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# THE NEWS of ORANGE COUNTY

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## Orange County Children receive support from the Family Success Alliance

Story

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Submitted Photo

Posted: Thursday, May 10, 2018 11:44 am

By Elijah Larson, News of Orange Editorial Assistant

Orange County is number one in the state for income disparity and around 30 percent of its residents earn below a living wage, recent studies of poverty in the state have shown. The Hillsborough-based Family Success Alliance is trying to change this.

The organization, which began its work in 2015, focuses on the most impoverished areas of the county, helping families with children in school to gain opportunities that can help bring their children out of poverty.

### Family Success Alliance navigator

Family Success Alliance navigator Claudia Yerena, on the left, stands with a family that has been helped by the organization.

Operating through the Orange County Board of Health, FSA was created to be based off the Harlem Children's Zone, a similar organization created in 1970 in New York. FSA employs navigators, county residents with experience

working with impoverished children, who are assigned to one of two zones that the FSA works in.

Navigators meet with families that are a part of FSA to discuss what support the families need and how they can achieve it. This process is called motivational interviewing, where navigators sit down with the families and find out what they need for their children. The goal is to be able to get past everyday emergencies and to look towards aspirational goals of the future, like securing better housing, a GED to acquire a better job, or enrichment opportunities for their children,

"Sometimes when you're in the thick of crisis it's hard to look at a bigger goal," explains Kristin Prelipp, communications manager at FSA. "But that bigger goal is something that can get you out of this."

Family Success Alliance is also partnered with many other organizations, such as county wide literacy programs, UNC health care, and many different educational opportunities for children like HeadStart and Kidscope.

After meeting with navigators, families are then assigned to some of these programs, depending on the goals that they've made, and what FSA thinks they need to be able to succeed.

Prelipp continues to add that, "we have our own goals, to work with a family from birth to graduating high school and further, making a seamless pipeline of services from prenatal all the way up to career."

"We live in our own little bubble." Prelipp explains. "We're becoming a county of the haves and have-nots, and I want people to be aware of that, because who wants to live in a place where people are really struggling?"

Family Success Alliance isn't just work to change this, they're getting results. Nearly 90 percent of their enrolled families have stated that their child have been performing better in school since joining FSA, and half of the families polled in a survey put out by FSA reported that their housing situation has improved.

More information about FSA, how it works, how to volunteer, or how to look into signing up for programs, can be found on their website.

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## Orange County Health Department Confirms 2 Related Whooping Cough Cases

Posted by Blake Hodge | May 7, 2018 | Health | 0



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A case of whooping cough prompted a cautionary message to parents of students at one Orange County elementary school.

The letter from Orange County Health director Quintana Stewart was sent to parents of students at Grady Brown Elementary School in Hillsborough late last week. Stewart wrote that the department “has identified one confirmed case of Pertussis” at the school.

Orange County Health Department spokesperson Kristin Prelipp told WCHL that two cases of whooping cough were confirmed in a nine-year-old student at Grady Brown Elementary and their nine-month-old sibling.

Both children were vaccinated, according to Prelipp. The letter sent to parents said that the vaccinations are effective in “preventing disease in 80%-85% of those who are vaccinated.”

This letter comes after a [whooping cough outbreak](#) earlier this year. There were 20 cases of Pertussis during that outbreak, according to an email from Stewart to other officials.

An outbreak is defined as being three or more unrelated cases of whooping cough.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that whooping cough “usually starts with cold-like symptoms and maybe a mild cough or fever.”

As the disease progresses, symptoms evolve to fits of rapid coughs, vomiting and exhaustion.

While both children affected by whooping cough in this scenario were vaccinated, the CDC maintains the Pertussis vaccine is beneficial and important to prevention.

### Related

- [Whooping Cough Outbreak at Two Chapel Hill High Schools](#)
- [Whooping Cough Confirmed in Hillsborough](#)
- [Young Children At High Risk Of Whooping Cough](#)

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## Simulation imitates poverty

By Anna Fletcher  
Courier-Times Staff Writer  
[annafletcher@roxboro-courier.com](mailto:annafletcher@roxboro-courier.com)



Think you know what it's like to be poor? You might want to think again.

The Person County Health Department is challenging residents to "rethink poverty" through a free Community Action Poverty Simulation Exercise on Friday, May 11 from 1-4 p.m. in the FEMA/ multipurpose room of the Person County Human Services building.

The simulation is an interactive, immersive experience that sensitizes community participants to the realities of poverty. Participants role-play a month in

Participants consider how to best use their identities' limited means at a Community Action Poverty Simulation Exercise, held in the Southern Human Services Center in Chapel Hill on Feb. 9.

*submitted*

poverty to experience the lives of low-income families before learning about and brainstorming ways to bring about community change.

### Poverty is a growing concern

According to a 2016 U.S. Census survey, 18.5 percent of Person County residents and 13.8 percent of families earn an income that is below the poverty level. Single mothers with children under the age of five make up the

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largest percentage of local families living below poverty, at 69.8 percent, the census says.

A community health survey done every few years by the Person County Health Department and the Healthy Personians organization shows that poverty is not only prevalent in the community, but a growing concern among residents.

In 2011, the survey listed low income and poverty as the fifth-highest community health concern. In 2014, the survey – which reaped responses from 624 residents – listed them as the second-highest concern.

**‘Better understand different populations’**

In the poverty simulation, each participant is assigned the role of a low-income resident and must use their limited budget to buy services from stations set up along the perimeter of the room, such as banks, schools and grocery stores. The roles range from an elderly person living alone to someone living with a disability to a parent with three young children.

A unique tool used by over 1,000 different organizations worldwide, the simulation is used by nonprofit organizations, schools and community centers to move people to think about the harsh realities of poverty and to discuss how communities can address the problem.

By allowing participants to step into real-life situations of others, it's intended to break down stereotypes and move people to make a difference.

Coupled with the community health survey, the exercise will provide a

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learning experience for residents and a way for local departments to address health equity in the county, says PCHD health educator LeighAnn Creson.

“We’re looking at trying to better understand different populations in the community that we serve to help us serve them better by helping us see things through where they’re coming from,” she said.

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**In Loving Memory of Our Mother, Margie**

If roses grow in heaven, Lord, pick a bunch for me.  
Place them in my mothers arms and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that we love and miss her and when she turns to smile, place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile.  
Because remembering her is easy, we do it everyday, because there's an ache within our hearts, that will never go away.

**We love and miss you always, Mom!**

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