For 2022 we have the honor of awarding 7 Community Champions.

* ***Delaware County Community Partnership- Teresa Carnes, President***

The DCCP during Teresa's leadership has become one of the premier community-based coalitions serving Northeastern Oklahoma. Since March 2021, DCCP has increased its efforts not only for Delaware County, Oklahoma but the broader area of Northeastern Oklahoma. In March 2021, DCCP initiated its efforts for CATCH-UP Oklahoma, a community-design COVID-19 relief and response project focused on expanding COVID-19 testing to underserved populations. The DCCP expanded its efforts to include the offering of multiple social determinants of health interventions at each of their testing events, this was a critical need as DCCP discovered great need during a period of an active global pandemic. DCCP understood early on their reach was much deeper than serving only their county and began to braid and blend resource opportunities to better serve their community members. DCCP is a rock-star coalition!

* ***Opioid 918- Marcus Buchanan***

Marcus Buchanan is the program coordinator for Cherokee County Health Services Council's (CCHSC) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP). Marcus is an exemplary health champion working to improve the health of Cherokee County and its surrounding communities through the Opioid 918 campaign. Through the RCORP program, Marcus has conducted numerous educational trainings on Narcan administration, Reducing the Shame and Stigma of Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and This is Not about Drugs. Narcan administration trainings have reached over 200 businesses, programs, police and fire departments, mental health providers, school administrators and staff, and community members. Reducing the Shame and Stigma of SUD training destigmatizes language and shares personal success stories from individuals in recovery, resulting in individuals being more comfortable and confident in seeking treatment. The impact of this program would not be possible without Marcus’s efforts to recruit and sustain community partnerships. Since the program began, RCORP has established and maintained several partnerships that has aided in its immense success. Tahlequah being the capital of the Cherokee Nation, provided access to several great minds within the local prevention, recovery, and treatment sector.

* ***Health Alliance for the Uninsured***

The Health Alliance for the Uninsured (HAU) connects low-income, uninsured Oklahomans with life-saving healthcare services and resources that they could not access on their own. These critical connections improve the health outcomes of program participants, prevent E.R. visits, and reduce Oklahoma’s economic healthcare burden. Support from our community is critical to our mission, our programs, and our clients.

HAU partners with 17 free and charitable clinics and two large community health centers to provide several programs that improve the health of low-income, uninsured Oklahomans. In 2021, HAU launched two new programs:

• The Healthcare Services Navigation Program facilitates referrals for low income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals seeking basic health, mental health, vision, dental, and women’s health care, as well as Medicaid enrollment.

• The SHAPES Program, funded by the United Health Foundation, is a groundbreaking $1.8M/3-year program that creates access to behavioral health screening/treatment services, medication management, and education for diabetic patients of 20 safety net clinics statewide for the first time in Oklahoma.

* ***Youth Action for Health Leadership***

Youth Action for Health Leadership (YAHL) is a statewide youth-led health initiative funded by the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET). The program creates a meaningful and measurable impact on Oklahoma by promoting healthy behaviors. YAHL partners with Oklahoma 40 high schools and organizations, rural and urban, every year to train teens on how to make an impact in their communities. Through YAHL young people work on policy change campaigns and implement strategic practices to change policies at the local and state level. YAHL members currently work on two policy campaigns, CounterAct Tobacco and Elevate Student Health. Members of YAHL build cross-sector partnerships with schools, organizations and key stakeholders in the community to build support and provide education towards building a healthier Oklahoma. YAHL members have attended over 46 community events educating people about the issues and collecting over 7,700 opinion surveys on CounterAct Tobacco policy priorities. YAHL members have also presented to 14 organizations leading to 11 community organizations to sign on as a partner to the campaign.

Since the program's implementation in fall of 2021, YAHL members have contributed over 4,100 volunteer hours giving back to their communities and working toward their policy goals.

* ***Multi-County Coalition- Shanan Cox, Director***

Multi-County Coalition under the leadership of Shanan Cox. Shanan is a true champion for community health. Shanan has taken her role at Parkside Psychiatric Hospital and elevated it to ensure a collaborative, community-focused approach to improving health and social services across Eastern Oklahoma and beyond. At the start of the pandemic Shanan took an emerging idea of 3 counties who were collaborating together and turned it into a now 30 county strong multi-county effort to better support collective population health activities. Utilizing her connections within the Tulsa area, Shanan helped to establish the Multi-County Coalition as the testing site partner of choice for all 5 Tulsa Community College campuses, offering COVID-19 testing and vaccine distribution for TCC faculty, staff, students, and community members. This outreach included the Hispanic Learning Center in East Tulsa where she organized COVID-19 antibody/serology testing to better support informed decision making for Tulsa’s Hispanic/Latino community residents. Shanan is committed to collaborative activities, you will rarely see a health focused event in Northeastern Oklahoma where she is not present and focused on sharing organizational resources.

Shanan has lead the Coalition to become its own 501(c)3 organization and complete the Oklahoma Center for Non-Profits Standards of Excellence Certification.

* ***Handle with Care Oklahoma***

Believing in the power of collaboration for early intervention, Oklahoma Turning Point Council (OTPC) policy members, agency leaders, and statewide advocates participated in a 2019 Interim Study on Handle With Care at the Oklahoma Capitol. To advance the effort, Oklahoma Turning Point made its first official HWC investment to send an executive council member with 2 Public Health Institute of Oklahoma board members and 7 state agency leaders to the National HWC conference in October 2019. As communities expressed a need for a statewide effort, OTPC stepped up to the plate again to invest in a statewide HWC-OK website in 2020. Over the past four years there have been over 35 counties showing interest and/or in the development phase of Handle With Care. OTPC with fiscal agent and managing partner, the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma (PHIO), PHIO staff, the HWC-OK Advisory Council, and key volunteers have been able to highlight grassroots efforts from Oklahoma communities at the annual OTPC conferences, build a statewide HWC-OK website, host monthly community support calls via zoom on the first Wednesday of the month, facilitate interagency collaboration meetings twice per month, organize learning communities 3-4 times per year, and provide technical support with training and implementation. In partnership with RAVE mobile safety software, the initiative is in the process of connecting with 87% of all schools statewide.

* ***Pathways to a Healthier You***

Pathways to Healthy Living is a County Health Improvement Organization serving Stephens and Jefferson Counties. Pathways work is in collaboration with several community partners representing both counties that address three priority areas; healthy living, safety and injury prevention and behavioral health. Pathways and the partners have worked extensively on evidence-based programs to educate the greater community about physical activity, diabetes, immunizations, underage alcohol use, marijuana use and youth safety and injury prevention, addressing trauma and educating on ACE's and creating an overall culture of Hope. Through collaboration and funding provided by the Sarah Stitt Hope Foundation, Pathways hosted the second local Hope Summit for SW Oklahoma. Pathways is diligently working to bring increased Hope to Stephens and Jefferson counties through our work with Dr. Chan Hellman and OU Center for Hope. Pathways is dedicated to improving the safety and health of its communities by identifying injury problems and implementing timely solutions.