



# Glenn County Forces of Change Assessment

Glenn County Public Health | June 2024



GLENN COUNTY  
**HHSA**  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

# Acknowledgements

Glenn County Public Health would like to acknowledge the individuals and community partners that contributed their time and subject matter expertise to this assessment.

## Participating Partners:

- Glenn County Health and Human Services Agency
- Glenn County Board of Supervisors
- Butte College
- Northern Valley Indian Health
- Glenn County Planning and Community Development Services Agency
- Glenn County Community Action Department
- PnumaCare
- Glenn County Moose Lodge

Thank you to Tri Counties Community Action Partnership (TCCAP) for facilitating the interactive meeting that allowed us to conduct the Forces of Change assessment.

Glenn County Public Health acknowledges Modera County's Forces of Change Assessment Report for inspiring the formatting used in this report.

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## Background

On June 8th, 2023, Glenn County Public Health and Tri Counties Community Action Partnership facilitated one meeting to complete the Forces of Change (FOC) Assessment. The meeting was conducted with eighteen community partners/organizations, following the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) framework. The FOC Assessment is one of four assessments that are required to complete a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). These assessments allow communities to prioritize public health issues and identify where current resources are available to address them.

## What is a Forces of Change Assessment?

Conducting a Forces of Change Assessment allows the community to identify the forces and associated opportunities and threats that might affect, either now or in the future, the health of the community or the local public health system. Forces can be social, economic, political, technological, environmental, scientific, legal, or ethical. They can also be trends, factors, or events.

- Trends are patterns over time, such as migration in and out of a community
- Factors are discrete elements, such as community's large ethnic population
- Events are one-time occurrences, such as a hospital closure, a natural disaster, or the passage of new legislation

The Forces of Change Assessment answers the questions:

- What is occurring or might occur that affects the health of the community or the local public health system?
- What specific threats or opportunities are generated by these occurrences?

## Assessment Methodology

TCCAP and Glenn County Public Health conducted the Forces of Change assessment on June 8th, 2023 during a two-hour meeting with eighteen local community partners/leaders. An email invitation was sent to community partners to participate in the workshop, and personal outreach was done by TCCAP for recruitment. The assessment was conducted through two activities: one worksheet was completed to identify forces and a second worksheet was completed to identify threats and opportunities (Appendix A). Glenn County Public Health utilized the content of the Forces of Change instrument that Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency utilized for their assessment (Appendix B). The worksheet that identified threats and opportunities is a tool provided in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP): User's Handbook. The two worksheets were collected at the end of the meeting and similar ideas were combined. There were nine original forces identified. Forces that did not generate threats or opportunities were removed from the final findings. In the process of writing this report, Glenn County Public Health modeled the layout from Modera County's Forces of Change Assessment Report.

# Findings

## Mental Health:

There is an increase in mental illness and substance use.

### Challenges

- Increased demand for services when there are not enough providers or supportive services in the community.
- Individuals do not trust the system.
- Stigma creates polarization in communities.
- Increased rate of untreated mental health conditions because of a decrease in the number of providers.
- Limited locally available mental health practices.
- Increased risk of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) impacting health outcomes for children.

### Opportunities Created

- Increased funding for outreach and collaboration with partners for prevention.
- Opportunity to utilize Community Health Workers for substance use and mental health prevention work.
- Opportunity for local, private, or corporate providers to open a practice in Glenn County.
- Increased programmatic work focused on Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACEs) work.

## Transportation:

There is a lack of accessible and reliable transportation available.

### Challenges

- Lack of healthcare access.
- Limited access and availability to specialty care services.
- Decreased opportunities for socialization.
- Limits access to food.
- Unreliability of transportation through managed care plan.
- Bus stop locations.

### Opportunities Created

- Economic potential for new transportation services.
- Volunteer programs (e.g., CHW).
- Promote socialization and connection by providing rides for neighbors.

## **Workforce:**

There is a decrease in the current workforce.

### Challenges

- Meeting the high need of services.
- The potential closure of resources.
- Limitation in business hours of operation.
- Economic impact within the community.
- Decrease in experience/knowledge.
- Increase in staff retiring.

### Opportunities Created

- More online training and schools.
- New funding opportunities to bring healthcare workers into the area.
- Starting new training programs through high schools (specialized workforce/career pathways).
- Promoting in-person mentorships.

## **Housing/Homelessness:**

There is an increasing number of people unhoused.

### Challenges

- Increase in SUDS and mental health needs.
- Economic impacts; no financial contribution to local economy.
- Increase in safety concerns.
- Lack of stability for persons.
- Lack of affordable housing; more people unhoused.

### Opportunities Created

- Proven need for funding; new grants, public funding.
- Potential to work with private organizations.
- Potential for community input and partnering.

## **Isolation:**

We are seeing a decline in social connection.

### Challenges

- Geographic distance.
- Results in early death.
- Limited access to care.

- Uneven distribution of resources and communication.
- Barriers that can occur in reaching individuals in the event of a natural disaster.
- Getting to know your neighbors is not as common anymore.
- Increasing costs are decreasing developments.
- Increase in technology use (i.e., Zoom); decreasing opportunities for human connection.

### Opportunities Created

- Re-evaluating how we build programs and opportunities for social connections.
- Looking into zoning for mixed-use.
- Continuing the investment in programs such as Meals on Wheels to work towards addressing nutrition and social connection.
- Developing the infrastructure for physical activity in the community.

### **Changing Demographic:**

We are seeing an increase in the aging population, and family sizes are changing.

### Challenges

- Change in the population trends for schools, workplaces, and retirement.
- Increase in the children's population in Glenn County.
- Increasing aging population without the infrastructure for aging services.
- Rising costs are impacting family planning.
- The population of youth has decreased over time (smaller families).

### Opportunities Created

- Create career paths, including tech and nontraditional training programs to increase financial opportunities.
- Need for public, private, corporate, state, and federal funds.



## **Appendix 6: Forces of Change Assessment Questions**

### **Shasta County Vision for Community Health (original text) developed 12-11-2015**

Shasta County has a medical home for every patient; healthy, affordable food; vibrant economic opportunities for all; superior mental health prevention and treatment; housing for all; robust substance abuse treatment and prevention; and supportive, thriving educational opportunities.

In Shasta County, people feel safe, our kids get a great early start and it's a great place to belong.

### **Forces of Change questions:**

1. Are there any trends occurring that will have an impact on our community?
2. What are forces that are occurring that will have an impact on our community? Locally? Regionally? Nationally? Globally?
3. What patterns of decision, policies, investments, rules and laws affect the health of our community?
4. What may occur or has occurred that may pose a barrier to our shared vision?
5. What characteristics of our county may pose an opportunity or threat?



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Glenn County Department of Public Health

240 North Villa Ave, Willows, CA 95963

(530) 934-6588