

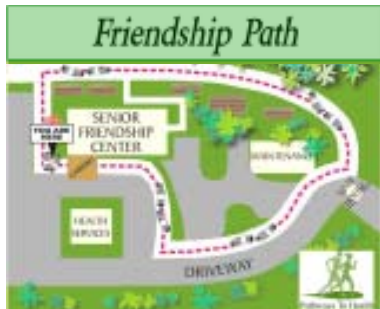


Highlights

2006



CHIP Centers Mission:
 To improve the physical, mental, and social health of residents in Laurel, Osprey, Venice and Nokomis through a network of health and wellness information centers.



Community Health Improvement Partnership

The Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) is a community-based initiative to improve the health of Sarasota and Charlotte County residents. The Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, in partnership with Sarasota and Charlotte health departments, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Englewood Community Hospital, Doctors Hospital, and Fawcett Memorial Hospital, established CHIP in 2002.



During CHIP's first two years, three comprehensive health assessments were completed and three citizen groups, Community Health Action Teams (CHATS), formed in Englewood, North Port, and the communities of Laurel, Osprey, Venice and Nokomis (LOVN). The CHIP Centers are a project of the LOVN CHAT. A survey of residents and other research led the LOVN CHAT to conclude that too many people were unaware of services in their community and too many others did not know how to locate needed services. In response, the LOVN CHAT published a directory of local health and social services and opened CHIP health and wellness information centers. These centers house a wealth of materials on health-related information and health services and upcoming activities promoting health and wellness.

Background

Major Accomplishments First Grant Year



- 1 Opened six Centers** with partner agencies
- 2 Published monthly newsletter** of health info, seminars, classes, screenings, and low-cost health services:
 - 70,000 paper copies distributed at CHIP Centers, South County Family Health Center, Venice Regional Medical Center, Salvation Army, Venice Community Center, Venice Community Mental Health, Venice Chamber of Commerce, Women's Resource Center, Disabled American Veterans, and neighborhood associations
 - E-mailed to CHIP program listserv; LOVN CHAT members, County employees, County Commissioners, local officials, Department of Health representatives, and newsletter subscribers
 - Posted on the website at www.chip4health.org/CHIPCenters
 - Publicized free and low-cost screenings through the newsletter including mammograms, diabetes, blood pressure, and vision; flu vaccinations; sources for low-cost or free meals and food distribution programs; and free or low-cost healthcare at Senior Friendship Center and the Sarasota County Health Department, Venice and free mental health counseling for seniors by Coastal Behavior Healthcare
- 3 Promoted over 80 health & wellness activities**, many of which are ongoing, offered at Centers, including exercise classes, health topics, health improvement, and Internet classes for accessing health information. Topics include cervical & prostate cancer awareness, Medicare part D, osteoporosis, stress management, hurricane preparedness, bird flu information, questions on prescriptions, and fall prevention
- 4 Gave support to approximately 600 people** at Goodwill pilot site; 30% identified as requesting medical information or referral
- 5 Created Health Information ToolKit** for volunteers and staff at each Center
- 6 Opened 5 Pathways to Health walking paths** to promote outdoor exercise and social connection
- 7 Promoted community partnerships** through collaborative programs such as the Family Advocacy committee led by the YMCA, Senior Friendship Center and the Libraries respite grant, YMCA and Senior Friendship Center Intergenerational Initiative, LOVN CHAT update of the Health and Human Services Resource Directory, In-home Senior Outreach committee, CSI: Health promotions committee
- 8 Produced outreach materials** such as a CHIP Center pamphlet, seminar flyers, book marks, and tips for doctor visits
- 9 Designed CHIP Centers webpage** at www.CHIP4health.org/CHIPCenters
- 10 Established a sustainable CHIP Center model** that can be replicated at little to no cost to the host agency; model includes extensive health & wellness education materials, bulletin board, pamphlet rack, CHIP Center sign, and computer.

- 1 Open additional Centers** in South County, beginning with Englewood and North Port, working toward expanding access across the entire County
- 2 Expand newsletter** content and distribution to cover additional South County communities
- 3 Survey customers** at each Center to assess value of resources available to the public
- 4 Work closely with 2-1-1** to connect people with 2-1-1 service and ensure consistency of service information between CHIP Centers and 2-1-1
- 5 Expand marketing efforts** to raise awareness of the CHIP Centers and reach a greater scope of residents, business, and local government officials
- 6 Elevate CHIP Centers Coordinating Council** to a committee under the CHIP Leadership Council to oversee the CHIP Centers

Current Initiatives Second Grant Year