

SPRING REPORT 2021

PREPARED BY

Dr. Damian Francis – Director

Catherine Woodall – Graduate Assistant

Kaitlyn Gauthier – Undergraduate Intern

Table of Contents

<i>Formation of Community Collaboratives</i>	2
<i>Mobile Food Pantry</i>	5
<i>Stronger Together</i>	6
<i>Pop Up Mobile Health Clinic</i>	7
<i>Blight and Community Asset Mapping</i>	8
<i>Funding</i>	9
<i>Grants</i>	9
<i>Fundraising</i>	9
<i>Monthly Department Report</i>	10
<i>Partners</i>	11

Health Promotion and Community Outreach

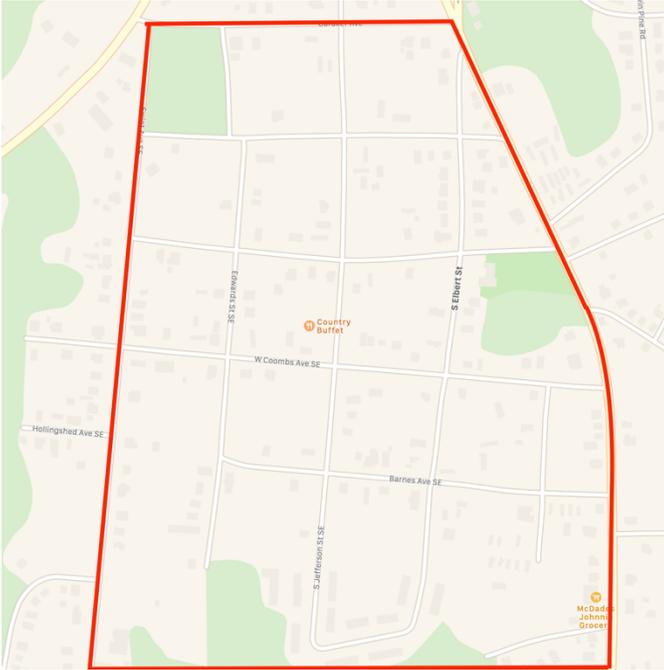
Formation of Community Collaboratives

In the fall of 2020, CHSI conducted two needs assessments in Baldwin County. The needs assessment captured residents' problems/concerns within four domains; 1) health, 2) family, 3) education/schooling and 4) other (any other areas participants deemed relevant). The needs assessment also captured community resources, barriers to accessing resources, and solutions that community members think would address their problems/concerns. Using the results, CHSI has formed community collaboratives with residents in both communities to discuss and address community concerns. Communities include Coopers and Oconee Heights which are both located in Baldwin County.



Oconee Heights

Oconee Heights is a neighborhood located between Swint AVE SE and Vinson Highway SE. This collaborative has worked to address topics including addressing and mapping blight in hopes of creating a Community Revitalization Council, data collection of prioritized problems to be addressed if 2021 T-SPLOST is voted in favor of, the promotion of Baldwin Transit through Baldwin County Board of Education, and gauging community member’s interest and perception of the proposed Baldwin County Property Standards ordinance.



The collaborative meets at Wesley Chapel AME on the second Thursday of every month at 5:00 pm. To the right is an aerial view of boundaries that create the Oconee Heights neighborhood.

Coopers

Coopers is an unincorporated community located along Gordon Highway. This collaborative has worked to address topics including lobbying for the Coopers Fire Station to be employed part-time, data collection of prioritized problems to be addressed if 2021 T-SPLOST is voted in favor of and discussing the application process for a Georgia Department of Natural



Resources grant to renovate Coopers Park as well as making the park's amenities ADA compliant. The collaborative meets at the Coopers Fire Station on the third Thursday of every other month at 5:00 pm, with the next meeting occurring in July. To the above right is an aerial view of boundaries that residents identified as the Coopers community.

Mobile Food Pantry

On the third Wednesday of each month, the Harrisburg community collaborative with partners from the Northridge Christian Church, GMC, Georgia Power, Health Empowers, North Central Health District, Missionaries for the Poor and GC Center for Health and Social Issues operates a mobile food drive. The food supplies are provided by the Middle Georgia Food Bank. The food drive takes place at the Collins P. Lee Community Center from 9 am to 1 pm. The distribution serves between 300-500 families and provides an array of fresh fruits and vegetables, canned and dried goods, meat and dairy products. A diverse group of volunteers consistently offer their time and resources to ensure the mobile food drive runs efficiently. This food pantry assists in alleviating part of the burden of food insecurity in this region.



Stronger Together

To increase awareness for supporting exceptional people with intellectual disabilities and Autism Awareness, CHSI partnered with the Life Enrichment Center in hosting the Stronger Together event through the LEC Creative Expressions Program. The program is an integrated art program that promotes self-expression among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This event allowed clients to



showcase their art, which included a Black and White Gallery, Meet the Artist, and mural painting. Families and friends of clients, community members, and other stakeholders attended the event. A proposal for the mural to be displayed in the Baldwin County Government Annex will be sent to the Board of Commissioners.



Above Left: CHSI Team Kaitlyn Gauthier (intern), Dr. Damian Francis (Director) and Catherine Woodall (graduate assistant)



Above Right: a LEC client paints the mural

Pop Up Mobile Health Clinic

During the monthly mobile food drives, the Center for Health & Social Issues also provided a pop-up mobile health clinic. These health clinics offered free blood pressure screening, HBA1C testing, vaccine hesitancy surveying, and nutrition information & taste testing. This mobile health clinic also was able to offer clinical hours for Georgia College nursing students supervised by Drs Warren and Fowler. To the left, you will see three of the many nursing students that were able to come out to Harrisburg and assess the community member’s blood pressure. Along with the nursing students, CHSI partnered with Georgia College alumnae Kristina Hyland (HealthMPowers) and Deja Lester (Baldwin County Health Department) who offered information on nutrition, exercise and provided taste tests to residents. To the right is Kaitlyn Gauthier, CHSI public health intern, who was



integral in the planning and implementation of the mobile health clinics.



Community-Based Participatory Research

Blight and Community Asset Mapping

In efforts to improve the community functionality and the well-being of the residents in Baldwin County, CHSI conducted a blight assessment and community asset mapping in one rural community. Blight can be described as land, housing or buildings that appear run-down, unsafe, abandoned and in unpleasant condition. This can be referred to as a dysfunctional property, with varying levels. There has been very little research on community blight and its effects on health and social outcomes in Central Georgia. To collect the data needed, CHSI utilized GIS technology along with a 30-question blight assessment checklist via Qualtrics. Between March and May of 2021, over 150 properties houses were assessed in the geographic boundaries identified as Oconee Heights. All assessments excluded the Milledgeville Manor housing units. The data of this project are currently being analyzed and will be disseminated to the government (city officials, board of Commissioners, etc.) and academic conferences (UGA state of public’s health conference). This study was conducted with grant funding from a Georgia College Faculty Research Grant *FRG202131*. The student project lead was Kaitlyn Gauthier assisted by Catherine Woodall, Elias Torres, MaryElle Michaels and Christina Taylor. Faculty members were Drs. Francis (public health) and Oetter (Geography). Pictured below are examples of blight in the neighborhood.



Public Health intern Kaitlyn Gauthier and Director Dr. Damian Francis mapping blight in the community

Funding

Grants

Title: Assessing blight and community assets in rural underserved communities in Georgia

Duration: March – September 2021

Team: Francis DK., (PI) Oetter D., Gauthier K.

Grant Amount: \$4745

Summary: This study aims to document the burden and severity of community blight in the Oconee Heights community in Baldwin County, as well as map community assets as local resources that may attenuate community blight. Using survey and Geographic Information System (GIS) data, neighborhood blight indices will be created by averaging individual property blight scores for all properties located in each neighborhood. We will be able to quantify both individual property blight and neighborhood-level blight.

Fundraising

GC Giving Challenge

The Center for Health and Social Issues was designated by the College of Health Sciences Advisor Board as the project for the Annual GC Give Challenge during February 9-11 2021. The project generated \$13,002 (264% of its goal) from 74 donors.

The efforts designated for impact by these gifts include:

1. Reducing the burden and disparities of chronic disease especially among vulnerable populations;
2. Advocating for policy changes to the environment in and beyond Baldwin County;
3. Capacity building for personnel and training

GCSU Foundation, Inc.
Monthly Department Report

		Semi-annual
F20740 - Center for Health and Social Issues		
Beginning Balance		\$8,405.23
 Income Statement		
Revenues		
40000	Contribution	\$12,442.63
40200	Recurring Contributions	\$1,000.00
Total Revenues		\$13,442.63
 Expenses		
51800	Rental Equipment	\$198.60
53150	Promotion	\$0.00
54200	Donations	\$0.00
55600	Entertainment	\$34.99
55700	Supplies	\$1,647.81
55900	Casual Labor	\$300.00
59500	Bank Charges	\$341.39
Total Expenses		\$2,522.79
 Net Surplus/Deficit		 \$10,919.84
 Ending Balance		 \$19,325.07
 Balance Sheet		
Assets		
11100	Checking - Main Operating	\$19,325.07
Total Assets		\$19,325.07
 Net Assets		
31000	Net Assets	\$19,325.07
Total Net Assets		\$19,325.07

Fiscal period of 01/01/2021 – 05/31/2021

Partners

- Baldwin County Board of Commission and Staff
- Baldwin County Board of Education
- Baldwin County Family Connection
- Georgia College Dept. of Geography
- Georgia College Dept. of Communications
- Georgia Department of Public Health North Central Health District
- Hancock Health Improvement Initiative
- HealthMPowers
- Northridge Christian Church
- The Life Enrichment Center
- University of Georgia Extension Office
- Community Health Care Systems Inc.
- Macon-Bibb County Health Department
- Habitat for Humanity
- Baldwin County Fire Rescue
- Hardwick Baptist Church
- Wesley Chapel AME
- T&S Hardwoods

For more information or to volunteer with the Center for Health and Social Issues, contact damian.francis@gcsu.edu.