

ALL4KNOX SUMMARY REPORT 2020-2021

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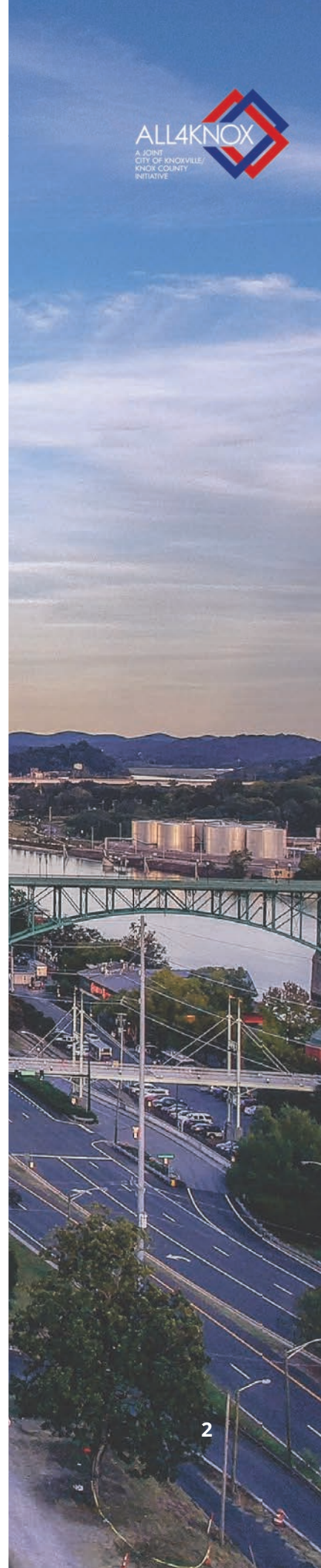


SUMMARY
REPORT
MARCH 2020-
MARCH 2021

BACKGROUND

Beginning in 2018, at the direction of both Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs and City of Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, All4Knox began. This joint initiative would become the basis for addressing the opioid and overall substance misuse epidemic in Knox County. Leaders from the city, county, Metro Drug Coalition (MDC), health department, and district attorney general's office began meeting to discuss ways in which the needs of the community could be met, and lives could be saved. This resulted in the 2018 Mayors' Community Summit: A Community Discussion on Substance Misuse. This summit began the initial planning process that would encompass a communitywide plan.

Initial priorities and themes were developed at the 2018 summit and resulted in a proposal to develop a strategic plan. Key stakeholders from the city, county, public health, and Metro Drug Coalition continued to meet and discuss progression toward a healthier and safer community, free of substance misuse. Stakeholders in nine identified community sectors were contacted to create subcommittees that were willing to tackle collaboration within their respective sectors. In April 2019, a substance misuse response coordinator was hired at the Knox County Health Department to facilitate the communitywide strategic plan. In August 2019, the Mayors' All4Knox Summit was held as a launch for the strategic planning process. In February 2020, a public health analyst was hired through the CDC foundation to assist with All4knox efforts. The Public Health analyst has been a critical member of the team and was instrumental in kickstarting the initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic.



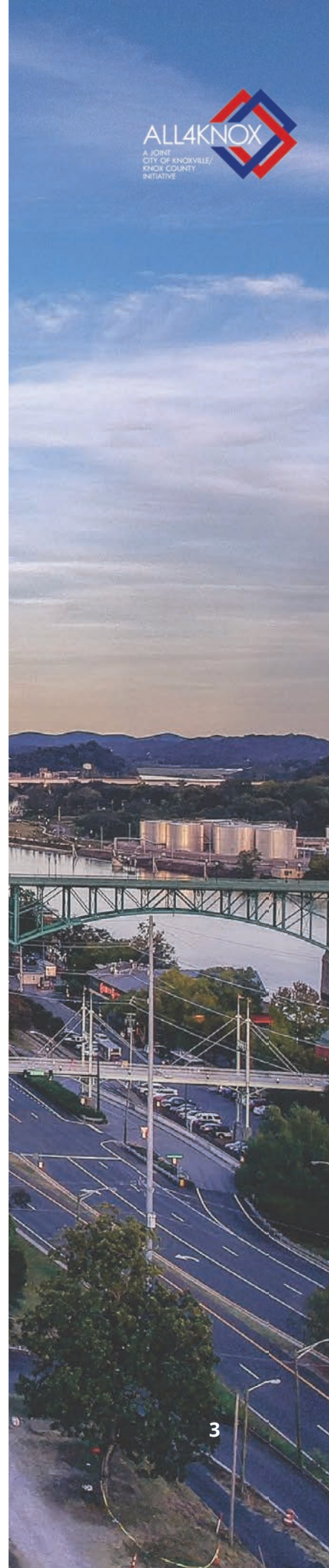
OVERVIEW

The vision of All4Knox to decrease the impact of substance misuse in Knox County, Tennessee, and the mission to create community-level change and a coordinated response to better address the substance misuse epidemic are only just beginning. Since the kickoff of the strategic planning process in August 2019, the community has taken hold of the knowledge that addressing the substance misuse epidemic is one which requires collaboration to create meaningful and sustainable change.

During the planning phase, nine community sectors developed the Three Year Strategic Plan and identified strategies and tactics to be implemented. The implementation phase consists of six teams tasked with carrying out those identified strategies and tactics.

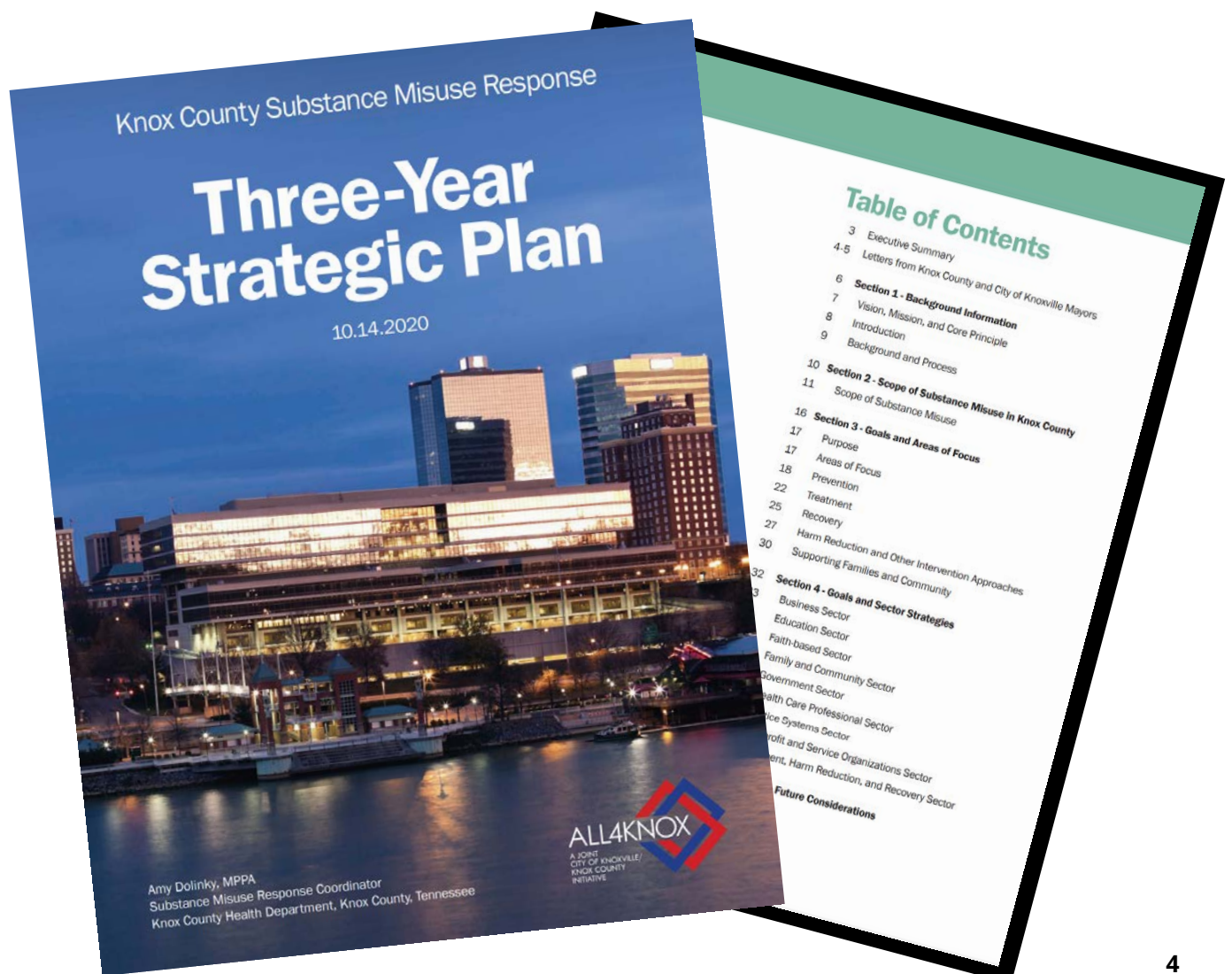
Consistent community engagement during the planning phase included about 240 individuals and during the implementation phase has included around 75. While All4Knox Initiative community meetings were halted from March 2020 through September of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they resumed and continue virtually. Even when meetings were not taking place, the work to address substance misuse never ceased.

All4Knox is grateful to all of the community members who have, and continue to, volunteer their time and energy to reduce the impacts of substance misuse in Knox County. Large-scale sustainable community change occurs not only when new programs begin, but also when relationships are built and collaborative efforts are formed.



STRATEGIC PLAN RELEASE

From August 2019 through March 2020, nine community sectors met regularly to develop the All4Knox strategic plan. After many months of work putting the plan together while community meetings were halted, a virtual listening session was held for all in the community to attend and share their feedback on the final draft of the document. After final adjustments, the strategic plan was released to the Knox County community and media on a virtual platform led by Knox County Mayor Jacobs, City of Knoxville Mayor Kincannon, Karen Pershing with Metro Drug Coalition, Dr. Martha Buchanan and Amy Dolinky with the Knox County Health Department.



IMPLEMENTATION TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

The six implementation teams meet on a regular basis to discuss current and future projects, opportunities for collaboration, and progress related to strategies and tactics. All community members are welcome to join the initiative and participate in any regular meetings and activities.

Access to Treatment

This team meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 11:30a.m. Recently, the group has spent time strategizing on ways to meet multiple needs of those with substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders, highlighting the importance of case management. This has allowed the group to work toward a plan to address a wide range of individualized needs. Over the course of the next year, the following strategies will continue to be addressed:

- Increase access to evidence-based harm reduction and treatment options
- Increase wrap-around services, including transportation and affordability of programming
- Work to centralize information with a care-coordinated entry point

Access to Judicial Diversion

This team meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 2:30p.m. Recently, the team has identified and contacted new sources for more in-depth and widespread data on judicial programs and numbers to better understand process and completion rates within current programs in Knox County. This increased data collection and collaboration can influence where to place focus on current projects and where to seek opportunities for new programs to fill identified needs. Over the course of the next year, the following strategies will continue to be addressed:

- Increase access to judicial diversion, referrals, and recovery resources
- Reduce stigma around substance misuse

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Prevention and Education

This team meets on the second Thursday of every month at 11:30a.m. Recently, this team identified that due to the large need and attendance at the implementation team meetings, there was room for specialization and collaboration on a more specific level. This has led the implementation team to divide into two smaller teams, one addressing adult education needs, another addressing youth. This move will allow for greater collaboration among relevant connections and opportunity for more in-depth analysis of resources and needs. Over the course of the next year, the following strategies will continue to be addressed:

- Increase education and outreach about substance misuse and reduce stigma
- Reduce risks of unused medications
- Reduce impacts of trauma and increase use of preventative screening tools
- Decrease nicotine use and underage drinking
- Reduce impacts of substance-exposed infants

Housing

This team meets on the first Friday of every month at 1:30p.m. Recently, they have used multiple members to collaborate and gather information on all available housing for target populations in Knox County. This comprehensive inventory of available housing options has provided room to assess needs and identify available resources in our community. Over the course of the next year, the following strategies will continue to be addressed:

- Increase wrap-around services for substance use disorders
- Increase access to affordable and appropriate housing
- Increase inclusiveness of housing that allows residents who are utilizing medication-assisted treatment

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Standardization of Practice

This team is not currently meeting monthly, in order to preserve the time and efforts of our local healthcare workers still responding to the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine response. This is the best way to utilize our local experts at this time and will be readdressed in June 2021. Over the course of the next year, the following strategies will continue to be addressed:

- Increase standardization of practice among healthcare related to how substance misuse is identified and treated
- Increase health and well-being of those with co-occurring disorders
- Increase collaboration and coordination

Recovery Support

This team meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 1:30pm. Recently, members of this team identified a need for education regarding COVID-safe practices for recovery meetings. With this need in mind, members of the team collaborated and created a webinar regarding recovery meeting safety and options during the pandemic titled Staying Safe, Staying Connected: Recovery During a Pandemic, which was presented to professionals hosting meetings, as well as those in recovery. Over the course of the next year, the following strategies will continue to be addressed:

- Increase collaboration and coordination
- Increase access to post-treatment recovery support, wrap-around services, and improve support after higher levels of care
- Increase utilization of peer recovery support services
- Create a centralized location for recovery supports and activities

To join an implementation team, visit http://all4knox.org/get_involved.php

VIRTUAL EVENTS

The following are the virtual events created and carried out by the All4Knox planning committee and implementation teams. Virtual events took the place of in-person events to protect the health and safety of attendees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

September 11, 2020

All4Knox Strategic Plan Virtual Listening Session

- All4Knox sector leads and sector members

October 14, 2020

All4Knox Strategic Plan Virtual Release

December 4, 2020

Practical Solutions for Your Workforce: Addressing Substance Misuse in the Workplace

- United Way, Mental Health Association of East Tennessee, Knoxville Utility Board, TeamHealth, and University of Tennessee, Knoxville

December 17, 2020

Staying Safe, Staying Connected: Recovery during a Pandemic Webinar

- Metro Drug Coalition and Mindful Recovery Coach

TOOLS

February 2021

Overdose Messaging Guide

- CDC Foundation
- Communications guide to help reduce stigma and promote positive messaging
- Access the document at
<http://all4knox.org/pdfs/overdoseResponseMessagingGuide.pdf>

March 2021 (ongoing)

Knox County Acute Overdose Outbreak Response Action Plan

- CDC Foundation, Choice Health Network, Cherokee Health Systems, Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA), Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), ASAP of Anderson, and Knox County Health Department

JOINT EFFORTS AND FUNDING

September 2020 (ongoing)

Bureau of Justice Assistance Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (COAP) Grant

COAP grants are intended to reduce opioid use and overdose deaths through collaborative efforts. These grants take into consideration the impact of substance use disorders on crime and victims of crime. Locally, the COAP grant has been utilized to create one initiative, the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team, and support another, the Metro Drug Coalition Recovery Housing Support Fund. The Overdose Fatality Review Team is based on the evidence-based model of mortality review teams such as the Child Fatality Review. The OFR is a multidisciplinary team that conducts case reviews of overdose deaths and presents aggregate data to the team in order to determine opportunities for prevention and intervention to reduce overdose fatalities. The Metro Drug Coalition Recovery Housing Support Fund is a fund created to assist in paying deposits for people seeking recovery-housing. The fund pays up to three hundred dollars (\$300) per person, and MDC staff vet the houses checking on safety standards.

Overdose Fatality Review Team

- Metro Drug Coalition, Regional Forensic Center, Knoxville Police Department, McNabb Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Choice Health Network, AMR Emergency Medical Services, CDC Foundation, Knox County District Attorney General's Office, Knoxville Fire Department, AHIDTA, University of Tennessee Medical Center, Recovery Court and Veterans' Treatment Court, Knox County Health Department

Recovery Housing Support Fund Assistance

- Metro Drug Coalition

JOINT EFFORTS AND FUNDING

November 2020 (ongoing)

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Pilot Project Grant to Build the Evidence Base for Overdose Prevention and Response

This pilot grant represents a novel approach to the virtual Overdose Fatality Review Team meeting environment by using a telehealth platform to hold the meetings, share documentation, record meeting information, as well as create future uses. The planning pilot project is a “proof of concept” to validate the minimal viable product configuration, as well as the creation and evaluation of the business case for broader use and scalability. Enhancing overdose prevention by improving the technological capabilities and tools available to OFR teams is vital for data sharing, security, and analysis.

- Metro Drug Coalition, CDC Foundation, One Health Solutions, Institute for Intergovernmental Research, Knoxville Police Department, National Institute of Justice/Medical College of Wisconsin, VetNOW, CDC, AHIDTA, Knox County Health Department

January 2021 (ongoing)

Housing Inventory

This project illustrates the proactive nature of stakeholder organizations and our abiding belief that we can make positive changes to our community. The Housing Implementation Team felt that to understand the problem of homelessness in Knoxville, we needed to have a firm grasp on the existing resources in the community. In a collaborative effort, we sought to classify our current housing facilities by levels of service provided and by the duration of habitation allowed.

- Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Knoxville’s Community Development Corporation (KCDC), McNabb Center, Ridgeview Behavioral Health, Freedom Investment Group, FiG Solutions, Oxford House of Tennessee, Knox County Sheriff’s Office, United Way of Greater Knoxville, Susannah’s House, City of Knoxville, Fire Forged Recovery, Cherokee Health Systems, Knoxville – Knox County Community Action Committee, Knox County Community Development, Knox County Health Department

JOINT EFFORTS AND FUNDING

January 2021 (ongoing)

Veterans' Housing Project

In response to perceived shortages in coverage in certain populations experiencing homelessness, the Housing Implementation team developed partnerships and engaged the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) Regional Housing Facilitators to develop a facility that will meet the needs of veterans experiencing homelessness.

- TDMHSAS, Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC), McNabb Center, Ridgeview Behavioral Health, Freedom Investment Group, City of Knoxville, Knox County, Knox County Health Department

March 2021 (ongoing)

Medication Assisted Recovery Housing Education

In both the Recovery Support Implementation Team and the Housing Implementation Team, discussions around medication assisted recovery and limitations of transitional housing took place. As the first cross-team collaboration, a group of individuals decided to start a separate meeting to address the specific need and create possible solutions around educating housing providers on safely including residents who use medication-assisted treatment.

- Metro Drug Coalition, Oxford House, Forged Recovery, Knox County Sheriff's Office, Knox County Health Department

March 2021 (ongoing)

All Recovery Meeting (physical meeting space)

Partnership to provide space large enough for social distancing for existing All Recovery Meeting hosted by Metro Drug Coalition.

- Metro Drug Coalition, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- To attend, visit <https://metrodrug.org/events/all-recovery-meeting-mindfulness/>

SUCCESS STORY: OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

Through the collaboration of the nine sectors involved in the All4Knox initiative, one of the needs identified during the planning process was for an Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team. This team would be composed of multidisciplinary experts in the fields of substance use, harm reduction, treatment, law enforcement, justice, and medicine, as well as other community members. This identified need was then addressed by the substance misuse response coordinator, and a grant was obtained to fund this OFR team project through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and housed at the Knox County Health Department. One full-time OFR team coordinator and public health educator was hired for the team, and the recruitment of team members was conducted ongoing through November 2020, when the team was fully formed and began to meet in January 2021.

The Overdose Fatality Review Team's main goal is to use data from public health, public safety, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, and community agencies to gather meaningful insight regarding overdose fatalities in Knox County. This data gathered is analyzed and reviewed for gaps in services, coordination issues, or needs for further intervention or points of contact with those at risk for dying of a drug overdose. The OFR team then strategizes and formulates ideas for new programs, research and data gathering, and other systems or programmatic initiatives in the community, with funding attached to implement some of these suggestions. The team currently consists of around 20 professionals and community experts and is lead internally from the Knox County Health Department by a public health educator and coordinator for the OFR team.

NEXT STEPS

Implementation teams will continue to meet, with restructuring taking place as needed. Evaluating for collective impact and self-assessment will determine the ongoing structure and activities of All4Knox. As different priorities present themselves, new teams may also develop. In order to reduce the wide-ranging and ongoing impacts of substance misuse, continuous community change will be critical well beyond the timeline of the initial All4Knox strategic plan.

Shared measures of success for All4Knox were identified as "desired outcomes" in the All4Knox Roadmap in August 2019:

- Reduce stigma around substance misuse
- Increase engagement and coordination within and among sectors
- Enhance how information is shared for coordination of efforts

The strategic planning process allowed each sector to identify strategies for a 3-year communitywide plan to reduce substance misuse and its impact on individuals, families, and community. Implementation teams have taken these strategies and identified the output measure or metrics and responsible organizations. These measures are important indicators of strategy completion, but gauging success of shared measurements truly captures the collective impact of All4Knox.

At this point, we want to implement quarterly assessments to track our shared progress.

These assessments are designed to measure the communication, collaboration, and extent to which All4Knox is successful with its stated measures. These quarterly assessments will serve as outcome measures of the shared work and mutually reinforcing activities of All4Knox.