



CLAY COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Health in Action Winners Recognized

LIBERTY, Mo. – Oct. 27, 2017 – The Clay County Public Health Center, along with Tri-County Mental Health, Saint Luke’s Smithville, Excelsior Springs Hospital, Liberty Hospital and North Kansas City Hospital, recognized 15 individuals, groups and organizations for their work in improving the health of Clay County.

“It is rewarding to recognize individuals and organizations who are working to improve community health and create positive outcomes,” said Wenne Tarama, CHIA Lead.

Now in its fourth year, the Community Health in Action (CHIA) award is meant to honor those who are working to improve the health of Clay County residents. This year’s nominees and winners are:

Category: Health Policy and Advocacy Related to Access to Care

- Robin Winner, Synergy Children’s Services Fund for her work getting a Children’s Services Fund passed in Clay County (2017 CHIA Winner).

Category: Health Policy and Advocacy Related to Behavioral Health

- Tri County Mental Health Prevention Department for their initiatives preventing substance abuse (2017 CHIA Winner).
- Clay County Board of Trustees for passing a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for the community.

Category: Health Policy and Advocacy Related to Chronic Disease

- Excelsior Springs SAFE Coalition for passing Tabaco 21, which increased the age for the purchase of tobacco products from 18 to 21 (2017 CHIA Winner).
- Country Kids Family Childcare for implementing a breast-feeding policy for their facility.
- Kellybrook Elementary for creating a designated room to pump, breastfeed and store supplies.

Category: Community Wellness Initiatives Related to Access to Care

- Evonna Bailey, Family Services Division for assisting clients with a variety of complicated applications, including food stamps and childcare assistance (2017 CHIA Winner).
- John Vivan, MO CLAIM for his work helping Clay County residents sign up for Medicare.
- Liberty Hospital After the Lights for offering immediate healthcare options after hours.
- Robin Gerstner, ACA Navigator for counseling individuals and families on insurance plans and Medicaid enrollment.

Category: Community Wellness Initiatives Related to Behavioral Health

- (LAFY) Liberty Alliance for Youth for reducing alcohol, tobacco drug abuse and violence in Liberty (2017 CHIA Winner).
- The Quarky App sponsored by North Kansas City Hospital for offering easy access to information and places to help youth.

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.

Category: Community Wellness Initiatives Related to Chronic Disease

- Girls on the Run for promoting positive youth development through exercise (2017 CHIA Winner).
- Excelsior Springs Community Center for promoting a healthy lifestyle while bringing the community closer together.
- Liberty Hospital Foundation for funding the project coordinator position for the Liberty Community Health Action Team (LCHAT).

Each nominee was invited to Liberty Hospital on Wednesday, October 25, to enjoy a reception and to be honored for their hard work and dedication to improve the health and lives of Clay County residents.

About Clay County Public Health Center

Created in 1953, the Clay County Public Health Center is a nationally accredited local public health department protecting the health of all people in the county by implementing population based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness not only prevents the spread of disease but also provides wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices. To learn more, visit www.clayhealth.com.

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