four from four-year colleges, 14 with Masters background, three with PhDs, four with Professional Degrees, and two listed as Other.

Occupational affiliations included (multiple responses allowed): 1 – Business, 12 – County Government, 2 – State Government, 3 – Non-Profits, 2 – Public Education, 8 – Healthcare, 4 – Public Health, and 2 – Other.

Lastly, specific agencies represented included: 1 – Care Options, 1 Consumer, 1 – Reston Hospital Center, 1 – HealthWorks, 1 – VPSS LLC, 1 – Salvation Army, 1 Daybreak Wellness, 3 – Loudoun County Public Schools, 5 – Loudoun County Health Department, 3 – Inova Loudoun Hospital, 1 – Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing, 1 – Medical Reserve Corps, 1 – Loudoun County Emergency Management, 1 – Loudoun County Public Affairs and Communication, 1 – Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, 2 – Loudoun County Family Services, 1 – Shenandoah University, 1 – Loudoun County Planning Department, 2 – Loudoun County Mental Health and Substance Abuse. (Attachment IV: Participant Result Graphs)

Forces of Change

All health impacts discussed were listed under the appropriate Force of Change (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Scientific, Legal, and Ethical). Discussion included recognition of threats and opportunities from a strategic perspective rather than an operational viewpoint.

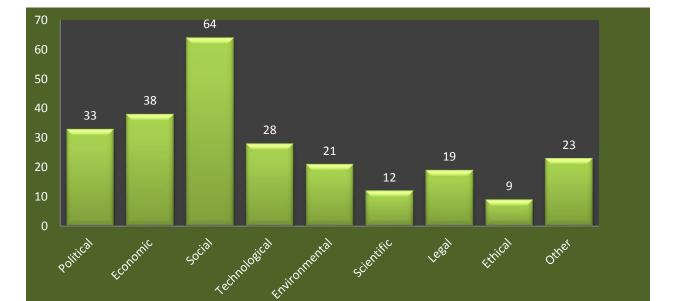
A total of 247 collated topics were discussed. One participant submitted items in writing after the Focus Groups were held. The distribution of items per Force of Change is listed in Graph 1 below. Social issues ranked highest in number and Ethical issues were the lowest ranked.

All items may be seen in the summary - Attachment III: Focus Group Discussion Summary.

The amount of time in discussion did not correlate with the final votes of participants. The most discussed topics consuming the majority of time among all groups included:

• All Forces: Unknown consequences of the Affordable Care Act Implementation on current health services, employees, and residents of Loudoun County.

- Economic: Transportation access and affordability issues since local travel bus tokens have been deleted, fees have increased, and more frequent bus transportation and routes need to be initiated to correlate with the Metro train to Dulles Project.
- Social/Legal: Immigration issues in access of care, decreasing safety net services, and recognition of worth.
- Scientific: Vaccine beliefs that are barriers to vaccine acceptance by residents perceived to impact the current level of herd immunity.
- Social: Insufficient primary care resources.
- Environmental: Environmental concerns especially the potential for food and water contamination with increased development. Also discussed was the positive impact of farm markets on nutrition. One group expressed concerns that the growth in viniculture would promote unsafe driving by intoxicated consumers.
- Political and Economic: Improvement in the grant system to support county agencies when federal support stops, and restructuring of some human service agencies under more appropriate departments to improve efficiency.



■ Number of issues discussed

Graph 1: Number of Issues Discussed by Force of Change

Summary and Next Steps:

After collating the three highest ranked issues by group, the **following three ranked the highest in total**:

- 1. Address positive and negative impacts of the Affordable Care Act on residents, employees, immigrants, current health services, transportation, electronic patient charts, primary care resources, the federal grant system for healthcare, decreasing mental health capabilities, and impact to environmental food and water.
- 2. Improve health education regarding vaccine acceptance and improve transportation for services. Improve the use of social media for health education.
- 3. Assess the growing impact of immigration on the health of Loudoun residents.

This assessment will be posted online for review and input from the public along with the other three assessments that form the basis of the MAPP model. The Loudoun Health Council will take the lead in incorporating information from the MAPP assessments and comments from the public into a revised Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Attachment I: Participant Letter of Invitation

Dear Colleague,

Your presence is requested as a participant in an upcoming public health system 'Forces of Change' assessment. Several sessions and locations have been scheduled for your convenience according to the schedule below:

- Sept 9, 2013 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, Purcellville Library, Robey Room, 2nd floor, 220 E. Main St., Purcellville, VA, 20132.
- Sept 10, 2013 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Cascades Library, Room B, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls, VA 20165
- Sept 10, 2013 12:30 pm-2:30 pm, Cascades Library, Room C, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls, VA 20165
- Sept 10, 2013 7:00-9:00 pm, Dulles South Multipurpose Center, Banquet Hall, 24950 Riding Center Drive, South Riding, VA, 20152
- **Sept 11, 2013 10:00** am-**12:00** pm, Rust Library Meeting Room, 380 Old Waterford Rd., NW, Leesburg, VA, 20176
- **Sept 11, 2013 2:00 pm-4:00 pm**, Loudoun Government Center, Round Hill Room, 3rdfloor, 1 Harrison St., SE, Leesburg, VA 20176
- **Sept 11, 2013 7:00 pm-9:00 pm**, Douglass Community Center, Activity Trailer Classroom (on the west side of the building), 405 E. Market St., Leesburg, VA, 20176
- **Sept 12, 2013 1:00 pm-3 pm**, Purcellville Room, Government Center, 1 Harrison St., SE, Leesburg, VA 20176 (Restricted to Loudoun Health Council Members only.)
- Sept 12, 2013 5:00 pm- 7:00pm, Purcellville Room, Government Center, 1 Harrison St., SE, Leesburg, VA 20176 (Restricted to Loudoun Health Council Members only.)

 The Forces of Change Assessment is facilitated locally and focuses on identifying legislative, technological, and other impending changes in which Loudoun County and its public health system operate. This session will target strategies that address the questions:
- "What is occurring or will occur over the next five years that impacts the health of Loudoun County?" and
- "What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?"

 To gain a more thorough understanding of this process you will find more information at:
 www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/mapp/framework/phase3foc.cfm

At your earliest convenience please reply to LCHDFocusGp2013@aol.com with your name (or a designee's name if you are unavailable), and the Session you plan to attend. If you have further questions you may reach me at 703-408-4339. If you invite other colleagues who may be interested in this process, please submit their names and session as well.

I look forward to obtaining your perspective on these issues.

Respectfully,

Benita L Boyer, RN, MS, CIC - Forces of Change Facilitator David Goodfriend, MD, MPH – Health Director

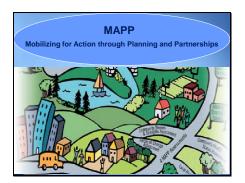
Attachment II: Forces of Change Presentation

Slide 1

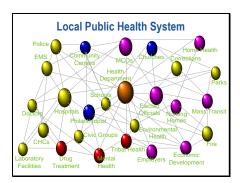


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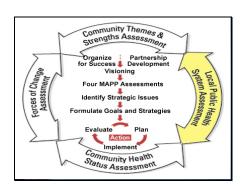
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MAPP Assessments

- Community Themes and Strengths Assessment
 What is important in our community?
 How is quality of life perceived in our community?
 What can be used to improve community health?
- Local Public Health System Assessment
 What are the components, activities, competencies, and capat
 Are the Essential Services being provided in our community?
- Community Health Status Assessment
 How healthy are our residents?
 What does the health status of our community look like?
- Forces of Change Assessment
 What is occurring or will occur over the next five years that imp of Loudoun County?
 What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these or



Slide 7



Slide 8





Slide 10

Today's Situation

- Introduction of participants
- Brainstorm
 - Discuss each Force of Change
 - Specify threats
 - Specify opportunities
- Vote to prioritize top 3 to 5 issues
- Next Steps

Slide 11

How Did We Get Here?

- First MAPP assessment performed in 2009
- Four issues were selected and coordinated through the Loudoun Health Council
- Are we still on track?
- Do we need to alter the original assumptions?

Issues Political Scientific ■ Economic Legal ■ Ethical Social Other Technological Environmental

Slide 13





Slide 14		
	THANK YOU!	
	"What do you mean, 'we never got around to developing a strategic plan'?"	

Attachment III: Focus Group Discussion Summary

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
Top 3 items per Focus Group	1. (Environment) Recycling 2. (Econ) Affordable Care Act 3. (Legal/ Political) Immigration	1. (Econ) Improve grant system (e.g., unplanned mandates for Emergency Management and Aging) 2. (Political) Alternate sources of funding agencies needed when federal support stops 3. (Political) County - align service agencies for more functional efficiency	1. (Econ) Insufficient primary care services 2. (Environment) Improve access and affordability of transportation 3. (Tech) Improve use of social media for health education	1. (Econ/political) Healthcare unknowns of the Affordable Care Act 2. (Science) Vaccine acceptance by residents 3. (Environment) Evaluate transport issues impacting health	1. (Political) Shrinking school funding affecting healthcare of children 2. (Econ) Affordable housing 3. (Econ) Mental Health readiness for changes	1. (Econ) Health Insurance and Affordable Care Act unknowns 2. (Social) Integrated Faith based approaches 3. (Environment) Contamination of water and food sources secondary to exponential population growth
Environ- ment Recycling - need more assets and education	Increase safety in nursing homes	*Transportation - access, infrastructure, tokens, assistance with transport of high risk patients to UVA	****Transportation	Western vs. Eastern Loudoun issues	**Exponential growth in population - cascade effects	
			Presence of Dulles Airport	Increased building - water and septic issues	Changes in demographic with increasing elders	***Increased use of chemicals in environment
				Loss of open space	*Metro - more accessibility, more businesses, more buses or re-routing of buses	Drinking water contamination
					**Effect of loss of bus tokens and doubled fares	
					More paths needed for pedestrian safety	

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
					Food security vs. insecurity	
					*Food bank feeding is inadequate	
					*Community focused agriculture is good	
					Low income dependence on processed food	
					*Single level homes lacking for aging population and disabled	
					Increase emphasis on disaster preparedness	
Ethics	How to verify home healthcare licensure	* Medical decision paradigm change with increased chemical suicides	Improve attitudes towards undocumented workers (respect their work ethic)	* Changing demographic - can we be equitable?	*Effects of local community funding decisions	Potential for increased healthcare insurance fraud with confusion of ACA
		Provide data that is accurate for decision makers		Focus on highest risk priorities		* Help educate residents about basic care
Economic	Increased immigration leads to increased dependence on social	*** Grant system - unwanted mandates in EM and Aging	*Use of ER for primary care	Transportation	*Growth of population and number of businesses	**** Insurance - access; Medicare not sufficient for nursing home and assisted living care

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
Lack of affordable senior housing	** LC structure should be reorganized so that agencies are under the functional reporting chain	Access to medications	HC unknowns - ACA, is insurance taxable? Co=pays and deductibles	*Public transportation and congestion	Restaurant menus should post calories
ACA - number of patients per doctor increasing, cost of nursing homes high, longer waiting time for entry to care	*** Can LC fund local services when federal support stops	Free clinic/LCHD clinics full - trouble getting appointments	**Uninsured and underinsured	***Affordable housing	Uninsured/underinsured will improve with increased numbers insured; and help hospit with bad debt
Homelessness - range of ages changing, loss of homes increases population, safety net services inadequate	* ACA - may decrease health services and affect health insurance status, small businesses need to be better informed, HCWs losing jobs, use of ER instead of doctor, may improve sharing of medical computer data	Medicare/Medicaid access to care issues	Sequestration issues	ACA- ***MH readiness for changes, integration of MH and primary care systems, affordability of nursing home needs (source of funding), uninsured, job loss, MH and alcoholism increasing, how to help working poor	Autism - need for care of patients as they age
Increase in scamming of elderly		Funding for outreach services - we can identify needs but no funds for intervention	Low income and homeless	*Autism services not on funding priority list, parent education needed	Increase farming and animal husbandry

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
			Funding for MH	Increased vinoculture impacts safe driving and alcoholism	***Increase in homeless families - no fixed address prevents access to services, MH issues, LE issues	"Tsunami" of healthcare needs for aging baby boomers
				Number of schools still increasing		Physician practice - small business impact; no time for education
						Reimbursements tied to quality outcomes *Affordable day care - expanded pre-care needed
						Affordable housing
Political	Immigration increasing	Encourage better partnership to solve problems	Conflicting beliefs in Board Of Supervisors	Public health system is politically focused and driven - increase education of politicians	What are federal vs. state vs. local responsibility for MH?	**** ACA - access to care, cost of care, quality of care
	Younger Loudoun residents cause more funding to go to schools	*LC culture right-type people to serve no wrong door advisory council (?)	Appropriate funding for primary care services	DHHS is re-writing national HC objectives to increase prevention	Reticence of immigrants to approach politicians for help	Share data among health systems

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
	Closing of NOVA intellectually disabled training center in Fairfax impacts Loudoun	LC poor coordination of strong communities		Review security strategies	*****Shrinking school budget affecting health services (tax rate low while population increases)	Full day kindergarten
	Loudoun	Too many silos		Increase acute care beds	Loss of funding due to sequestration	Support school funding
		Disconnect between federal-state-local policies		**How stable is LCHD in next 5 years?		* Too much building too fast
		Guidance developed at too high level				In politics - remember that people are human
		Politics gets in the way of health solutions				
		Unable to customize				
		*VDH structure and control				
		***County agencies not aligned properly for efficiency (ex: aging under parks/recreation)				
		*Needs to be structurally organized				
		Public transportation issues				
		Need to provide ACA info for residents and employees				
Social	Lack of volunteers	High obesity rates = PH issue	Very conservative community in rural areas	***MH needs for the young and drug users	Lack of cultural competence in employees	** Aging population

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
Mentally ill living with parents becoming problem as parents age, refusal of MH to consider 'dementia' under MH services	*Increasing aging population - the frail are doubling	Beliefs that decrease vaccine rates - affects herd immunity	Obesity and nutrition education	Residential density impacts safety	** Transportation for elderly and disabled
Metro train to Dulles - may increase homeless and pan-handling	Not enough medical providers seeing the elderly	Increasing Mid-east population - language issues	Nutrition for the needy	Impact of social media	Increase independent responsibility
Support needed for the 'kids' caring for aging parents	Elders moving into communities with their kids	Encourage appropriate use of services	Increase in violent crime	Changes in managed care	Increase care in home programs
Need more foster care	Need increased focus on prevention in health	Need for teen services	**Change in demographic as population ages	Patient education needs lacking - HCW cuts, re-admission stats increasing	* Focus on increased prevention (alter instant gratification)
	Cultural beliefs affecting vaccination		***Increasing immigrants - no insurance and more disease	state MH training center closing	***** Treating people like human beings - Faith impact
	Increase in chemical suicides		Language issues	Number of MH beds cut for NOVA - various MH patients forced to be grouped	* Healthcare literacy

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
	Potential for new methods of terrorism		Lack of sufficient	Undocumented	Care for caregivers
	Need more bike paths		safety net	immigrants Increase in medical resource decentralization	Increase mixed incom housing communities
	Should have ability to use food stamps at farmers markets			Group homes dependent on local funding	* Send message - Kno Your Neighbors
	Housing issues continue			Increase in young adult MH patients	Decrease bullying
	Residents do not know neighbors			*Autistic children lack support services after school ends	Assess knowledge of animals and health impacts
	Trend toward community based care			Disability funding insufficient	Unsafe driving - tie to public transportation
				CLT training (MH+LE+EMS) needed	Address substance ab culture)including performance enhancements)
				Social interaction with LE and kids should increase	Multi-cultural and rel changes in population

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
					Gangs - Appear to be increasing, more education needed to have gang graffiti removed asap, impacts increase in commercially exploited sexual uses among juveniles	
					Need more inpatient substance abuse treatment programs	
					*Need for cultural sensitivity education with increasing diversity trends	
Technology	Mental; Health not included in patient electronic record (may change with ACA)	*Social media influencing health attitudes	Social media leads to anti-PH messages and inaccurate medical info	Validate health apps for smart phones	Social Media - both positive and negative impacts, increase in online parties, increase in bullying 24/7	Fractured medical record access
	Sharing of information between partners (hospital, fire, ems, nursing homes) needed	Self-diagnosis increasing with medical websites		Confidentiality of health data - who follows your data?		*** Increase sharing of electronic medical records (include pharmacies)

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
		PPE assessment for new threats (ex: chemical exposures))		Increase teleworking (and decrease office space)		* explosive technology for good uses and efficiency
		Metro access options		Improve use of IM and other easy access		Trend - better access to portal
		Technology corridor		Educate re safe use of social media		Increase hot lines for assistance
		Increase use of technology for PH messages		Metro expansion		Increase video training tools for patient education
		LC- needs to improve sharing of technology		Little access to health data		Metro
				dependence on power grids and providers (Verizon)		Negative mob influence of social media
						Influence of technology on kids and families
gal	Immigration increasing	ACA issues	Undocumented workers up - more unemployment and no benefits	Local INS laws	**Negative impact of unfunded mandates on human services in schools and other government agencies (CPR/AED/Epi pens; First aid; medication administration) requires more staff	НІРАА

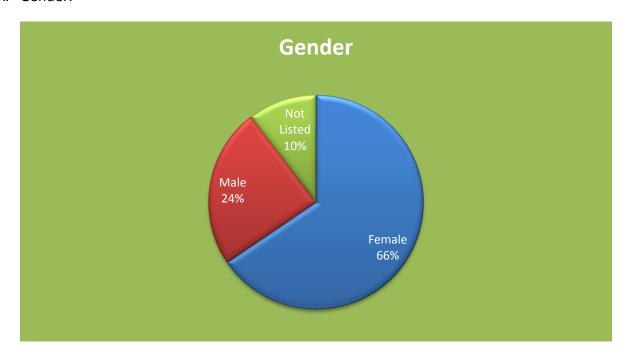
	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
	Increase in scamming of elderly, legal recourse		Police perception of undocumented workers is a hindrance	**HIPAA/ FERPA - sharing of Medical info		FERPA
	inadequate Increased need for legal guardians		Need more services for women in crisis	Add HITECH to HIPAA for business to business needs		MH secure records
	Legal restrictions handicap MH			FOIA		
	Licensing of home health agencies and employees needed			Increase acute care beds		
	Lack of standards for group homes					
Science	С. Т.	Goals are set that do not match community healthcare issues	companies doing research	*****Vaccines - need to educate re issues of autism and mercury	Research on allergies in schools (ex: peanut vaccine development)	** MDROs - C. difficile, patients who badger physicians for antibiotics, partial compliance of antibiotic use
		Vaccine safety messages		Improve use of epi data to assist with social media validation		Increase in deaths and injuries from prescription drugs

	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
		Improve accurate data for decisions		Improve reporting of data between federal-state and local		* Increased incorporation of alternate practitioners (ex: chiropractic)
				Improve communication with physicians to identify special needs residents in LC		
Other	Increase in TB associated with increased immigration	Only 1 full service hospital - limits beds per resident ratio	Poor access to TB services	***Access to healthcare - perceived need, insurance, culture	Population growth - more children means more schools needed	* Confusion - Chaos with ACA changes - increase education on how to get insured
	Transportation for MH and nursing home patients needed	EMS impacted by nursing home transportation	HD staff - not co- located to maximize services	Need for translators	Increased need for MH and acute care medical providers	* Paradigm shift - medical care for episodic vs. continuum of care
	Hospital discharge planning - incomplete for MH patients, lack of social service nurse in hospital, quick discharges,	*Increasing complacency among HCWs		Need better data on incidence of autism		Nurse navigators needed to assist with services

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F
Availability of	Align LC needs based on		Start full day		Better case management
home health	resident needs when		kindergarten		for elderly
agencies	dealing with the larger				
	community				
	Increase message of				
	personal accountability				
	*Develop overarching				
	messages to improve health				
	in LC				

Attachment IV: Results of Participant Survey

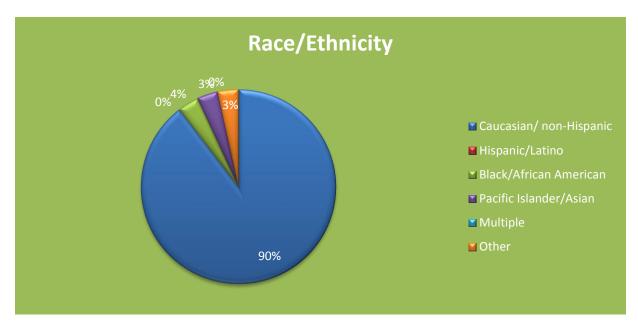
A. Gender:



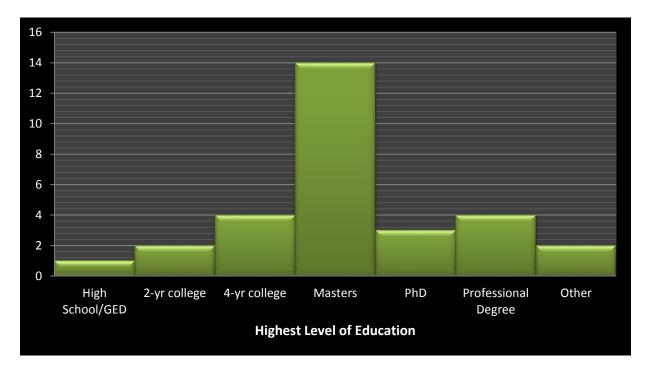
B. Age Groups:



C. Race/Ethnicity:



D. Highest Level of Education:



E: Affiliation:



F: Participating Agencies:



Attachment V: Acronyms

ACA: Affordable Care Act

Automated External Defibrillator AED:

CPR: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

DHHS: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Econ: Economic

EMS: **Emergency Medical Services**

Environment: Environment

Epinephrine Epi:

FR: **Emergency Room**

FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

FOIA: Freedom of Information Act

HC: Health Care

Health Care Worker HCW:

HIPAA: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

HITECH: Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act

INS: Immigration and Naturalization Service

LC: **Loudoun County**

LCHD: Loudoun County Health Department

LE: Law Enforcement

MDRO: Multi-Drug Resistant Organism

MH: Mental Health

NOVA: Northern Virginia

PH: Public Health

PHS: Public Health System

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

TB: **Tuberculosis**

Tech: Technology

VDH: Virginia Department of Health