



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2017

Contact: Joan Theurer, Health Officer, Marathon County Health Department
Email: joan.theurer@co.marathon.wi.us
Phone: 715-261-1903

Contact: Karen Katz, President, Healthy Marathon County
Email: kkatz@eojohnson.com
Phone: 715-842-9999

Release of the 2017-2020 Marathon County Community Health Improvement Plan

Joan Theurer, Health Officer and Karen Katz, President, Healthy Marathon County announced the release of the 2017-2020 Marathon County Community Health Improvement Plan MarathonCountyHealthPriorities.org. The 2017-2020 Marathon County Community Health Improvement Plan, referred to as CHIP, identifies six community health priorities and related action steps that will move Marathon County towards its goal of becoming the healthiest county in Wisconsin.

The six priorities include: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Misuse and Abuse, Behavioral Health, Health Needs of Aging, Healthy Weight, and Oral Health. In addition, the plan recognizes and addresses the interconnectedness of social and economic factors influencing each and every health priority. In May 2016, the Marathon County Board of Health and Healthy Marathon County representatives selected the six priorities, after reviewing and discussing indicators from the 2015-2017 LIFE Report and the Marathon County Comprehensive Plan over the course of three months.

Factors explored in the selection of the priorities included: the impact of the health problem on quality of life across the lifespan, community and political interest to address the health problem, known effective strategies to address the problem, and whether community partnerships could be mobilized. "The intent is to identify what causes residents of Marathon County to die prematurely, become ill and injured; thereby addressing these factors", said Joan Theurer, Health Officer.

During July and August of 2016, community planning meetings were held with organizations and stakeholders to develop a plan for each health priority. Karen Katz, President of Healthy Marathon County said, "It is exciting to see the degree of community organizations' commitment to making a difference in the quality of life across the lifespan for our residents."

In 2016, Marathon County ranked 16th out of 72 counties for health outcomes. The plan is aimed to focus and align community efforts across all sectors of the community to address the health issues having the greatest impact on residents.

About Marathon County Health Department – Marathon County Health Department’s mission is to advance a healthy Marathon County community by preventing disease, promoting health, and protecting the public from environmental hazards.

About Healthy Marathon County – Healthy Marathon County is committed to making Marathon County the healthiest county in Wisconsin. Our members who live and work in Marathon County, collaborate with community partners to build systems, environments, and a culture that supports health and wellness. www.healthymarathoncounty.org

-END-