Early Ages Healthy Stages Coalition: Community Capacity Survey

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE

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BACKGROUND

The Early Ages Healthy Stages Coalition (EAHSC) supports healthy environments for youth (ages 0-5) at a county-level. The vision of the coalition is for all early care and education programs (ECEs) in the county to be healthy, by incorporating evidence-based health programs and policies to support nutrition, physical activity, and family engagement.

The coalition focuses on building strong links between people from all sectors and settings. The coalition aims to be community driven and works to intentionally set priorities and goals that collectively strengthen the work of its' individual members.[1]

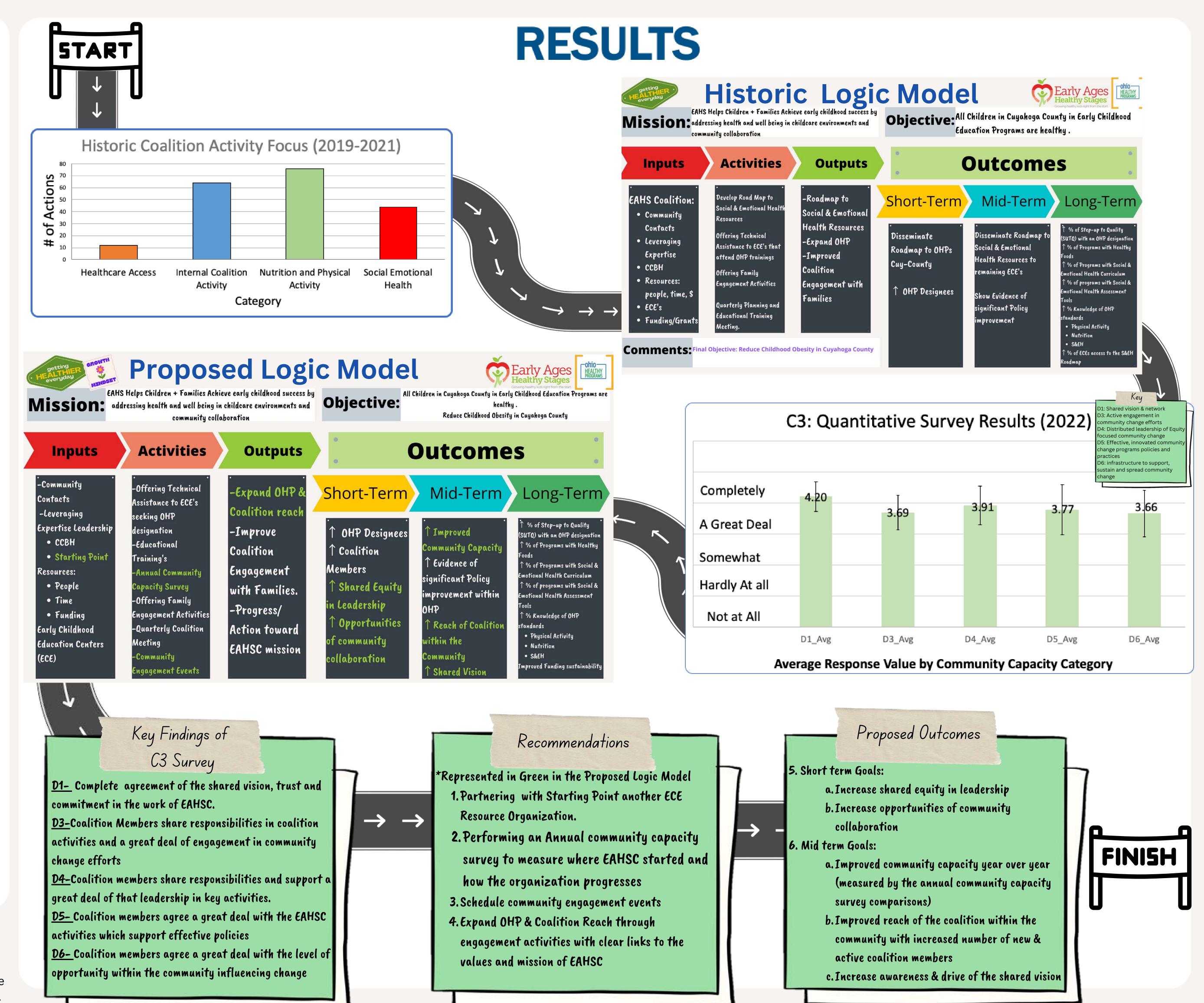
However, the activities historically performed by the coalition, and the level of community capacity towards the vision of EAHSC have not been evaluated.

The purpose of this research is to:

- 1. Assess the goals of the coalition
- 2. Evaluate community capacity
- 3. Inform an updated logic model with recommendations.

This survey asked questions about coalition member's participation in the EAHSC, the key parts of EAHSC, its' work with the community, and its' activities.

Sources: 1. Our vision. Early Ages Healthy Stages. https://earlyageshealthystages.org/. Accessed October 20, 2022. 2. Hargreaves, M. B., Coffee-Borden, B., & Verbitsky-Savitz, N. (2020). Advancing the measurement of collective community capacity and the evaluation of community capacity-building models. In A. W. Price, K. K. Brown, & S. M. Wolfe (Eds.), Evaluating Community Coalitions and Collaboratives. New Directions for Evaluation, 165, 123–138.



METHODS

- 1. Assess the current goals of the coalition: This was done by performing research to develop a historic understanding of coalition members, activities, and vision
- 2. Document review included:
 - a. Meeting minutes from 2019-2021 calendar years
 - b. Website review
 - c. Document Summaries of 'Working Group' notes and archived presentations
 - d. Qualitative coding of documents
- 3. Literature Review to identify evidence-based measure to assess community capacity.
 - a. Selection: C3 Survey [2].
- 4. Administer C3 survey and analyze results
- 5. Inform and update logic model based on C3 categorical mean response measures
- 6. Present Recommendations to EAHSC.

IMPLICATIONS

Results of the survey affirmed community support of the vision of the EAHSC showing areas for growth. Those who are committed to the Coalition believe that the work being done has a a great deal of influence on the communities health and well being. Improving Reach is the clear focus for growth. Although more data and research needs to be performed incorporating the C3 as annual survey will allow EAHSC to assess the changes and their impact to improve strategic action.