***Why OPHES? What does it do?***

*Oklahoma Primary Health Care Extension System*

What is an extension system?

Cooperative Extension System (CES) empowers farmers, ranchers, and communities of all sizes to meet the challenges they face, adapt to changing technology, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and protect our environment. (USDA)

<https://nifa.usda.gov/cooperative-extension-system>

How does the extension system work?

University faculty members, who are disciplinary experts, translate science-based research results into language — written, verbal, and electronic — appropriate for targeted audiences. County-based educators work with local citizens and interest groups to solve problems, evaluate the effectiveness of learning tools, and collect grassroots input to prioritize future research. By living and working in communities, county educators are able to rely on existing relationships to respond to local needs, build trust, and engage effectively with citizens. (USDA)

<https://nifa.usda.gov/cooperative-extension-system>

What is the *Oklahoma Primary Health Care Extension System* (OPHES)?

Established in 2008, ***OPHES*** ***aims to improve available health care for Oklahomans through the coordination of services and the alignment of resources.*** This includes the provision of emergent community-designed social and medical interventions. OPHES partners include: state agencies, foundations, health care payers, academia, social care organizations, health care providers, coalitions, stakeholder groups, and community members. These partners have aligned their efforts to improve the health outcomes of Oklahomans, independently and collectively.

Why OPHES?

Ensure the alignment and maximization of health and social service focused population health projects and programs across diverse stakeholders impacting health and human service outcomes in Oklahoma. Creation of innovative inter-agency approaches to health care delivery.

Who runs the Oklahoma Primary Health Care Extension System?

***The Public Health Institute of Oklahoma acts as the managing partner of OPHES.*** PHIO coordinates with CHIOs and other stakeholders to connect communities to population health focused opportunities aligned with localized need. Through deeply cultivated partnerships PHIO is able to rapidly engage traditional and non-traditional partners in designing, piloting, deploying, evaluating, and sustaining community-designed interventions

Who is PHIO?

Established in 2004, the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma (PHIO) is a nonprofit organization committed to acting as a neutral convener to bridge government, academia, and communities for collaborative health improvement. PHIO fosters innovation, leverages resources, and supports nonpartisan health advocacy through its work across the state. PHIO works across diverse sectors to ensure a community-voice in local health related activities through it’s portfolio of work.

Who supports OPHES activities?

OPHES activities are financially supported by the Oklahoma Clinical and Translational Science Institute at the University of Oklahoma. Additional OPHES activities are supported by the Oklahoma Primary Health Care Improvement Cooperative, United Health Care, Center for Health Systems Innovation at Oklahoma State University, Robert Wood Johnson County Health Rankings and Road Maps, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Rural Health Association of Oklahoma, Rural Health Network of Oklahoma, Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, The Lynn Foundation, Handle with Care, and the Oklahoma Turning Point Council.

How does OPHES work?

Interested entities are encouraged to apply for membership to OPHES. Initial OPHES membership is offered to all qualified entities at no-charge. Additional membership add-ons are offered at cost. Add-ons support the expansion of OPHES efforts and overall sustainability of the network. ***At the heart of OPHES are Community & County Health Improvement Organizations*** (CHIOs***) organized to support localized health improvement activities.***

***What is a CHIO? Why CHIOs?***

***And why do you want to be one?***

*Connecting you to Health Improvement Opportunities*

A CHIO is a noun and a verb.

A CHIO is what you do. A CHIO is who you are.

The CHIOs are a network of like-minded health care improvement agents supported by the *Oklahoma Primary Health Care Extension System* (OPHES). CHIOs are the heart of OPHES.

Being Certified as a CHIO signifies your community’s desire to collectively improve the health of those you serve, while acknowledging your entity’s ability to operate a high standard of practice while serving. Being a CHIO signals to those around you your willingness and readiness, your capacity and capabilities all while highlighting your community’s uniqueness and expertise. And it’s more… It’s about being a part of something bigger. It’s about the connections, the relationships which make the landscape of Oklahoma health care different. We want you to be a part of making a difference!

What is a Community or County Health Improvement Organization (CHIO)?

The concept of a ***CHIO*** was introduced by The University of Oklahoma, Dept. of Family Medicine (OU-Dept. of FM) in 2008 in an effort to bring community-driven health focused dissemination and implementation projects to rural Oklahoma. A CHIO Certified entity is an organized group of stakeholders supporting health care improvement activities within a community, communities, a county, or multiple counties. Each CHIO is Certified by PHIO through a review process designed to ensure a multi-sectorial approach to improving health within an identified community. Each CHIO represents an entity operating at a high level of practice. Certification are offered at 3 levels: cHIO, CHIO, and CHIO+.