Missouri Foundation for Health- Topic Area Strategies, Goals, and Evaluative Activities

DRAFT Prepared for Strategic Planning Committee- June 2018

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|  | **Health Topic** | **Draft Strategy Description** | **Goal** | **Current Evaluation Activities** |
| Targeted | **Expanding Coverage** | Taking advantage of the unique window of opportunity presented by the rollout of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), MFH aimed to have measurable impact in uninsured rates by taking steps to make enrollment run more effectively during a critical ramp-up period. The Foundation’s strategy was to make sure as many people got enrolled as quickly as possible, and that infrastructure was developed in other institutions so they could continue the enrollment work following the initial ramp-up period. | Reduce the percentage of uninsured Missourians under the age of 65 to less than 5% in 5 years | Washington University was brought in at the start of the initiative to work closely with grantees, external contractors, and MFH staff to understand outcomes of the various programmatic approaches. In addition to ongoing feedback that has informed planning and program management, an annual report on progress has been produced each year.  A separate consultant will be hired this fall to produce an independent report, assessing the overall accomplishments and lessons learned of the initiative. *Anticipated start date September 2018.* |
| **Preventing Unintended Pregnancy** | *Under development* | Reduce unintended pregnancies in our service region by at least 10% | Initiative-level evaluation by Mathematica currently in planning process. *Anticipated start date January 2019.* |
| **Healthy Schools Healthy Communities** | Recognizing that youth spend a considerable portion of their day at school, our strategy is to create a culture shift that supports and reinforces healthy behavior changes in K-8 school settings. | 5% decrease in children with overweight/obese BMI in target school districts | University of Kansas is leading the initiative evaluation which will produce credible evidence that will help communities and the Foundation understand the impact of their work as well as make unique contributions to the broader field of childhood obesity reduction. |
| **Infant Mortality** | Systems and structures that perpetuate adverse and inequitable birth outcomes for black babies have resulted in disproportionately high infant mortality rates in two areas of our state. MFH is working to lower the infant mortality rate in those communities by empowering them to disrupt the current system and create new, better solutions for themselves and their babies | By reducing disparities, lower the infant mortality rate by 15% in two areas of the state | The evaluation being led by Spark Policy Institute which will use documented changes in systems and structures as an indicator to help communities and the Foundation understand whether changes in how women are experiencing care will continue to improve infant health after the Foundation winds down major investments in the work. |
| Field Strengthening | **Housing** | The availability of supportive housing is limited because those organizations positioned to construct and manage supportive housing developments lack the up-front cash for pre-development costs. MFH recognized an opportunity to bridge this gap by leveraging its capital to provide loans at rates below what would otherwise be available and at early stages of their projects during which it can be difficult to secure financing. | Increase and enhance access to affordable, supportive, and healthy housing in the MFH service region | Urban Institute is conducting a three-year evaluation of MFH’s Show Me Healthy Housing project, exploring tenant outcomes in four supportive housing projects, to help MFH learn from its first foray into the field and contribute to the evidence-base around supportive housing. *Anticipated completion date January 2019.* |
| **Leadership**  (Health Leadership Fellows only- additional strategy under development) | *Full strategy under development- goal and evaluation represents health leadership fellows only.* | Create a cadre of skilled, diverse, collaborative leaders in health, health-related, and safety-net organizations serving vulnerable populations | Leadership Learning Community is conducting an evaluation of the first cohort of the Health Leadership Fellows program, looking specifically at how fellows have changed their work as a result of the program. *Anticipated completion date late 2018.* |
| **Advocacy**  (Leadership and Collaboration only- Grassroots strategy to be added later) | By giving the region’s strongest health advocates’ space to work together and resources to hone their skills, MFH believes that advocates in Missouri will be better able to influence health-related decisions at the state and local levels and begin to shift the narrative around health in Missouri | To build an effective and coordinated field of advocates that aligns with the mission and values of MFH and the communities and populations we serve. | RFP released for an external evaluator to design and implement a five-year evaluation of the exemplary advocates cohort’s development and outcomes. *Anticipated start date December 2018.* |
| **Behavioral Health** | Due to the unpredictable status of the behavioral health landscape- including uncertain health care reform, state budget shortfalls, and emerging challenges such as behavioral health in the criminal justice and school systems, the opioid epidemic, and behavioral and physical health service integration- the Foundation’s strategy is to remain nimble and invest in opportunities to positively influence and disrupt the current system. | To support system level improvements in behavioral health | Drafting an RFP for a consultant who will conduct a field assessment and map of the behavioral health system. This will establish a gauge by which our work in this area can be evaluated over time. As the behavioral health work progresses in the areas of pilots, research and advocacy, it will be evaluated in context of the larger system and what influence an action/set of actions has on the system overall. *Anticipated start date August/September 2018.* |
| Opportunity Oriented | **Public Health Infrastructure** | Recognizing that the current public health system is fragmented and unsustainable, we are supporting statewide efforts to transform the system. | Test different approaches and seek new, innovative ideas to strengthen the public health infrastructure in Missouri and detect emerging issues | With advisement from the Missouri Public Health Practice-Based Research Network(MOPBRN), Dr. Paul Thomlinson and Dr. Todd Daniel are leading evaluation efforts of the Transforming the Future of Public Health in Missouri’s #HealthierMo initiative to understand progress and challenges of the statewide effort to transform the public health system. |
| **Access to Care** | The political, cultural, and social realities of today have created a climate that makes achieving the Foundation’s goals increasingly challenging. We aim to improve that climate by stretching of out what’s expected, uncovering new ideas and approaches for moving all Missourian’s toward a healthier future. | Test different approaches to improve existing systems of care delivery, seek new, innovative ideas to expand access to care, create a more informed consumer base who better understand safety net services | MFH is leveraging the opportunity to bring together and learn alongside grantees who are implementing unique approaches to improve access to care. As a learning cohort, we are exploring different facets of access to care and influencing factors that grantees have identified in order to contribute to a shared knowledge base around how health care delivery can be reimagined. As projects progress, the need for outside evaluation expertise in assessing accomplishments will be considered and added on a case-by-case basis. |
| **Gun Violence Prevention** | Recognizing that there is not a robust field working on gun violence issues and that there is a lack of reliable information, MFH is taking a broad and exploratory approach aimed at contributing to the field’s understanding of potential solutions to gun violence. | Better understand the impact of gun violence on Missouri communities, seek new, innovative ideas or implement existing promising practices, and test different community based approaches to address gun violence | Robust, individual project evaluations are included as a component of each funded proposal:   * Washington University evaluating St. Louis Metropolitan Area Gun Violence De-Escalation Centers (Better Family Life) * The Missouri Institute of Mental Health evaluating Gun Shop Owner and Range Operator Project * Washington University evaluating St. Louis Area Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program |
| **Ferguson and Beyond** | Take advantage of the intensive community process undertaken by the Ferguson Commission in the development of its recommendations to make initial investments in organizations and programs that are aligned with the Commission’s thinking about what it will take to achieve and equitable region. | To support action on health issues in alignment with the recommendations from the Ferguson Commission’s Forward Through Ferguson Report | The Foundation produced an internal reflection report for staff learning in late 2016. The report was updated and presented to SPC in November 2017. The Foundation will work with an outsider contractor to develop and produce a broader report that will be released in mid-2019. |
| **Health Policy** | Many of the fundamental disparities in the health system can be changed through public policy remedies. Those remedies are more likely to become reality if policymakers have access to high quality information, data, and research on solutions to the region’s most pressing health issues. | Identify and support opportunities aiming to expand health insurance coverage, advance and strengthen health equity in the region, and support policy work that furthers MFH programmatic strategies | In order to build a shared understanding of the accomplishments of our work in health policy, Health Policy Associates has been hired to produce a reflection report on the Foundation’s Health Policy work over the past 15 years. This will include narrative around what the Foundation intended to do, what it did in practice, and the impact of its policy work. *Anticipated completion date January/February 2019.* |
| **Opportunity Fund** | MFH is uniquely positioned to spark transformative change that stands to accelerate the achievement of our mission. Opportunity Fund is intended to take advantage of our positioning to support opportunities that have great potential for contributing to the improved health of communities and people most in need. | Be flexible and respond quickly to emerging issues, seek innovative ideas, and test different approaches to solving problems | Staff are currently reviewing proposals for an external evaluator (solicited through an open RFP process) to assess the Foundation’s initial OF work and provide recommendations regarding how to operationalize the fund moving forward. *Anticipated start date July 2018.*  At the project level, evaluation activities are right-sized to reflect the needs of the individual project. Some have robust evaluation activities being provided by third party evaluators while others are able to be evaluated internally by the organization implementing the project. |