

Forces of Change Context Map

Health Care

- Impact of 9-11 funds available for public health/ prevention services
- Health care staffing issues- recruitment & retention of qualified nurses, nurses aids & specialty physicians.
- Lack of aftercare residential treatment for substance abusers.
- Lack of dental services for low income households, increasing premiums to all families.

POLITICAL CLIMATE

- Regulatory Reform- stricter standards
- Welfare Reform- Reauthorization
- Increase of State mandates, impacting local government capacity.
- State budget, running out of resources

ECONOMIC CLIMATE

- Loss of manufacturing jobs, impact of 9-11 on manufacturing industry, major industry changes.
- Disappearance of Middle Class. Bigger disparity between haves & have nots.
- More single parent households working- not necessarily improvement in household finances
- Increase in second careers, due to longevity & financial need.
- Transportation services under development, but remaining gaps in services.

Societal

- Increase in minority populations- Hispanic & Asian, from 3% in 1990 to 6% in 2000
- Out migration of young people
- Aging Population- increase in over 50 population, increase in female population over 80
- Increase in at risk behaviors in youth, especially drug & alcohol, increase herein use.

Health Insurance Issues- Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement formulas, asset divestiture in 3rd party insurance, employer costs/ self insurance shift, increasing premiums to all households.

Technology

- Lack of infrastructure in rural/remote parts of counties- telemedicine capacity
- Rapidly changing technology- costs of staying current

Environmental

- Agricultural changes- less farms
- Threats of bio-terrorism and emergency preparedness.
- Environmental Protection verses Production/ Economic Development- Salt mining, prison development

E d u c a t i o n

- Workforce training & capacity
- Crisis in educational quality/ funding/ opportunities affecting labor force.
- Increase in youth violence, risky behaviors in youth.
- Increase focus on technology jobs, less on service industry.