Health, Dental Access and HealthConnect
Agenda to Action

Why It Matters
- 16,000 children and 71,000 adults in Dane County are likely to personally experience a mental or behavioral health problem at some time during their lifetime. Depression and anxiety disorders affect 25% of this population and can reduce workplace performance by as much as 9 days a year. (*Integrated Benefits Institute*)
- About 20% (5,200) of Dane County adolescents aged 13-18 experience one or more mental health concerns that interfere with their ability to learn. Nearly two-thirds of these students do not receive mental health services (*2015 Dane County Youth Assessment*).
- Young children who do not achieve early social and emotional milestones associated with positive early childhood mental health are at risk for school failure and other problems later in life.
- Major adversity such as extreme poverty, abuse, neglect, or other adverse child events can weaken and disrupt brain development and permanently set the body's stress response system on high alert. Chronic stress can be "toxic" to developing brains and leads to developmental delays and other problems.
- People without health insurance are less likely to seek preventive care and often go without treatment for serious medical conditions. Delaying care results in higher costs and can make problems more difficult to treat.

Goals
- Expect that at least 95% of all students in Dane County graduate high school in 6 years, and produce accelerated outcomes for students of color and from low-income families, achieving an interim goal of 90% or higher by 2022.
- 80% of 4 year olds will be at age-expected development and ready to begin school by 2020.

Promising/Best Practices and Research
- Delivering behavioral health care in conjunction with primary health care visits provides help when most needed and accepted and leads to good treatment outcomes for patients.
- Delivering behavioral health treatment in schools provides help where most connected and decreases truancy and dropout.
- Trauma is one of the key triggers that contribute to problematic behaviors, life circumstances, and community consequences. There is a growing body of evidence-based practice that facilitates trauma recovery and helps individuals to move forward in a healthy way.
- Health insurance improves access to health care. Early identification of dental, behavioral, and physical health problems leads to less expensive treatment and improved patient outcomes.
- 1,300 Dane County middle and high school students reported missing school because of dental pain over the past twelve months (*2015 Dane County Youth Assessment*).

2018 Community Impact -- Investment $1,053,977   [$2,003,977 w/HealthConnect program]
Increase the effectiveness of mental and behavioral health services for children, youth, and their families by using evidence based practices and service delivery that are shaped by an understanding of trauma and recovery.
- Continue investments in health, dental, and behavioral health strategies that reduce health disparities.
- Help to cover the cost of monthly premiums for low income individuals who purchase health insurance on the Health Insurance Marketplace.

2017 Progress
- 740 students with behavioral health needs increased their understanding of how to manage and cope with their problems by participating in 110 school-based FACE Kids groups held in schools across 14 Dane County schools districts. This includes 49 elementary groups, 35 for middle schoolers, 25 for high school students, and 1 for parents.
- Access Community Health Centers delivered care through the integration of primary, behavioral health, and dental care to over 27,000 patients who experience financial or other barriers to receiving quality health care.
- Expanded the reach of school-based dental sealants and treatment through the Celebrate Smiles program that provided screening and dental care to over 3,000 low-income elementary students.
- 1,126 low-income Dane County residents obtained health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace (Healthcare.gov) with premium payment assistance provided by United Way's HealthConnect program
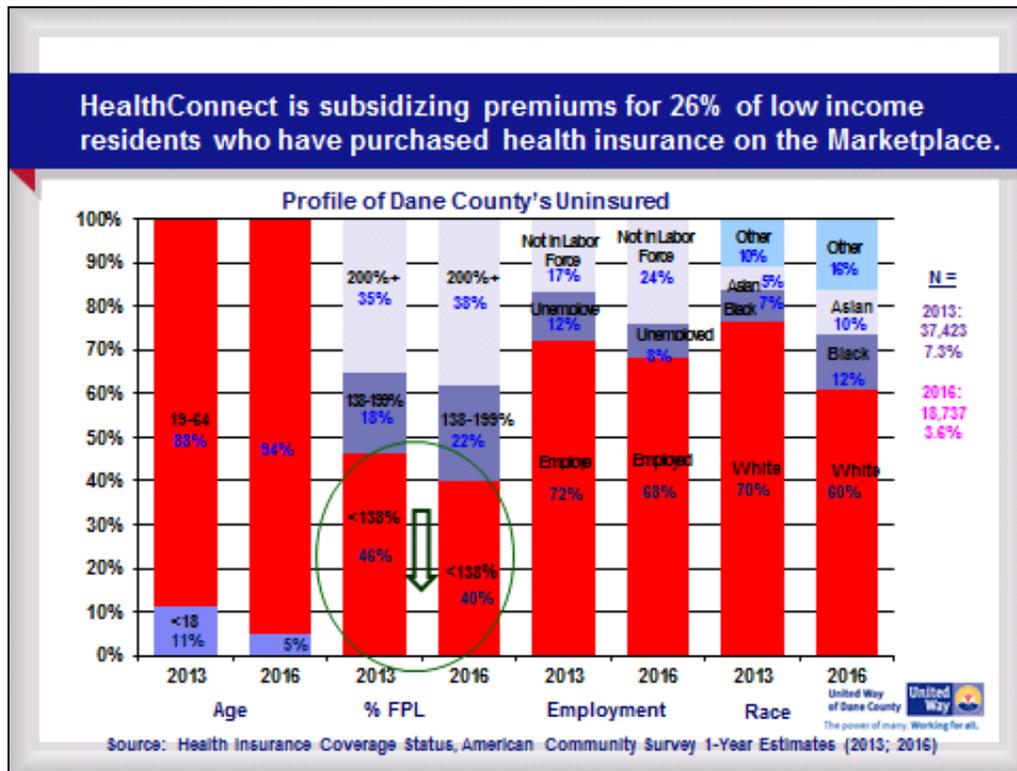
United Way
United Way of Dane County

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Measures

HealthConnect is subsidizing premiums for 26% of low income residents who have purchased health insurance on the Marketplace.

Profile of Dane County's Uninsured

Source: Health Insurance Coverage Status, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2013; 2016)

People who have insurance are more likely to use preventive services and seek early care for health problems. The 2013 baseline data marks the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on October 1, 2013. There has been a 50% reduction in uninsured low-income Dane County residents since the ACA took effect.

70% of HealthConnect Enrollees are very poor, earning annually the equivalent of between $5.79 and $8.70 an hour.

*Breakout of income levels in our target market of 100-150% FPL