

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

About CHNA 7: This coalition encompasses 22 cities and towns in Greater MetroWest that includes Ashland, Framingham, Foxborough, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Millis, Natick, Norfolk, Northborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Wayland, Westborough, and Wrentham. The coalition members aim to improve the health status of the residents in our communities with an emphasis on serving low income individuals and families and culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse populations. Members work collaboratively to identify local and regional health priorities, design and implement community-based prevention plans, and track success in achieving healthier communities. Together, we develop new health improvement projects as needs are identified or once previous initiatives are completed.

Behavioral Health Initiative: Behavioral health was identified in the MetroWest community health assessment as one of four priorities from which we design our program activities to address the Community Health Improvement Plan. CHNA 7 has created two advisory committees that help identify needs in the northern and southern regions of CHNA 7 to make recommendations to the CHNA 7 Steering Committee that support work to address the identified priorities. Funding for this project comes from a Determination of Need (DoN) process whereby the Massachusetts Department of Public Health negotiates for funding from health care facilities to address local community health needs. In this case it is MetroWest Medical Center and Brigham and Women’s/Mass General Health Care Center. CHNA 7 stewards this funding.

CHNA 7 will establish advisory committees in the northern (Framingham area) and southern (Foxborough area) regions of CHNA 7. The goal is to put a mechanism in place to allow for community informed allocation of CHNA 7 funding for behavioral health efforts beginning in 2016. CHNA 7 also hopes to broaden and deepen the reach of the coalition in all CHNA communities and increase awareness of CHNA 7. Each Advisory Committee will craft a proposal (with target population, strategies, organizations/groups that would implement strategies) for using funding in their area to address behavioral health. Advisory Committees will build upon previous work of MetroWest needs assessment, the Behavioral Health Community Health Improvement Plan, the Emotional Health Task Force, and other data. Proposals from each advisory committee will be submitted to CHNA 7 for approval. Supported efforts may include: policy, systems or environmental changes; strategies to increase collaboration among providers and access to services; regional efforts. Health care facilities are involved to review and approve of all projects. Collaboration for these activities is key to the success of the initiative.

PROJECT TIMELINE
March-May 15, 2015 Committee Formation
May 15-December 2015 Committees review data, identify funding priorities Craft proposals
January- February 2016 Awards decided and announced
February – December 2016 Programs implemented

CHNA 7 – NORTH Communities	CHNA 7 – SOUTH Communities
Framingham	Foxborough
Hudson	Medfield
Marlborough	Millis
Maynard	Norfolk
Stow	Plainville
Sudbury	Sherborn
Holliston	Walpole
Hopkinton	Wrentham
Northborough	
Southborough	
Westborough	
Ashland	
Wayland	
Natick	

For more information or to get involved, please contact Denise Lau, CHNA 7 Coordinator at 857.362.8062 or chna7coordinator@gmail.com.