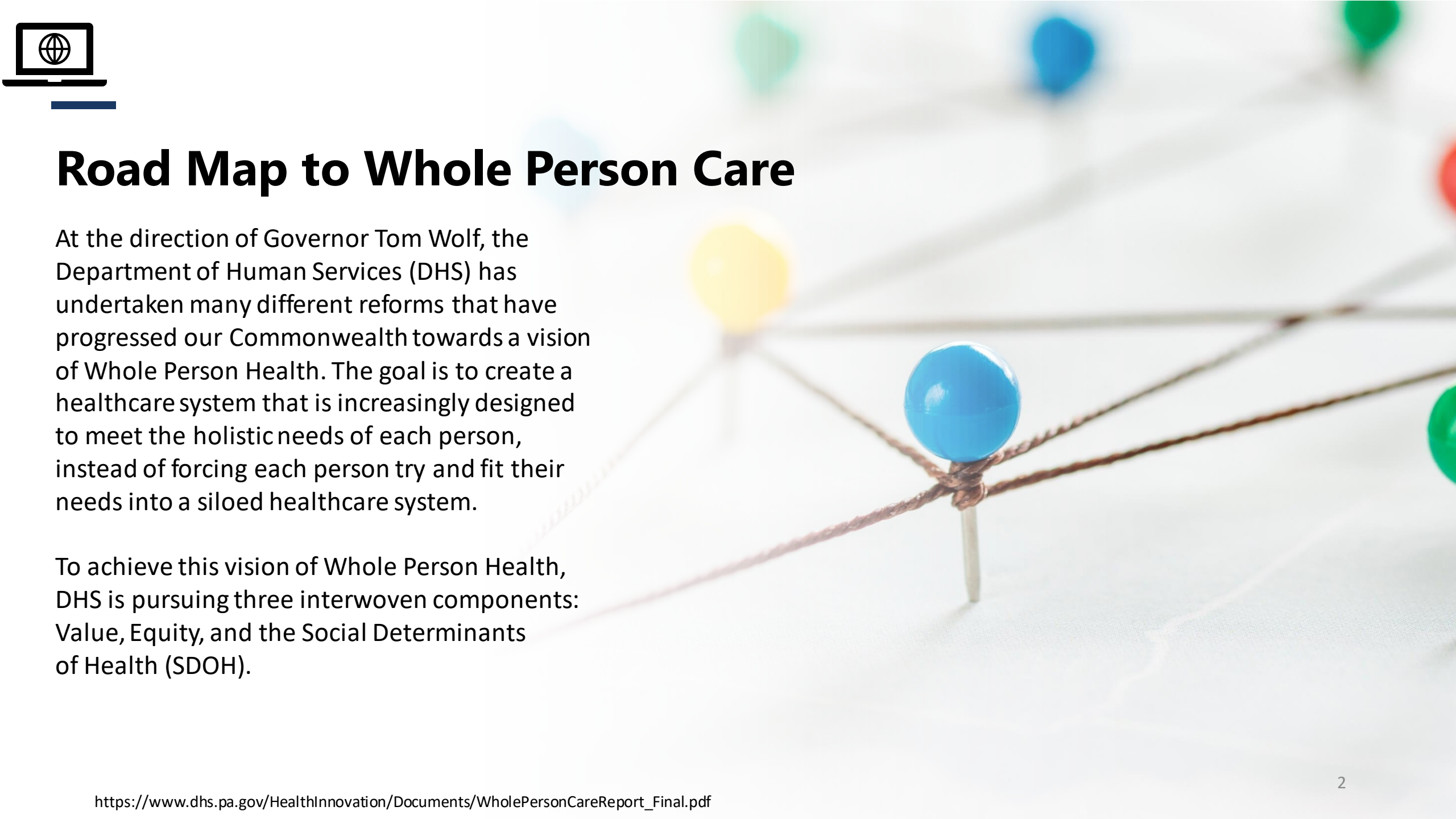
PCMH Learning Network: RAHC Program Introduction

February 2022

Road Map to Whole Person Care

At the direction of Governor Tom Wolf, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has undertaken many different reforms that have progressed our Commonwealth towards a vision of Whole Person Health. The goal is to create a healthcare system that is increasingly designed to meet the holistic needs of each person, instead of forcing each person try and fit their needs into a siloed healthcare system.

To achieve this vision of Whole Person Health, DHS is pursuing three interwoven components: Value, Equity, and the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH).

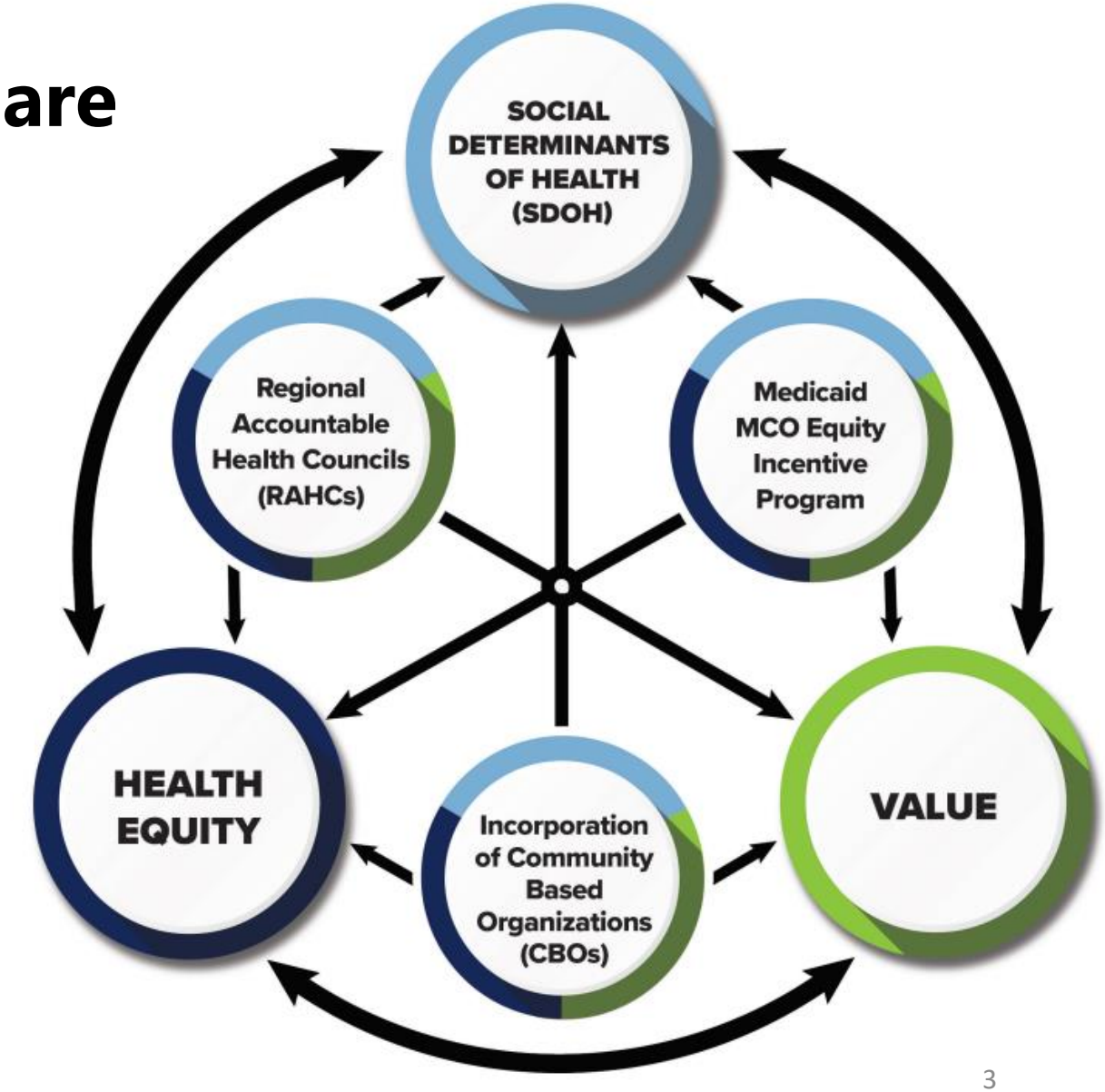


https://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthInnovation/Documents/WholePersonCareReport_Final.pdf

Road Map to Whole Person Care

There are profound disparities across the Commonwealth based on the ZIP code where a person is born. Babies born in some ZIP codes are expected to live into their sixties, when just a few minutes or miles away, babies may live into their eighties.

As part of the whole-person health care reform package announced by Governor Wolf in October 2020, **Regional Accountable Health Councils (RAHCs)** were created through the Medical Assistance agreements between DHS and physical health MCOs, behavioral health primary contractors, and Community HealthChoices MCOs.

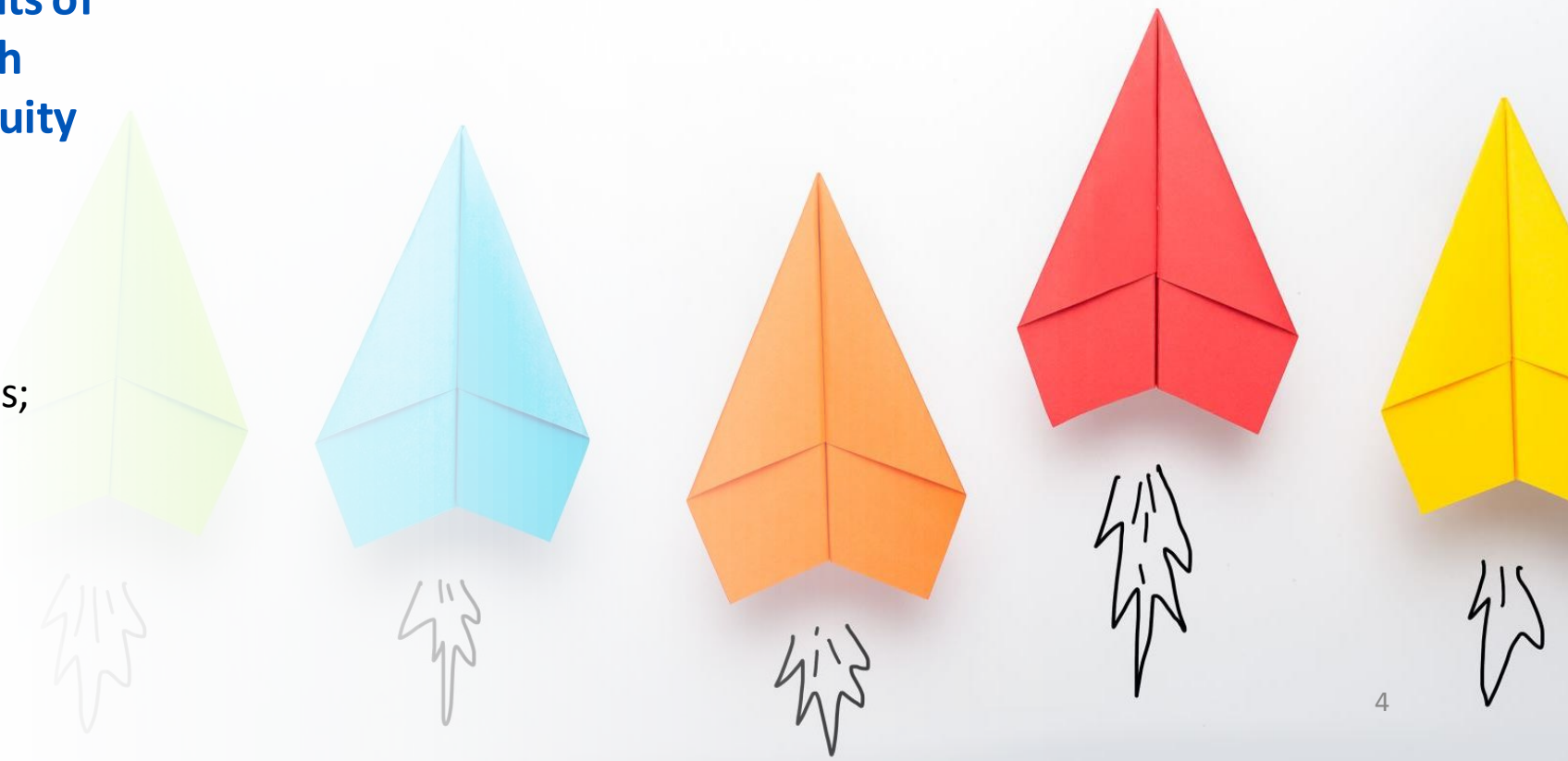


https://www.dhs.pa.gov/HealthInnovation/Documents/WholePersonCareReport_Final.pdf

RAHC Overview

RAHCs provide a community-led approach to implement the planning and coordination of activities that address regional social determinants of health (SDOH) needs, reduce health disparities, and promote health equity and value in health care.

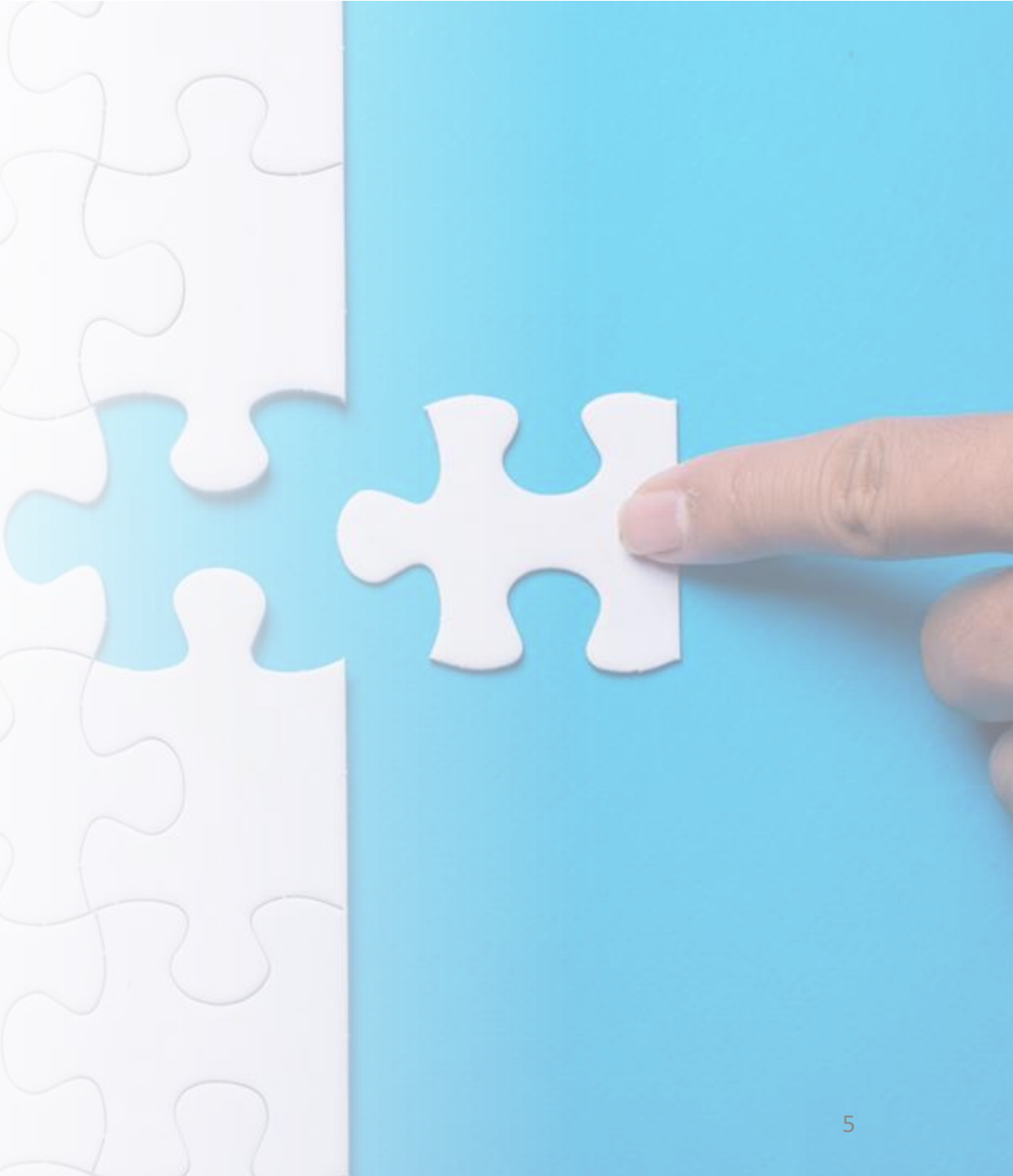
There are five RAHCs across the Commonwealth to represent the five physical HealthChoices (Medicaid) zones; Southwest, Northwest, Lehigh-Capital, Northeast, and Southeast.



RAHC Overview

The goals of the RAHC are to:

1. Promote health equity and eliminate health disparities
2. Identify and mitigate regional SDOH needs
3. Align value-based purchasing initiative to achieve better care and better health at lower costs
4. Support and steer population health improvement processes
5. Center health improvement efforts in the communities where needs exist



RAHC Progress

Since starting the RAHC work in February 2021, the council has been able to make progress aligned to program goals as set by the Department of Human Services.

- Used publicly available data to identify “Health Equity Zones” which are areas of profound disparity
- Completed a root cause analysis to identify social determinants of health that are impacting each zone
- Identified literature and evidence supporting the correlation between the poorly performing health outcomes and social determinants of health
- Held local discussions to align existing community-based efforts with potential interventions
- Established regional priorities and developed a strategic plan and business case for regional work and funding
- Developed a Regional Health Transformation Plan outlining current progress and intended next steps

Identification of Health Equity Zones (HEZs)

RAHCs will be responsible for analyzing the data and recommending zones to DHS that the RAHC believes to be areas of largest need. Several zip codes (ideally contiguous zip codes) may be combined to form a HEZ. Below are some examples of how a RAHC could prioritize HEZ selection:

- Bottom quartile of select data measures;
- Number of impacted Medicaid lives per HEZ;
- Community engagement in the proposed HEZ; and,
- Ability to impact change for root causes of the identified health disparities.

Data Analytics and Tools

Several different sources were used to determine areas of need and are publicly available.

- **Pennsylvania Health Equity Analysis Tool (PA HEAT):** Tool created by DHS to share data and mapping around population health, social determinants, environment, Medicaid outcomes, county statistics, food insecurity, and redlining.
- **Pennsylvania Languages Map *from the Department of Health*:** This map allows state agencies to identify the areas where foreign languages are spoked. By proactively overcoming language association barriers, the state will be able to provide faster and more equitable services to more than 1.2 million PA residents who speak a language other than English at home.
- **Area Deprivation Index (ADI):** Index measure created to identify neighborhoods of socioeconomic disadvantage. It includes measures around income, education, employment and housing quality.
- **Social Vulnerability Index (SVI):** This tool identifies and maps communities that are most likely to need support before, during, or after a hazardous event. It includes 15 social factors including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing.

Demonstration of PA HEAT and Languages Map provided during live session

SDOH Needs and Interventions

Each Health Equity Zone went through a Root Cause Analysis to determine social determinants of health (SDOH) that are statistically poorly performing and potentially key drivers of health equity barriers. The key SDOH domains include:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Food
- Employment and Income

Differences in outcomes by race were also assessed to highlight inequities.

These SDOH/population health needs were then prioritized by local experts to achieve strongest impact on health inequities and health outcomes.

Regional Outcomes: Lehigh-Capital

The Lehigh-Capital Region when through an iterative process to identify areas of greatest need to be identified as "Health Equity Zones" (HEZs). To the right, you can see the map highlights the various areas that were considered and the averages metrics across the region. Below are the areas identified as being of great need:

Harrisburg (Dauphin Co.)

- Medicaid population within HEZ: **11,750**
- % age 65 or older: **11% vs. 19% in PA**
- % on Medicaid / other public insurance[5]: **38% vs. 15% in PA**
- % uninsured: **10% vs. 7% in PA**
- Zip codes: **17113, 17104, 17103**

Reading (Berks Co.)

- Medicaid population: **14,900**
- % age 65 or older: **11% vs 19% in PA**
- % on Medicaid / other public insurance[5]: **49% vs 15% in PA**
- % uninsured: **13% vs 7% in PA**
- Zip codes: **19602, 19601**

York (York Co.)

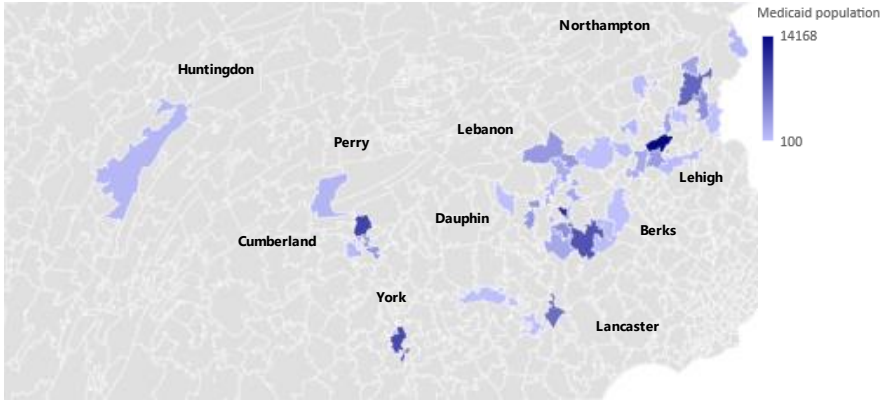
- Medicaid population: **11,100**
- % age 65 or older: **12% vs 19% in PA**
- % on Medicaid / other public insurance[5]: **36% vs 15% in PA**
- % uninsured: **11% vs. 7% in PA**
- Zip codes: **17401, 17403, 17405**

Allentown (Lehigh Co.)

- Medicaid population: **31,650**
- % age 65 or older: **27% vs 19% in PA**
- % on Medicaid / other public insurance[5]: **41% vs 15% in PA**
- % uninsured: **13% vs. 7% in PA**
- Zip codes: **18109, 18103, 18101, 18102, 18105**

Key Stats for the LC RAHC[1]

- Medicaid population: **687,000**
- Medicaid % in RAHC: **22% vs. 21%** in PA
- Persons below poverty: **10%**
- Area Deprivation index: **4.50**
- Medicaid outcome index: **-0.07**
- Minority population: **17% vs. 16%** in PA
- Rural zip codes: **68%**



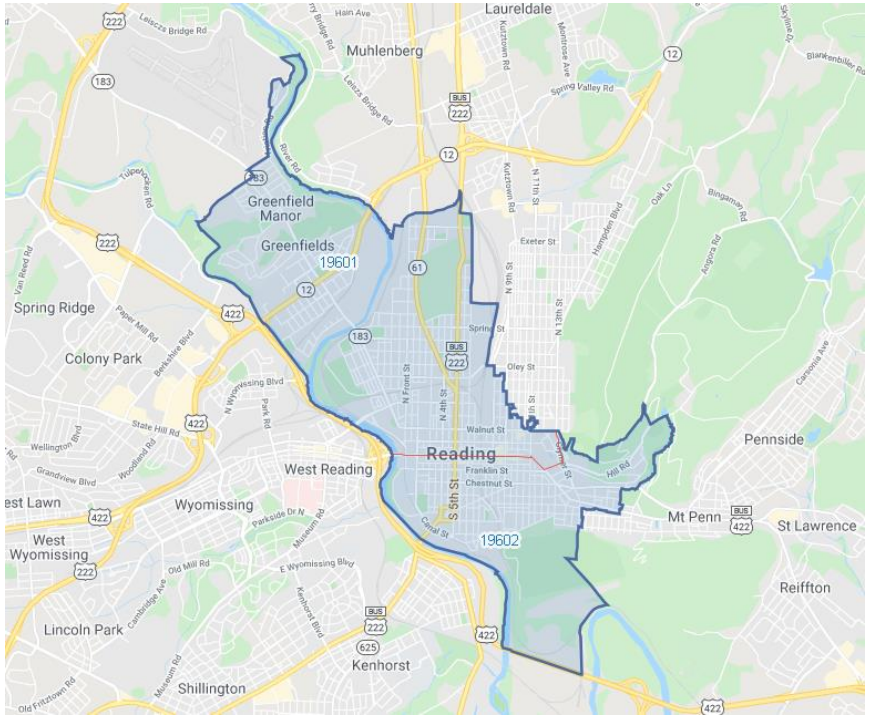
1. Health Equity Analysis Tool (HEAT) app of Pennsylvania

Lehigh Capital: Intervention Overview

Lehigh Capital RHTP 12.29.pdf

Health Equity Zone: Reading
Zip codes: 19601, 19602
Medicaid Population: 14,900
SDOH Domain: Transportation
Intervention: Improving in community points of service by meeting those in need "where they are" and increase access of transportation for medical and non-medical needs.

This intervention was prioritized by local experts based on the need to better serve and remove the barrier or transportation by meeting individuals in their communities. Aim to provide comprehensive in-community services including physical and behavioral health support and SDOH focused supports.



Rationale:

- In the Lehigh-Capital region, this zone is of greatest need statistically
- Strong engagement from the Reading Hospital RAHC participants
- Alignment of intervention with Reading Hospital CHNA interventions
- Focus on preventive care to reduce ED utilization and improve regular testing (i.e. HbA1c)

Potential Partners:

- Berks Community Health Centers
- Reading Hospital
- County of Berks
- Reading School District
- Faith based organizations
- And more

How to Get Involved

The Lehigh- Capital Regional Accountable Health Council covers Huntington, Fulton, Franklin, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Berks, Lehigh and Northampton counties.

The council has various workgroups that will be meeting regularly throughout 2022 to further develop a regional SDOH intervention. Quarterly council update meetings are also available to the public.

To get involved, please complete the Expression of Interest form and indicate the level of engagement you would like to have (i.e. workgroup participation, program updates via email, invitation to quarterly updates).

How to Get Involved

Workgroups: Commitment and Expectations

Health Equity Zone Workgroups

Meet monthly or bi-monthly, depending on active intervention, focused on localized planning and discussion of SDOH interventions

- Reading (Berks County)
- Harrisburg (Dauphin County)
- York (York County)
- Allentown (Lehigh County)

Program Integration Workgroup

Meets monthly, focused on streamlining efforts with existing programs and activities to reduce duplication of efforts

Governance and Sustainability Workgroup

Meets bi-monthly, focused on upholding program structure and establishing sustainable programming

Individuals interested in general updates can ask to be included in the Lehigh-Capital quarterly council meetings or added to the program distribution list for monthly newsletters.

Participants should be ready to engage and contribute to the conversation

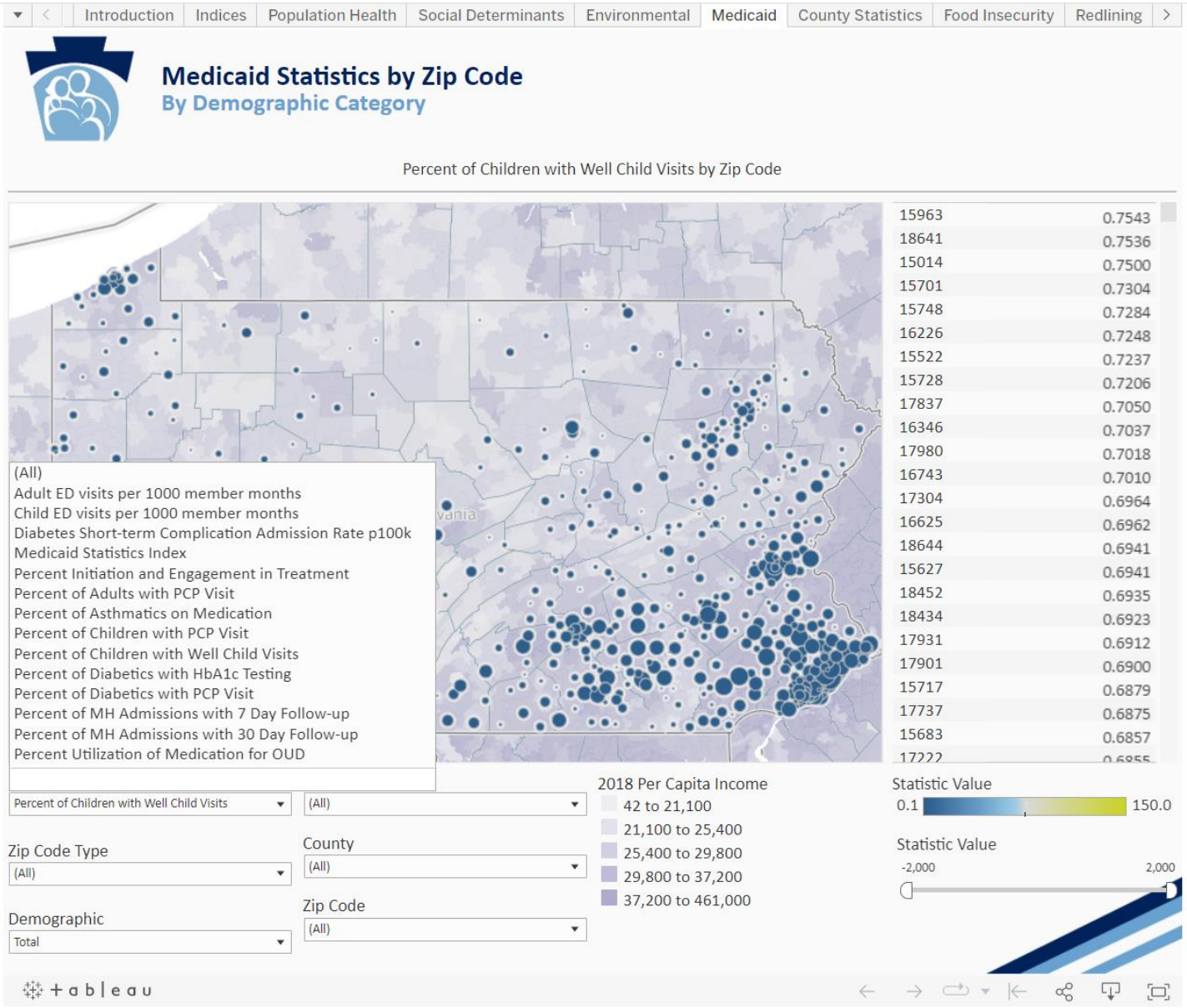
Questions

Program Contact:
Julie Evans, Manager at ProspHire
jevans@prosphire.com

For more information:
Regional Accountable Health Council Resources

Appendix

PA HEAT



The Pennsylvania Health Equity Analysis Tool (PA HEAT) was utilized for several data needs in RAHC assessments. For example, various Medicaid measures were assessed to understand poorly performing metrics for each HEZ. To learn more about some of the mapping and data available, use the PA Heat User Guide.

ocial Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Health outcomes are determined as much by non-health related factors as they are by healthcare and health behaviors. **All the discussed interventions for the RAHC are focused on social determinants of health.**

50-80%

Of health outcomes are driven by non-health related factors, such as physical environment or socioeconomic factors

20-50%

Of health outcomes are affected by health care services and health behaviors

1. Solving Complex Problems – Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, |2. HealthyPeople. Gov