

Community Action Partnership of Natrona County

Fall 2022 Service Update

Community Action Partnership of Natrona County (CAPNC), your local organization dedicated to removing barriers for those impacted by poverty has undergone many exciting changes and we want you to be aware of the dedicated work we are doing to improve the lives of citizens in our county!

Who are we?

The wonderful staff at Community Action Partnership of Natrona County (CAPNC) lead various programs, focused on enhancing the lives of others, identifying needs and supporting people to become self-sufficient, healthy members of our community. Our staff consists of 24 members, serving between our CAPNC Main office and our Health Care for the Homeless Clinic.

Two locations, one team - focused on helping people increase wellness and independence. Our Executive Director stated **we do this work simply because people matter!**

Mission driven

CAPNC strives to:

- Provide services for individuals and families to promote self-sufficiency in collaboration with other agency partnerships in Natrona County.
- Provide quality healthcare to individuals experiencing homelessness in Natrona County.

More than ever, all programs offered through CAPNC, are focused on providing resources and education to assist clients in the long-term.

We are moving from reactionary interventions as a result of the COVID crisis, to focused and thoughtful efforts at obtaining healthy, stable lives in partnership with those we serve.





Community Action Partnership Board On A New Path

Where are we headed?

As we transition out of the Covid, masks and closures, CAPNC's Board is preparing to navigate with Director a new path. With reductions of crisis based federal funding occurring, CAPNC is taking the opportunity to emerge with a stronger, clearer identity in service, knowing that our clients, landlords and the community will continue to be in need. With the winding down of activities like Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), we are working diligently to educate clients on how to manage their individual circumstances and begin skill-building that supports saving, budgeting and vocational/educational plans that will support their success. We anticipate that both clients and landlords will feel the financial effects of the loss of this funding and acknowledge, **as a community, we will walk together.**

Despite challenges, we are looking toward the future of opportunity, advocating for new initiatives and programs that develop a culture that offers new learning opportunities to meet today's economic landscape. In development are classes that we hope will positively impact the clients and the community, targeting **Tenant Education, Budgeting and Financial Literacy.** We are investing in sustainable linkages to community resources, vocational supports and wellness programming by collaborating more directly with local organizations for maximum outcomes.

Circle January 25th, 2023, as CAPNC will again spearhead the federally mandated Annual Homeless Point in Time Count. Staff and volunteers will hit the streets during a cold day in January to get a rough estimate of what the homeless population in Casper and surrounding communities, collecting data which ultimately will determine future funding for the Natrona County responses.

Lastly, we are building up our core of volunteer **Advisory Council membership** which helps provide feedback for our clinic and service delivery leadership. Our Tripartite Board consists of nine dedicated individuals; Board Chair, Kristy Oster; Vice Chair, Lonna Jones; Treasurer, Debra Huber, Secretary, Cliff Gindulis and members; Emma Burton-Hopkins, Stephanie Hicks, Gary Shockey, Linda Toohey and Lauralyn Cositgan. If you are looking for a path to joining our efforts, the Advisory Council is a great way to learn more, as well as share meaningful guidance on what you see the needs of our community.



Welcome to Wyoming!

Introducing Community Action Partnership's New Executive Director



Community Action Partnership of Natrona County (CAPNC) has undergone many exciting changes this year !

Let me introduce our new Executive Director, Kelly Wessels. In April of 2022, Kelly and her husband, Rex, relocated from Oregon to not only join our community, but lead our great team of employees here at Community Action.

Kelly brings with her 26 overall years of experience in public or private arenas, addressing a variety of human services and health care strategies. Previous to this position, she spent 13 years as the Chief Operations Officer of Community Action Agency of two rural communities in Oregon. Her knowledge and expertise has been phenomenally helpful to defining our organization's future goals and aspirations.

One of the most exciting accomplishments during her first 6 months was relocating our organization to its first independent location, at 606 S David Street. This location is close to bus lines, community partners and makes Community Action a stronger member of the environment it serves each day.

Her passion for service leadership will help advance the organization in addressing the health and wellness of the most vulnerable in our community and increase the economic prosperity for those impacted by poverty.

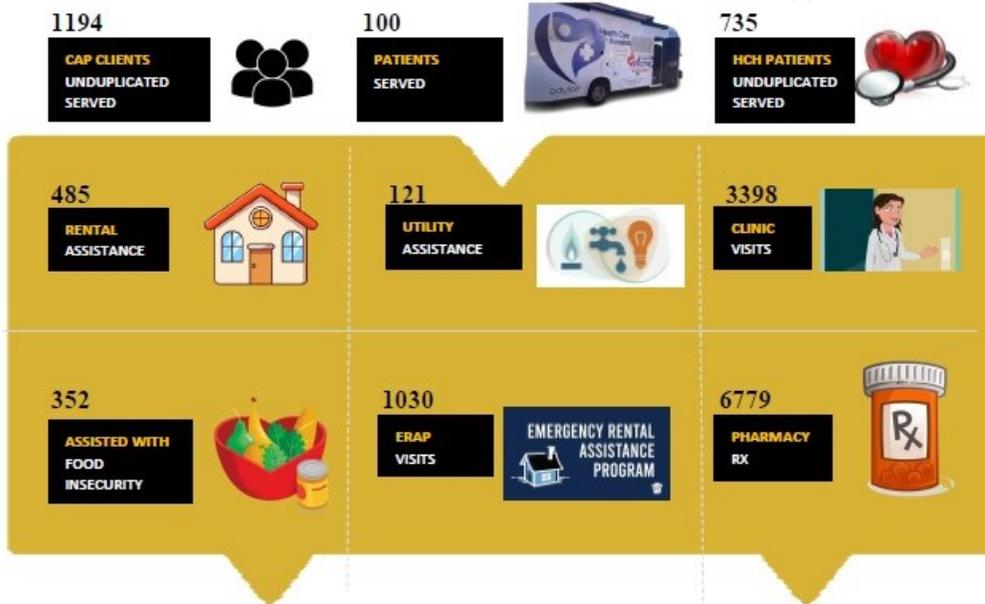
"I am thrilled to be serving in Wyoming, to be among such warm, dedicated individuals. It is exciting to be growing in a new community and I am looking forward to working in unison with my new neighbors. We can achieve amazing results, working together, and each day is a new opportunity to serve."
-Kelly Wessels

*Let's Connect! email me at
kwessels@capnc.org*

WELCOME!!



What We Can Accomplish



**2021
OUTCOMES**

Impact programming includes:

- Health Care for the Homeless Clinic
- Family Stabilization Services
- Housing First/Stabilization
- TANF (Parent vocational program)
- Economic empowerment programs
- Outreach & Barrier removal Services

To bring perspective to the assistance we have provided to individuals in Natrona County, in the last year CAPNC invested \$785,848.57, to keep people housed and safe during the pandemic. With a strong focus on self-sufficiency, economic stability, crisis intervention and vocational opportunity, participants are paired with a Client Advocate to identify a strengths-based action plan that achieves goals that support independence.

Over 700 households in Natrona County received supportive services to remove barriers in poverty while enduring the pandemic. This agency is about helping our neighbors move past the roadblocks in their way so they can care for their families on their own.

Healthcare for the Homeless is gearing up for flu vaccines, clinics and COVID boosters. The staff at HCH operate both within the clinic but travel to assist populations in the community.

During summer months, their mobile unit can be seen around town in high risk population areas or supporting local events. During the winter months, the mobile unit isn't utilized as often but staff have regular office hours at the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission and Central Wyoming Counseling Center.

To date, the clinic has seen over 500 unduplicated clients, along with their regular clients. Additionally, through the Patient Assistance program, which currently has 145 clients, the total savings has totaled up to \$657,391.83. For a population with unstable housing and little to no resources, the ability for them to obtain and maintain their medications cannot be understated.

The services offered at the clinic have developed and grown. Clients are able to obtain routine blood work, ex-rays, receive mental health services and be seen by doctors outside of the agency when needed.

Your Help Matters

A Message from Community Action's Board Chair, Kristy Oster

I believe that the journey we are on at Community Action will serve our neighbor's well and it is my honor to help lead us into the future. I have witnessed the positive outcomes of changed lives, by the hand of those who serve here. What we need is you - your voice, your knowledge, your time and your resources. Being a part of our team will help expand the ability to care for our community, effectively and efficiently.

There are several ways to assist the Community Action Partnership of Natrona County. We are always in need of motivated, creative individuals looking to make a difference by being a **Board and/or Advisory Board** member. **Volunteer** time is always greatly appreciated. **Monetary donations** provide maximum flexibility to address unmet financial needs of the agency, or match dollars to extend resources further.

Your **in-kind support**, such as donating items for winter warmth, hygiene kits or office related supplies that help our systems run smoothly are always appreciated. If you are a **partner** agency, contact us and let see how we can strengthen our relationship and grow together to enhance the lives of all citizens in Natrona County.

We appreciate your support of CAPNC, and invite you to get to know us again. We're making a difference, one step at a time, thanks to the generosity of our community and the dedication of our leadership.

I hope you will join us!

Kristy Oster



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