



CHOOSE IN-DEPTH RECAP

A County Health Rankings & Roadmaps Webinar

TOGETHER WE CAN

Heather Cole, health educator with the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) and project coordinator for the [Together We Can](#) health improvement initiative, shared the process they used to choose evidence informed strategies using [What Works for Health](#) and other resources. Here’s how their process worked:



- In April 2011, the health department hosted their second public health summit. During the summit, participants were updated on the new *County Health Rankings* and also participated in a brainstorming session to think about activities to address each priority area.
- Suggestions from the 2011 summit were vetted against evidence-based recommendations.
 - Using the [What Works for Health website](#), CDC’s [The Community Guide](#), and [Healthy People 2020 recommendations](#), Heather created a crosswalk list of strategies in the following order:
 1. Strategies suggested during the summit that also had a strong evidence base
 2. Strategies not suggested in the summit but that had been recommended in the research
 3. Strategies suggested during the summit but that didn’t have a strong evidence base
 - Some strategies that were suggested at the summit didn’t have strong evidence, so Heather researched to see if there were other counties around the country that were doing something similar. She used Google searches to find articles, toolkits, and professional organization websites.
- The information gathered in the crosswalk was presented to the Together We Can Health Improvement Council, and the group discussed and came to consensus on strategies to include in the plan.
- Final strategy selections appear in their [Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan](#).

<p>Contact Info: Heather Cole Email: hcole@cmdhd.org Phone: (989) 773-5921, ext. 8427</p>	<p>Together We Can Videos The beginning of Clare County’s story can be found here. Together We Can’s YouTube video can be found here.</p>	<p>Together We Can is using the Take Action Cycle, County Health Rankings data, and the County Health Roadmaps tools and guidance.</p>
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CHOOSE EFFECTIVE POLICIES & PROGRAMS GUIDES

Visit the [Roadmaps to Health Action Center](#) to find guidance and tools for [choosing effective policies and programs](#) whether you're just beginning your health improvement journey or are well along the way.

- **START**— We understand our solutions will be better if they have been shown to work or are based on research. We plan to look for these types of policies and programs.
- **ACT**— We've begun to look at policies and programs that might work well in our community. We'd like to make sure we're selecting the most effective strategies and examples.

TAKE ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

What Works for Health can be found [here](#). You'll find the archived video and handouts from the Aug. 14 Choose Effective Policies & Programs webinar [here](#).

The Community Tool Box **Self-Assessment to Help You Find and Choose Promising Practices** can be found [here](#).

TAKE-AWAYS

We asked participants for one thing that they were taking away. Here's a sampling of what we heard:

- The [What Works for Health](#) tool.
- The ability to find proven policies and practices.
- Confidence that our area public health agencies will be able to effectively work with our healthcare organizations.



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NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Register for our upcoming Take Action webinars [here](#).
- ✓ Contact us via email or phone. We're here to help!

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