

Salt Lake County Health Department

Strategic Next Steps: Public Health Priorities Identified at Meet & Greet

October 2025

The following next steps outline potential areas of focus based on the five key themes identified during the Meet & Greet discussion. These are intended to guide internal planning, identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, and inform future strategy discussions.

1. Mental and Social Well-Being

Theme: Address rising concerns around mental health, social connection, and foundational relationships that support healthy communities.

Next Steps:

- Map existing services, coalitions, and initiatives to identify gaps and overlaps.
 - Strengthen partnerships with schools, community organizations, and faith-based groups to support connection and positive childhood experiences.
 - Integrate messaging around loneliness, relationship-building, and social connection into public health campaigns.
 - Explore cross-sector pilot projects that create spaces for connection and engagement.
 - Apply a “mental well-being lens” when developing programs, policies, and funding decisions.
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2. Social Media, Technology, and Behavior

Theme: Understand and respond to how technology and social media are reshaping health risks, social dynamics, and physical activity.

Next Steps:

- Convene a roundtable of educators, youth, behavioral health experts, and tech professionals to discuss local strategies.

- Develop youth-co-created campaigns promoting healthy screen habits and digital literacy.
 - Provide schools and parents with resources and workshops on managing screen time and supporting behavior change.
 - Partner with Parks & Recreation and city planners to expand opportunities for physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviors.
 - Support ongoing monitoring and research on the local health impacts of technology use.
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3. Health Access, Prevention, and Outcomes

Theme: Ensure equitable access to care and prevention resources to improve health outcomes across the lifespan.

Next Steps:

- Conduct a gap analysis to understand barriers to care and populations most impacted.
 - Expand outreach and culturally appropriate education on immunizations, screenings, and nutrition.
 - Strengthen partnerships with healthcare providers to improve referrals, data sharing, and co-location of services.
 - Invest in prevention programs such as home visiting, maternal health education, and nutrition support.
 - Advocate for policy changes that improve access and address systemic barriers.
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4. Environmental and Community Conditions

Theme: Improve community health, safety, and quality of life through built and natural environment strategies.

Next Steps:

- Advocate for health impact assessments in planning and zoning to preserve shade, green space, and walkability.

- Collaborate with transportation and safety partners to address e-bike injuries, distracted driving, and mobility safety.
 - Pursue funding for infrastructure that supports safe transportation, shaded public spaces, and water quality.
 - Engage community members in planning processes to ensure projects reflect local needs and priorities.
 - Strengthen data collection on environmental hazards and injury trends to inform policy and prevention efforts.
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5. 🤝 Trust, Funding, and Systemic Factors

Theme: Sustain effective public health work through adequate resources, public trust, and equitable policies.

Next Steps:

- Develop a public trust strategy highlighting the impact and value of evidence-based public health work.
 - Increase transparency by regularly sharing updates on funding, decisions, and outcomes.
 - Build advocacy coalitions to protect funding, support equitable policies, and counter misinformation.
 - Partner with trusted community messengers to improve communication in underserved and immigrant communities.
 - Explore new funding streams such as grants, philanthropic partnerships, and public-private collaborations.
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📌 Overall Next Step

Consider convening internal leadership and key partners for a focused planning session to:

- Prioritize 1–2 actionable items per theme for the next 12 months.
- Assign leads and partners for implementation.
- Define success measures and reporting timeline.