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# Evidence-Based Health Policy Project

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## Community Health in the Fox Valley: How Are Groups Sharing What They Know? Organizations on Today's Panel

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### **East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission** [www.ecwrpc.org](http://www.ecwrpc.org)

East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC) is a unique unit of government that helps plan for the region's future, alongside municipal and county leaders within their 10-county area. Eight counties are members of the Commission: Calumet, Fond du Lac, Menominee, Outagamie, Shawano, Waushara, Waupaca and Winnebago Counties. Planning programs at the Commission include environmental planning, economic development, open space and recreation planning, comprehensive planning, land use and transportation planning. ECWRPC's mission is to build relationships and cooperative, visionary growth strategies that keep our region beautiful, healthy and prosperous. In October 2009, ECWRPC launched a streamlined Regional Safe Routes to School Program to assist local Safe Routes to School coalitions to plan, develop and implement projects and programs. The Safe Routes to School program encourages and enables students Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade to walk and bicycle to, from and at school. When the program kicked off, the 10-county region had eight schools districts with Safe Routes to School programs. Today, there are 32 school districts and 154 schools which is approximately 58 percent of all Kindergarten -8<sup>th</sup> grade schools within the East Central Wisconsin Region.

### **Fox Valley Memory Project** [www.foxvalleymemoryproject.org](http://www.foxvalleymemoryproject.org)

The Fox Valley Memory Project offers programs and services that improve quality of life for persons with dementia, as well as their families, care partners and friends. The project encourages practices of hospitality and inclusion that make the community dementia-friendly. This vision for living well with dementia includes ten monthly memory cafes in nine Fox Valley locations, a memory loss resource center, workplace enrichment, long term care outreach, community education, a memory assessment center, and in-home coaching. The project also supports area businesses and organizations in providing dementia-friendly service by providing training in best ways to serve customers.

### **NAMI-Fox Valley** [www.namifoxvalley.org](http://www.namifoxvalley.org)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Fox Valley, the Appleton-based affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, serves Outagamie, Calumet, Waupaca, and Northern Winnebago counties. Through regular advocacy work and more than two-dozen mental health programs, the agency works to eliminate stigma and to support empower all those whose lives are impacted by mental illness. In 2017, NAMI Fox Valley served more than 17,000 program participants through numerous support groups, educational courses, community trainings, warm line conversations, and more. The agency's five-bedroom peer run respite center, Iris Place, which is funded in large part by the State of Wisconsin, opened in 2015. The agency will open a small Waupaca branch, staffed one day per week and co-located with Catalpa Health in October 2017.

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## **ThedaCare** [www.thedacare.org](http://www.thedacare.org)

ThedaCare is a seven-hospital health system based in Appleton. Their community health action team (CHAT) is an inclusive community health improvement process that makes possible innovative, collaborative and measurable solutions to some of our community's most critical health needs. Recent CHAT "plunges" on specific topics have addressed a variety of issues that impact community health, including affordable housing, early childhood, the unique health challenges facing communities of color in the Fox Valley.

## **University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh College of Nursing** [con.uwosh.edu](http://con.uwosh.edu)

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh College of Nursing was founded in 1966 and is now the largest baccalaureate nursing program in Wisconsin. The college offers a wide variety of undergraduate, masters, and doctoral nursing options, including a new Certified Registered Nursing Anesthesia (CRNA) program. In 2016, the undergraduate program earned an award of distinction from the state of Wisconsin for its exceptional pass rates in the nurse licensure examination. In that same year, the College of Nursing moved into a newly renovated space that includes four simulation labs, a practice lab and a technology suite.

## **Weight of the Fox Valley** [www.weightofthefoxvalley.org](http://www.weightofthefoxvalley.org)

Weight of the Fox Valley (WOTFV) is a community health initiative, partnering with organizations from various sectors in Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties to collaborate and align efforts toward building a healthier community. WOTFV follows the collective impact model for creating social change, with United Way Fox Cities and Oshkosh Area United Way together forming the backbone organization. WOTFV's vision is to build a community that together achieves and maintains a healthy weight at every age. The initiative works to increase healthy eating and active living among youth and adults, aiming to reduce overweight and obesity rates among the Fox Valley population of nearly 400,000 people. These efforts are also aimed at reducing the impact of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and orthopedic conditions in the community. WOTFV focuses on the most impactful work, with emphasis on initiatives that are proven, make a sustainable impact, reach a broad population base, promote health equity, and are supported by our partners. Sample priorities include increasing the availability of safe bike lanes and pedestrian walkways on area streets and increasing opportunities for children in the early care and school settings to be active and eat healthy.