

Chapter 11

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Within the context of the **Leelanau General Plan**, health and human services include an array of services typically aimed at providing support and specialized assistance to individuals and families to improve their health and productivity as members of society and/or improve their quality of life. These services are characterized by programs for the elderly, parenting families, employment services, financial assistance, domestic violence intervention, shelters, health services, mental health services, parenting education and similarly related support assistance.

Human services are critically important to the peninsula for a variety of reasons. Availability of strong health and human services is essential to a community vested in thriving, stable families. Many of the services offered enable individuals to become active and productive residents of the peninsula and thus limit the demand on revenues for long term public assistance due to unemployment, disabilities, mental illness, and other difficulties. This can result in both a higher level of services delivered as well as more revenues available for other needed services and programs. The

Peninsula's health and human services target all families including young families, middle aged families, and elderly. Furthermore, services target migrant farm workers who temporarily reside in the peninsula during the growing and harvesting seasons and who, by their transient nature, may be in particular need of special services and programs. Without these services, agricultural operations could not be competitive.

ISSUES

Health and Human Services Data

There are approximately 21,708 persons in Leelanau County. 4,240 of those residents are under 18 years of age. (2010, Source: US Census). Approximately 91.8% are Caucasian, 4.7% are Native American, <1% Black, <1% Asian and 2.5% are of Hispanic origin. (Source: 2010 US Census). In 2010, there were 161 births in Leelanau County and 1 infant death. The low birth weight percentage for Leelanau County is 6.4% (2011, County Health Rankings).

Health status is related to the social-economic status. In Leelanau County, the average income was \$56,056 (Kids Count, 2011). But

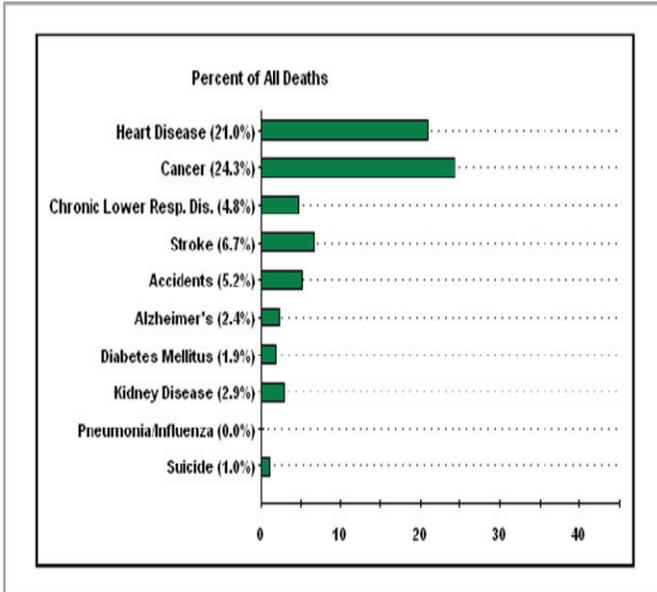


Benodjenh Headstart/daycare center and Strongheart Civic Center in Peshawbestown

statistics show that 7.5% of residents are below 100% poverty. 14.4% of children 0-17 years of age are living in poverty in Leelanau County. Furthermore, of the population that is 15-44 years of age, approximately 14% in Leelanau County are between 100 and 199% of poverty. (Source: US Economic Census 2007) The unemployment rate for the county is 7.73% (Source: MIDTMB, June 2011). Additionally it is important to note that family income and employment is affected by seasonal fluctuation due to service occupations that are related to tourism.

Nearly 3000 Leelanau County residents currently receive health and/or human services support annually. (DHS green book, 2012) The county includes a large percentage of families qualifying for free and reduced school lunch, high housing costs (27% above the State average) and significant gaps between low and higher income families. Many Leelanau residents struggle to access childcare, health care, housing needs (rent, utilities, heat, etc.), transportation, access to agency resources and the ability to feed and adequately clothe their families. A large number of Leelanau families with young children report that they feel lacking in one or more of the five protective factors that have served to focus the

Leading Causes of Death, Leelanau County, Michigan Residents, 2010



work of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council for almost 15 years. Most importantly, many Leelanau parents, albeit well intentioned, lack the resources to responsibly provide for their families.

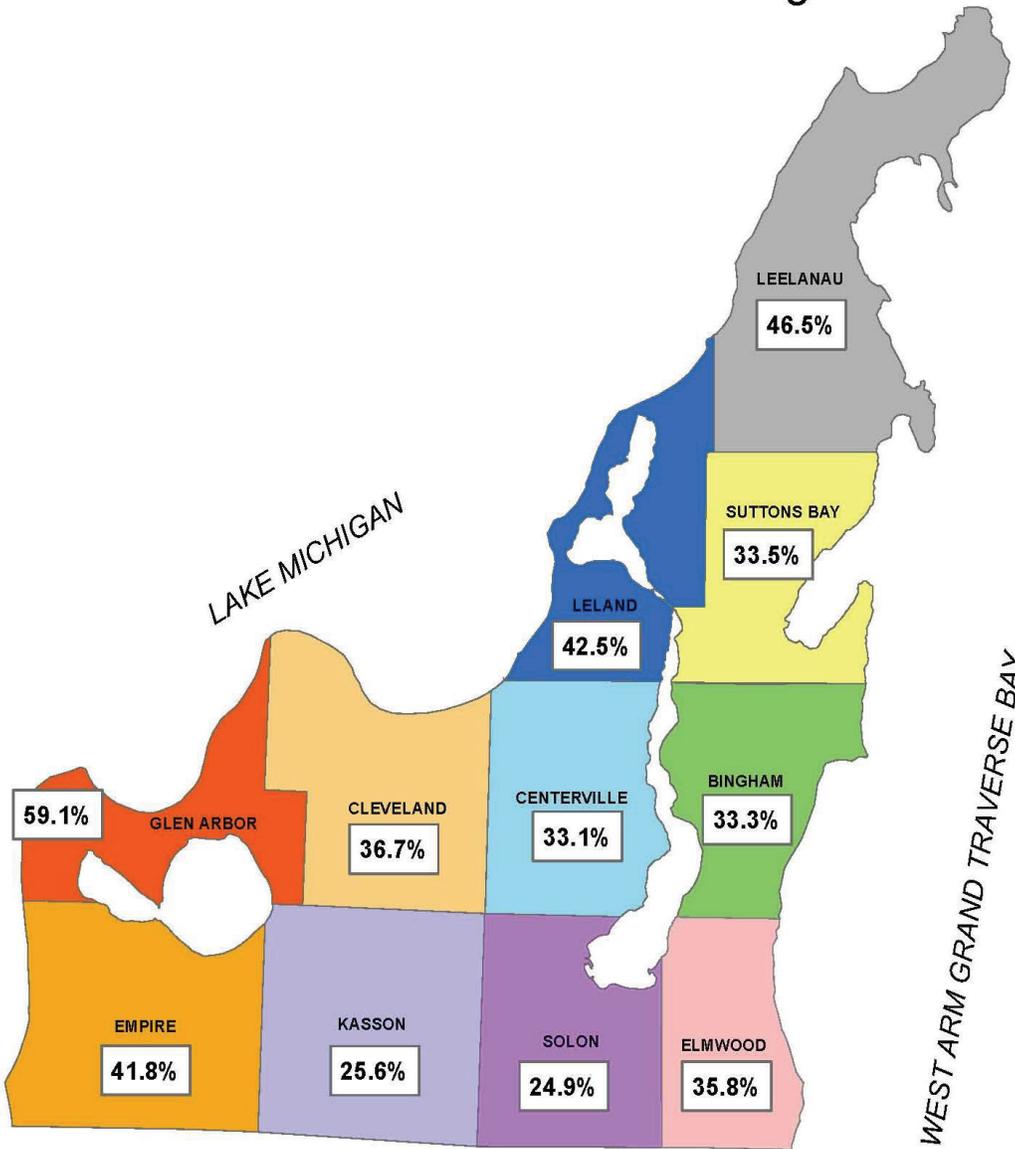
Leelanau families with young children are typically low wage earners. Far too many Leelanau County families lack resources, have limited access to necessary support services, and cannot afford childcare. Many Leelanau families with young children can be described as follows:

- Families with young children are typically low wage earners—they are often not settled into a career, and have the added stress of living in an area with limited economic opportunity for the typical wage earner (Leelanau wages are 35% below the State average).
- Families with young children often live in the isolating condition of rural communities and many lack adequate transportation.
- Families with young children may not even speak English- and an increasing population of Latino families has settled in Leelanau County.
- Parents often have difficulty accessing supportive services, because the bulk of such resources are housed in Traverse City.
- Many Leelanau young children receive childcare in unregulated settings because their parents cannot afford the higher quality care, and yet they earn too much to qualify for Head Start or other funded programs.

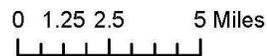
Other statistics that should be considered in developing a long-term plan for Leelanau County include:

- 65 percent of Northport's students and 58 percent of Suttons Bay were eligible for free and/or reduced lunch. The number of eligible students at other schools has also increased with 30 percent of Glen Lake students and 45 percent in Leland qualifying. (Local School Reports, 2012)
- 19 Leelanau County individuals are identi-

Map 11-2 Percent of Households with a member 65+ Years of Age



Map is for Reference Purposes Only
 Prepared by Leelanau County
 Planning & Community Development
 Source U. S. Census Bureau
 2010 Decennial Census



fied as 'literally homeless & unsheltered. (Point in Time Survey, January 2012)

- 21 Leelanau County individuals are 'at risk' of homelessness (Point in Time Survey, January 2012)
- 30 Leelanau County students reported as 'homeless' (Point in Time Survey, January 2012)
- Children 0 – 5 receiving FAP = 25.7% (DHS Green Book, 2011)
- 63 investigations in 2011 for child abuse and/or neglect, with 11 deemed substantiated (Leelanau Probate Court).
- 37 % of single parent families are unable to collect court ordered child support payments (Leelanau Probate Court).

Transportation consistently is a barrier to services. Many families have no vehicle or only one vehicle that may be in questionable working order. While Traverse City is the urban hub located in Grand Traverse County, travel to Traverse City is inhibited by an unreliable car or lack of gas money. With 2.5% of the population of Hispanic origin, health and human service providers do face some barriers to service with Spanish only speaking clients. As required by law, health and human services facilities consistently use a contracted interpreter or the Language Line to facilitate appropriate services.

Chronic diseases – including heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, and respiratory diseases – share major risk factors including tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and lack of access to preventive care. In Leelanau County, 18% adults report heavy drinking, 31% of adults are considered obese, and 12% of adults report that they smoke (2011 County Health Rankings). Furthermore, 21% of pregnant women in Leelanau County smoke during pregnancy (MDCH, 2007-2010). 12% of our children are obese. 50% of our students in high school report that cigarettes are easy to obtain. 66% said that alcohol is easy to obtain. 50% said that marijuana is easy to obtain. 86% reported that friends had been drunk recently, and 82% of high school students reported that some of their friends used marijuana (MI PHY 2012)

Access to medical and dental care continues to be a challenge for Leelanau County residents. 20% of our residents are without health/medical insurance. 9% rank their health as fair or poor (County Health Rankings 2011). Although little data is available to understand how many residents have dental insurance, anecdotally we know that many residents are without insurance, and given the high cost of dental care, forego regular dental care. Poor oral health has a negative impact on overall health, prenatal health and employability. There are no dentists in the county that accept Medicaid insurance. Many physicians do not accept new patients with Medicaid insurance.

The 2012 Community Health Assessment process that was led by Munson Medical Center and area local health departments revealed the following health priorities for the Grand Traverse region (not in any specific order):

1. Obesity (all ages)
2. Access to Preventative Care
3. Chronic Disease – Diabetes
4. Access – Health data sharing
5. Smoking – Adult , pregnant women and teen smoking
6. Access – Adults and children w/o insurance, medications
7. Behavioral Health – Access to Mental health (mild to mod):
8. Behavioral Health – Access for children and Adolescents:
9. Access - Lack of Medicaid Providers
10. Access – Dental care for un and under-insured
11. Chronic Disease – Senior case management and support services
12. Access to Prenatal Care

In 2008, the Traverse Area Poverty Reduction Initiative conducted a survey of low income individuals and families. When Leelanau County families were asked "What kinds of community services have been very helpful to you?" 61% said Food assistance, 64% said medical Care and 27% said Dental care. When asked "When thinking about the future, what is your best hope for reaching your personal goals and dreams?" 27% said "Getting

more Education” and 17% said “Getting Healthy. 24% reported that they “were happy with their life now”. (PRI Report, 2011)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FACILITIES

Health Care facilities located within the county include the Lake Leelanau Office of the Benzie – Leelanau District Health Department, 5 primary care physician offices, 11 dentists (although none accept Medicaid insurance), 3 long term care facilities 1 migrant farmworker health clinic, 1 Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indian Medicine Lodge Clinic and 1 urgent care facility. Since no physical offices are located within the county, residents receive mental health services from Great Lakes Community Mental Health, Third Level Crisis Center, Catholic Human Services, and Pine Rest Counseling Services located in Traverse City.

Leelanau County offers an array of human services at the Connie Binsfeld Resource Center. The Health Department, the Department of Human Services, Women’s Resource Center, Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council and Share Care all provide services out of this center. The Leelanau County HelpLink program, located at the Glen Lake Community Reformed Church, and Leelanau Christian Neighbors are member organizations of the LCFCC and provide services to Leelanau County residents.

Leelanau County has five Parenting Communities peer counselors offering universal family support services to the approximate 1,000 Leelanau families with child/children under the age of six.

There are no shelters located within the county, although close coordination with the Women’s Resource Center, Children’s Advocacy Center, Goodwill Inn, Safe Harbor, and Third Level Crisis Center assures that families are referred to shelters in Grand Traverse County.

The Traverse Area Tobacco Coalition pro-

notes smoking prevention and cessation in Leelanau, Benzie and Grand Traverse Counties.

Leelanau County has 4 public school districts, St. Mary’s private/parochial school, and Pathfinder School, four school based preschools, a Tribal Head Start program and a private early childhood center which delivers Head Start and GSRP programs.

The member organizations of the LCFCC have utilized a number of Strategic Planning documents that address agency &/or organizational -specific plans for addressing health and human services needs for the Leelanau County population. Long-term Strategic Plans that contribute to LCFCC county planning include the following:

- Continuum of Care
- Community Health Needs Assessments
- Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission
- Council of Governments/HUD Social Equity Initiative
- Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Regional Poverty Reduction Initiative
- System of Care
- Family Preservation and Family Support Teams
- 2-1-1 Initiative
- Great Start Collaborative Strategic Plan

CHALLENGES:

1) Limited Fiscal Resources

Also impacting the current delivery of human services on the peninsula is the comparatively limited amounts of money available for such programs. Leelanau County significantly trails behind the state in per capita allocations by the state to the county for human services. In 2009, the county ranked second to last for amount of public assistance per capita to Michigan counties. (Michigan Department of Human Services) In fact, the county received only between one half and two thirds of the per capita allocations for human services compared to the statewide average. Map 11-1 shows per capita income by township.

2) Needs of Special Populations

Senior Citizens/Elderly: 24.3% of the residents of Leelanau County are 65 years of age or older (US Census, 2010). This population is commanding a growing share of the national, state, and peninsula population. The elderly are faced with numerous day-to-day challenges which, in turn, challenge the human services delivery system. Economic stability, health and nutrition, transportation and mobility, medication management and self-sufficiency are all very real and pressing issues which must be addressed.

Insufficient income to meet living needs often faces the elderly on a fixed income. The very aged are more prone to mental illness and similar to the rest of the country, the elderly in Leelanau County are experiencing Alzheimer's disease.

Children: Leelanau County has 4620 children 0-17 years of age (2010 US Census). 14.4% of those children are living in poverty in Leelanau County. Leelanau young families are typically low wage earners (average wage income is 35% below the State average), live in isolating rural conditions, and are not well supported by 'helping agencies' due to transportation barriers. County demographics report a mix of White, Tribal (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians), and Latino families. Two of the four County school districts report close to a 50% ratio of non-White enrolled children with free and reduced lunch counts hovering just below 50%.

At any given point in time, there are approximately 30 students who deem themselves as homeless.

Latino families with young children who reside in Leelanau County. have migrated to the area after following migrant work, have very low incomes, unstable housing, seasonal employment, parents are typically very young (usually living in multi-generational households), speak little English and are eager to make Leelanau County their home. Traditional migrant services supports end when families 'settle out', meaning that they no longer follow the crops in

a migrating pattern, however Latino families often remain agricultural workers for at least one generation- thus experiencing the stress of seasonal employment without the support of the migrant services agencies.

Approximately 40 children in Leelanau County (2011, Benzie – Leelanau District Health Department) have Special Health Care needs. These children face a variety of chronic health and disabling conditions that qualify them for the Children Special Health Care Services Program provided by the Health Department.

3) Access to Health Care Services

Access to medical and dental care continues to be a challenge for Leelanau County residents. 20% of our residents are without health/medical insurance. 9% rank their health as fair or poor (County Health Rankings 2011). Although little data is available to understand how many residents have dental insurance, anecdotally we know that many residents are without insurance, and given the high cost of dental care, forego regular dental care. Poor oral health has a negative impact on overall health, prenatal health and employability. There are no dentists in the county that accept Medicaid insurance. Many physicians do not accept new patients with Medicaid insurance. There are no publicly funded mental health services available within the county.



Chapel at Old Settlers Park

4) Behavioral Health Risk Factors (Smoking, Obesity: access to nutritious foods and physical activity, drug use/abuse)

31% of adults in Leelanau County are Obese, 12% of adults report that they smoke (2011 County Health Rankings). Furthermore, 21% of pregnant women in Leelanau County smoke during pregnancy (MDCH, 2007-2010).

18% of adults report heavy drinking, and 12% of adults report that they smoke (2011 County Health Rankings). Furthermore, 21% of pregnant women in Leelanau County smoke during pregnancy (MDCH, 2007-2010). 50% of our students in high school report that cigarettes are easy to obtain. 66% said that alcohol is easy to obtain. 50% said that marijuana is easy to obtain. 86% reported that friends had been drunk recently, and 82% of high school students reported that some of their friends used marijuana (MI PHY 2012)

5) Domestic Violence

Domestic violence presents increasing demands upon human services systems. The rural character of the peninsula has not, contrary to what is often believed, buffered the peninsula from these challenges. In 2006 – 07 the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City served nearly 1,500 survivors of domestic and sexual violence from all counties in the region. This included:

- 369 adults and children received emergency and longer-term housing, including 6602 nights of emergency shelter in Helen's House and nearly 16,000 nights of shelter in the WRC's transitional and permanent supportive housing programs, a 257% increase since 2000.
- The WRC served 263 seniors, a 396% increase over 2000.
- The WRC provided nearly 7600 hours of one-on-one and group support and received nearly 4000 calls on its 24-hour crisis line.

Clearly, domestic violence remains a serious issue facing families in our region, including Leelanau County.

A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE POLICY

The foundation for the future delivery of human

services on the peninsula should continue to be based upon valid baseline data and an understanding of specific human service needs. Services should continue to be based upon clearly identified needs, and to this end detailed needs assessments, strategic plans and evaluation should continue to be developed and implemented.

The ongoing refinements to the Peninsula's health and human service delivery system, in response to this base data, should direct special attention to the needs of children, low income families and the elderly. The Peninsula's future largely rests with the health and vitality of its children. Yet, it is the peninsula's elderly who are the fastest growing segment of the population. The Peninsula's health and human service delivery system should respond to the particular needs of these populations through collaborative programs. Similar efforts should be pursued in regard to services for abuse, domestic violence, health, mental health, early childhood development, and other human service's needs, including special programs for migrant workers.

While addressing the needs in the paragraph above, special emphasis should be directed to the basic health and nutrition needs of the entire peninsula before other services can be effective and worthwhile. Affordable and convenient access to health and nutritional care must become paramount.

Improvements to the peninsula's human services delivery system should continue to be based upon interjurisdictional and inter-agency coordination and, more importantly, on collaboration. This collaboration should be particularly aimed at preventing unnecessary duplication of services and creating the most cost effective service delivery system. Other efforts should focus on periodic review and monitoring to identify unmet needs, and to finding the most appropriate organization(s) to address the need, as well as ways in which resources can be redirected to higher need services.

The extent to which the private sector can deliver human services in a cost effective manner in coordination with public agencies should be continually evaluated and monitored and, where

appropriate, encouraged. Privatization of services, along with the examination of alternative funding structures for services should be examined as the opportunity permits.

HUMAN AND HUMAN SERVICES OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STATEMENTS

VISION: Health and Human Services provide assistance to all persons in Leelanau County including individuals, children, migrant farm workers, elderly, those with low incomes, and families in need. Assistance from these services enable individuals to become active and productive, thereby reducing the demand on long term public assistance due to unemployment, disabilities, illness, mental illness, and other difficulties.

The following objectives and action statements are intended to establish the blueprint for the **General Plan** recommendations for the future of the peninsula's health and human services .

Goal: Reduce duplication and/or gaps in health and human services.

Objective:

Stewardship of public resources dictates that the county and local governments and human service agencies should exert every possible effort to make sure that there is a reasonable match between the needs and services; i.e., services should be based on quantifiable needs.

Action Statement:

Any resources devoted to program areas designed as “over-met” should be redirected to service areas identified as “under-met”.

Goal: To provide reasonable match between public resources, services and needs provided by agencies.

Objective:

County and local governments and health and human service agencies should assure that there is a reasonable match between the needs of Leelanau County residents and the services provided; i.e., services should be based on quantifiable needs.

Action Statement:

All health and human service organizations should utilize current strategic planning documents and current demographic profiles of the needs of citizens for health and human services as a benchmark against which to develop, deliver and monitor the effectiveness of their programs. These planning documents should be updated every 5 years.

Action Statement:

All health and human services agencies and County officials must assure public awareness of programs and services available to meet health and human service needs.

Action Statement:

The member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council should continue to provide an organized method of periodic review of all health and human service programs to ensure the most cost effective and comprehensive delivery of needed services.

Goal: Accommodate special needs of children.

Objective:

County and local governments will assure that children have their basic needs met and have access to developmentally appropriate early childhood care and programming.

Action Statement:

The member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council and the Early Childhood Development Commission and the County school systems should continue to periodically provide a comprehensive identification of the special needs of children on the peninsula, along with community need assessment of available services and delivery systems in order to compare the special needs of children with services delivered.

Action Statement:

Leelanau Parenting Communities will continue to provide services by peer educators in a menu format that emphasizes the various aspects of parenting and healthy family function using a variety of delivery methods (playgroups, parent education classes, home visits, and literature, natural settings, etc.). The framework of the

Five Protective Factors (Center for Social Policy, Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education, 2010) approach will continue to be provided as an evidence-based balanced structure to the program.

Action Statement:

In partnership with the peer based Parenting Communities program, the health department will continue to provide RN, SW and RD home visiting services to families through the healthy Futures and Maternal and Infant Health Program. Furthermore, the health department will continue to provide health services through the WIC program and Immunization programs.

Action Statement:

The district health department will continue to provide home visits services to children 0-26 years of age with chronic, debilitating conditions through the Children’s Special Health Care Services Program.

Action Statement:

The Early Childhood Development Commission should continue to identify mechanisms for assuring quality programming and support for families in Leelanau County.

Goal: Provide options for Pre-school/Headstart Education

Objective:

The county, local jurisdictions and school districts should support and encourage programs for Pre-school/Headstart as well as programs which provide a good, basic education for all children and families, including low income, high-risk, minorities, and students requiring special needs (including gifted and talented children).

Action Statement:

The county, local jurisdictions, human service agencies, and schools shall seek out and utilize all available funds and facilities to provide such programs.

Action Statement:

Human service agencies shall place more emphasis on educational programs which stress early education for those students with special needs.



Maple Valley Nursing Home, Maple City.

Goal: Accommodate special needs of the elderly.

Objective:

Provide human service programs, sponsored by Leelanau County that will facilitate self-sufficiency of elderly residents. Such programs should assist individuals to achieve their full potential and protect and enhance their personal health and enjoyment of life.

Action Statement:

Abide by all ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements and when possible, strive for UA (universally accepted) facilities to assist the physically challenged to promote self-sufficiency by all appropriate means.

Action Statement:

Support human service programs, to facilitate self-sufficiency of elderly county residents. Such programs should assist individuals to achieve their full potential and protect and enhance their personal health and enjoyment of life. In addition, support the involvement of volunteers, community-based organizations, non-profits, and senior citizens in mounting service and educational programs.

Action Statement:

The Leelanau County Commission on Aging should continue to provide services that will permit senior citizens to remain in their own homes and to minimize their dependence on institutional care. Programs such as nutrition programs, homemaker aid, public transportation, respite care and others are appropriate means for achieving this goal.

Action Statement:

The Leelanau County Commission on Aging should continue to provide preventive services for the elderly, including but not limited to contact, physical facilities, and congregate meals.

Action Statement:

Support the involvement of volunteers, community-based organizations, non-profits, and senior citizens themselves in mounting service and educational programs.

Action Statement:

Establish funding guidelines that consider state, county and local appropriations as well as fee and charitable gift revenues, recognizing that while initial county matching contributions may be appropriate, the responsibility for operational funding of senior citizen centers should remain at the local level.

Action Statement:

The Leelanau County Commission on Aging should develop and maintain a data base of clientele for senior citizen programs from which programmatic requirements, such as senior citizen housing, can be projected and planned.

Action Statement:

The County and the Commission on Aging should identify ways in which Leelanau County can become more amenable to senior citizens. Specifically investigate the feasibility of establishing an environment for "continuum of care" which responds realistically to the process of aging in providing the needed and desirable physical and service infrastructure.

Goal: Accommodate the needs of the physically challenged citizens.

Objective:

Leelanau County will assure no barriers no physically challenged individuals.

Action Statement:

The County should encourage all public entities examine existing county programs and identify and eliminate barriers to access or use of such programs by physically challenged individuals.

Goal: Accommodate the special needs of migrant agricultural workers.

Objective:

Recognition should be given that migrant workers are key members of the county's agricultural community and attention should be given to their needs during their annual residence in the county.

Action Statement:

The district health department will continue to provide migrant WIC services to pregnant and parenting migrant farmworker families.

Action Statement:

The district health department and member organizations of the LCFCC will continue to assure access to health services for migrant farmworker families through referral to the Northwest Michigan health Services Clinic (migrant clinic).

Action Statement:

The district health department administrative staff will continue to assure access to health services through joint planning with the administrative staff of the Northwest Michigan Health Services Clinic (migrant clinic).

Action Statement:

The member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council will identify the special housing, health care, education and human service needs of migrant farmworkers and develop ways in which existing programs could be strengthened to cost-effectively meet those needs.

Goal: Support domestic violence and substance abuse prevention.

Objective:

Reduce cause and effect of domestic violence and shelter needs.

Action Statement:

Continue to be supportive of the Women's Resource Center providing an office and staff at the Connie Binsfeld Resource Center. This staff person provides one-on-one counseling and empowerment groups. The counselor assists

with Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault cases, works with those who are homeless and connects them to local resources. Furthermore, this counselor accompanies victims involved in the courts.

Action Statement:

Maintain efforts to encourage referral to Traverse City based domestic violence shelters.

Action Statement:

The County and local governments should continue to provide information to county citizens as to where to find help in cases of domestic violence.

Objective:

County and local governments should advocate for increased healthy family support programming as it results in reduced numbers and severity of domestic violence assaults.

Action Statement:

County and local governments should cooperate with various agencies to encourage provision of safe havens from domestic violence

Action Statement:

It should be recognized that substance abuse prevention is also a very effective measure in prevention of domestic violence, and that county and local governments should support efforts to prevent substance abuse.

Objective:

County and local governments should maintain their efforts to prevent and treat substance abuse.

Action Statement:

Health and Humans service agencies will refer families for Prevention and treatment of substance abuse to agencies such as Third Level Crisis Center and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Goal: Provide county based options for mental health services.

Objective:

Assure a range of mental health services which address the mental health needs of Leelanau County residents and coordinate programming with other state, county, and local agencies pro-

viding similar services or serving common clients.

Action Statement:

Conduct an annual review of the community mental health plan and ensure a reasonable relationship between the plan and the annual appropriations and needs for community mental health services on the peninsula.

Action Statement:

The County, health department and the member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council will advocate for mental health services that are based in Leelanau County, and available to Leelanau County residents.

Goal: All residents of Leelanau County will have access to health care services.

Objective:

The district health department in partnership with other health and human services providers will promote access to health care through direct services to families, advocacy, and home visiting.

Action Statement:

The health department and human service providers will continue to link families to resources to promote access to health care services. The health department will continue to offer the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), Immunizations for uninsured and underinsured, home visits through the Health Futures and the Maternal and Infant Health Program and Women's health clinic services. Assistance with Health insurance applications (MICHILD, Medicaid/Healthy Kids, CHAP applications) will continue to be offered onsite at the health department.

Action Statement:

In partnership with Munson Medical Center, the Health Department administrators will continue with regional planning work with the goal to increase the number of primary care and dental providers in the region that will serve Leelanau County residents, improve and expand health promotion/prevention activities, improve and expand home visiting in the region.

Action Statement:

The Health Department and the member organizations of the Leelanau County Family Coordinating Council, will partner with Munson Medical Center and Priority Health to engage the community in discussions about obesity prevention. Workgroups will be established to address areas of impact to address the obesity epidemic.

Action Statement:

Within the context of the WIC program, staff of the health department will conduct nutrition counseling, promote breastfeeding and promote access to healthy foods, specifically targeting those children at risk for being overweight or obese.

Action Statement:

Within the context of the WIC program and home visiting programs, the health department staff will continue to assess and counsel pregnant women regarding smoking cessation using the 5 A's approach.

Action Statement:

The Health Department will continue to be an active member of the Traverse Area Tobacco Coalition, impacting broad public health policy as it relates to tobacco use.