



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Ontario County, NY



**Ontario
Cares**

LHDs and NGOs

Together for Health: Building Community Resilience Through Partnership

Public Health Leaders Summit, October 23, 2025

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Shared Goals, Different Constructs



NGOs

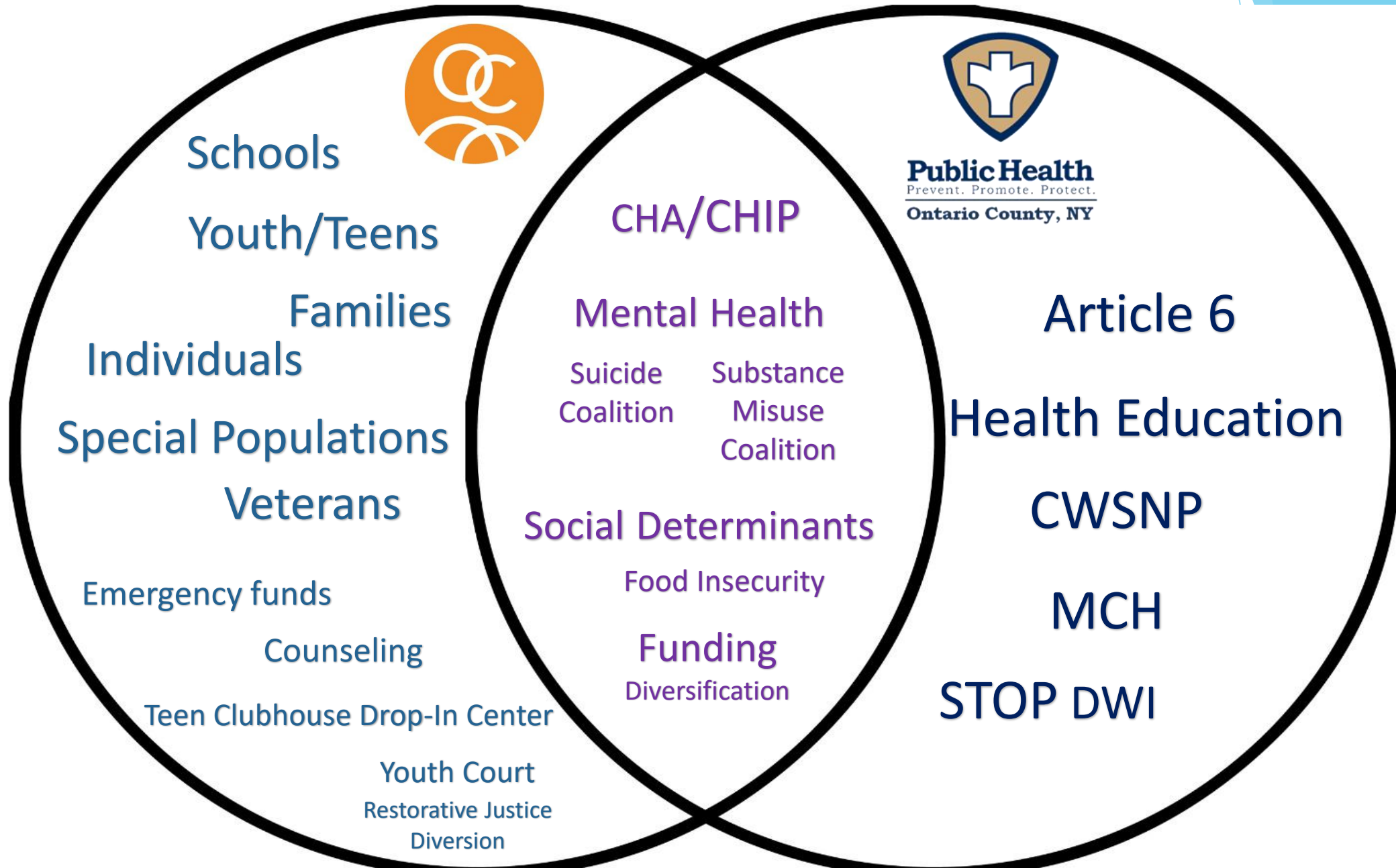
- Agile
- Quick
- Accountable to a board and to funders



LHDs

- Reliable & consistent
- Slower moving
- Accountable to elected officials and the community

Where We Overlap in OC





Ontario Cares

Connecting Neighbors, Empowering Community

Filling Gaps

Preventive Mental Health and SUD

Youth/Teen Clubhouses - community connectedness
LGBTQ+ safe art spaces
Prevention Coalitions:
Veterans Coalition Suicide Coalition Substance Misuse Coalition
Youth Court - prevent exposure to criminal justice system

Mental Health provider shortages

- Adolescent and family counseling

Food insecurity

- Youth club houses (serve snack and dinner)
- Drive-through food distributions

Funding for community coalitions

- Donations and fundraising

Shared Priorities & Programming



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Coalitions

- Suicide Prevention
- Substance Misuse Prevention
- Veterans
- Ontario County Health Collaborative (CHA/CHIP work group)

Food Insecurity

- Drive-through Food Distributions

Mental Health

- Youth Clubhouses - Ontario Cares
- Community Mental Health Trainings - Public Health

Strategies - How it Works

1. Intentional Cross-pollination – Governance

- ▶ PH Director is on **Ontario Cares Board of Directors**.
- ▶ Executive Director (ED) of Ontario Cares attends **Ontario County Board of Supervisors Health and Human Services Committee**
 - ▶ Standing committee meets every 3-weeks.
 - ▶ Face-to-face time with 6 board members, the County Administrator, the County Attorney, Public Health, DSS, Mental Health, Veterans Services, Youth Bureau and OFA.

Strategies - How it Works

2. Intentional Cross-pollination – Shared Coalition Work

- ▶ **Ontario County Campbell Commission** *(County Senior Leaders)*
 - ▶ PH Director and Ontario Cares Executive Director are members.
 - ▶ Convened by Member of Board of Supervisors, and County Administrator, Includes County Commissioners, Department Heads and two local CBO ED's
 - ▶ Identifies and addresses social determinants of health and decreases silo-ing.
- ▶ **Ontario Care's Communitywide Coalitions:**
- ▶ ***Substance Misuse, Suicide Prevention, and Veterans Coalitions.***
 - ▶ Ontario Cares Staff coordinates and PH Staff actively assist and co-leads.
- ▶ **Ontario County Health Collaborative**
 - ▶ Lead by PH. Ontario Cares staff participate.

Strategies - How it Works

3. Shared Community Outreach, Education, & Resources

- ▶ **Food distribution events** (Organized by Ontario Cares. Partnership with Foodlink, Town of Canandaigua, Public Health, and volunteer groups)
- ▶ **Co-host / Cross promote Community Events and Speakers**
 - ▶ Semi-Annual Annual Drug Takeback Day (Partnership with Sherriff, Ontario Cares, and Public Health)
 - ▶ Suicide prevention speakers
 - ▶ School administrator events

Strategies - How it Works

4. Leader to Leader Relationship

Guiding Question: “What’s best for our community?”

- ▶ Engage in regular **open** conversation
- ▶ Foster a culture of **honest** discussion
- ▶ Develop and cultivate **mutual respect** of ourselves as leaders *and amongst our team members*
- ▶ Actively engage and support **continuous learning so we can adapt** as community needs evolve.

Strategies - How it works

5. Overall Culture

- ▶ **Be strategic**
 - ▶ Know your community
 - ▶ Know where each organization wants to be in 5, 10 years
- ▶ **Recognize each other's strengths and challenges**
- ▶ **Be non-competitive – Team approach**
- ▶ **Foster great communication**

Thank you!



Goat Yoga at Veterans' Event



Period Product Drive



Community Food Distribution