

## **Salt Lake County Health Department**

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

**October 2025**

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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.

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#### **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.