Over the next 5 years, San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) will evaluate our progress in seven program areas, three of which have been identified by our communities as “high priority,” by applying three overarching goal statements to our work. These goals will guide the development of objectives, strategies, and activities designed to measurably improve individual, population, and environmental health in Archuleta and La Plata counties.

**2019 – 2023 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PHIP)**

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**How does SJBPH create a Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP)?**

**Data**
SJBPH staff collected health status information for residents of both counties from state, regional, and local data sources. These figures tell us more about the conditions that impact the health outcomes of people in the communities served by SJBPH.

**Community Health Assessment**
Over 1,000 residents of Archuleta and La Plata counties completed our 2018 Community Health Assessment survey. Residents answered 20 questions about the biggest health concerns facing our counties, ranking the importance of each issue in their own lives.

**Expertise**
SJBPH staff provided recommendations about the issues impacting the health of our communities based on their education and training as well as their experiences in the field, serving residents and visitors. Additionally, a steering committee comprised of experts from multiple sectors guided the work of the SJBPH Assessment and Planning Division. Finally, the PHIP must be adopted by the governing body of SJBPH, the Board of Health.

**Law**
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines behavioral health as including "the promotion of emotional health; the prevention of mental illnesses and substance use disorders; and treatments and services for mental and/or substance use disorders."

According to Healthy People 2020, "Social determinants of health are conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

The American Public Health Association defines Environmental health as, "the branch of public health that: focuses on the relationships between people and their environment; promotes human health and well-being; and fosters healthy and safe communities.'"

"Health behavior is an action to maintain, attain, or regain good health and to prevent illness. Some common health behaviors are exercising regularly, eating a balanced diet, and obtaining necessary inoculations. Health behaviors are influenced by the social, cultural and physical environments in which we live and work."

"Clinical-community linkages help to connect health care providers, community organizations, and public health agencies so they can improve patients' access to preventive and chronic care services."

Diseases that can spread from one person to another, diseases that spread from animals to humans are called Zoonotic diseases. Public health professionals work to prevent, track, and control communicable diseases to promote population health.

"Public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) is the capability of the public health and health care systems, communities, and individuals, to prevent, protect against, quickly respond to, and recover from health emergencies, particularly those whose scale, timing, or unpredictability threatens to overwhelm routine capabilities."

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

GOAL 1: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
To foster a more resilient community, SJBPH leadership and staff will develop and implement equitable strategies to improve awareness and acceptance of, as well as access to, the resources, programs, and services our community members need to achieve improved individual, population, and environmental public health.

GOAL 2: ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY
To expand organizational capacity, SJBPH leadership and staff will seek and create innovative and sustainable opportunities to augment funding and infrastructure, meet or exceed training requirements, provide learning and growth opportunities for employees, develop and implement policies and procedures based on best practices, and support effective administration and governance.

GOAL 3: PUBLIC HEALTH INNOVATION
To elevate public health practice, SJBPH leadership and staff will research, collect, and utilize data and scientific evidence to predict emerging population and environmental public health issues, create innovative programs, enhance existing services, provide recommendations to partners and policy-makers, and when developing, securing, and utilizing resources.