**Community Health Action Team (CHAT) Meeting Minutes**
**May 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM**
**Cove Community Center – Conference Room (12525 Lake Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107)**

**Attendees:** David Baas, Department of Planning and Development; Laura Jaissle, Department of Human Services; City Council Representative Cindy Strebig; Mark Walter, Lakewood Department of Community Education and Recreation; Stephanie Morgan, Lakewood City Schools; Kristin Broadbent, Three Arches Foundation; Kate Ingersoll, Healthy Lakewood Foundation

**Meeting Minutes**
On a motion by Dave Baas, seconded by Stephanie Morgan, the minutes from the March 13, 2026 meeting were approved unanimously.

**City Council Report**
Councilwoman Strebig noted that she appreciated the presentation to the Health and Human Services Committee and felt that questions were addressed.

**Community Resource Guide**
The group reviewed survey, focus group, and CHAT team feedback, along with a revised timeline. More than ten organizations have been added to the guide, and emergency services will be removed once the group checks insurance requirements. Kate will have 250 guides printed for kindergarten enrollment, will contact Kevin Wayner about an accessibility check, and may consider a reprint later. The group suggested distributing the guide at the kindergarten information night, to City Council members and at the city table, through Welcome to Lakewood, through block captains and block groups, and at local free libraries.

**Priorities for 2026**
- **Behavioral health:** Recovery Resources will sunset by the end of June, and its board is considering a successor that would not provide direct services. The group will wait for ADAMHS Board funding decisions before deciding whether to hold a behavioral health roundtable. Schools and partners are also exploring how to better coordinate referrals.
- **Human services:** The City is looking at human services over the next 5–10 years, given upcoming retirements. City departments are meeting to improve systems, and Collaborative funding was cut by 20%.
- **Food access:** There is discussion about how a summer meal program might be provided in the community despite limited time to plan and initiate. Kate has been working with the Children's Hunger Alliance to understand how programming could operate in Lakewood.
- **Adaptive and middle-school programming:** Empower and Connecting for Kids will be at Cove Park on June 12 to recruit families for programs.
- **Housing:** The new Housing and Development Manager is adding capacity for a broader housing strategy, and City Council has begun discussing affordable housing. About 500 new apartment units are planned over the next two years, while development costs and affordability rules remain challenges.

**Emerging Issues**
- **Early Learning Center:** Two committees are working on family and preschool transitions, with internal work beginning May 20.
- **Lakewood City Schools:** The central office is seeing significant leadership changes and retirements.

- **Immigrant and refugee families:** Immigrant Connections is interviewing stakeholders on how to make school events more accessible. About 6% of students are immigrants or refugees.

**Work Plan and Next Steps**

- **Q2 (May):** Community Resource Guide
- **Q3 (September):** Schedule the meeting and discuss how to assign responsibilities and ensure follow-through on the 2026 priorities.
- **Q4 (November):** Determine the need and format for the 2027 CHNA update.

**STRUCTURE FOR 2026**

| Priority | Recommended Responsible Organization (s) | Key Issues for Collaboration | Key Partner Organization(s) | Recommended Oversight |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Access to Behavioral Health | Dept. of Human Services (City) | Behavioral health coordination – across city departments, institutions, and non-profits | Lakewood City Schools, Three Arches Foundation, Roundtable members | Mayor, Director of Human Services |
| Food Access | Dept. of Human Services (City), Lakewood City Schools | Community Eligibility Program (CEP) and summer feeding programs | Lakewood Community Services Center, Healthy Lakewood Foundation | Superintendent, Board of Education, Director of Human Services |
| Community Resource Guide | Healthy Lakewood Foundation | Functionality, increasing accessibility, and usage | Dept. of Human Services (City), Lakewood-based non-profits, Lakewood City Schools | CHAT Governance Committee |
| Adaptive and Middle-School Programming | Lakewood Recreation Department | Expanding and funding adaptive programming | Lakewood Recreation Dept., Lakewood YMCA, Empower Sports, Connecting for Kids | Superintendent, Board of Education |

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| Housing | Dept. of Planning & Development (City) | Affordable housing strategy action items | Dept. of Building and Housing and Dept. (City), Human Services (City), Lakewood Community Services Center, LakewoodAlive, Barton Communities | Mayor, City Council |

