

PORT Healthcare Centre Communal Health Conference's cross-sectoral approach

District of Reutlingen, Germany

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Gesunde Gemeinde
Hohenstein
Kommunale Gesundheitskonferenz
Landkreis Reutlingen

Network of
European
Foundations

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Target population: Public health, all ages

Mission: Ensure primary and long-term care in rural areas close to home, including emergency care, in the municipality of Hohenstein and the region

Funding: Robert Bosch foundation, Stuttgart, as part of "PORT" programme (Patient-Oriented Centers for Primary and Long-Term Care)

Context

The district of Reutlingen in Baden-Wuerttemberg has around 278,000 inhabitants. There are 26 municipalities and 185 towns in the district of Reutlingen. The district has a combination of industrial and rural areas and is considered a model region for sustainable regional development.

Reutlingen is facing an aging population (and accompanying higher rates of chronic conditions and multi morbidity), changing family structures, and young people's migration to big cities. The district's healthcare system has the task of meeting the increasing demand for services and ensuring their sustainability, with the added complication that there is a shortage of family/rural doctors and that 75% of all current GPs in the district are 50 years or older. In response to these issues, in 2009, the District Chief Executive established the **Communal Health Conference (CHC)** and developed a Communal Health Strategy.

The CHC is an alliance that includes the following partners:



The CHC meets once a year and is tasked with providing advice on issues related to health promotion, prevention and cross-sector care on a local level. It also coordinates recommendations and oversees their implementation.

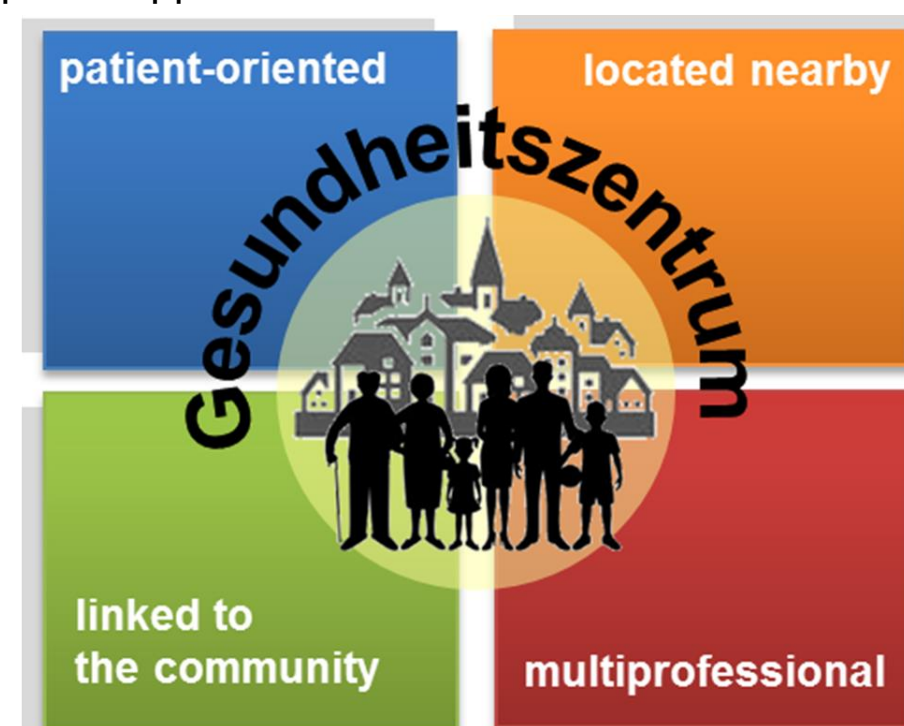
What this initiative is about

The further development of health care services, especially in rural areas, on the basis of a regional, needs-oriented, and cross-sectoral health care plan under the motto "*Planning health together*", is an important element of the strategy.

In the district, each municipality sets their own health promotion priorities. The project "*Healthy municipality – healthy city in the district of Reutlingen*" is currently being implemented by 8 of the 26 municipalities in the district of Reutlingen. The project is a fundamental contribution to the preservation of the quality of life in the communities, because health is created where people live. The goal is the structural anchoring of health promotion and prevention in a municipality/city with the help of a closer connection of health to communal politics, to further increase awareness of prevention and health promotion, to maintain the health of the citizens at a high level and to implement health-related innovations. Healthy living environments are created in a participatory way. The approach is designed in such a way that it can be applied to other communities easily and sustainably.

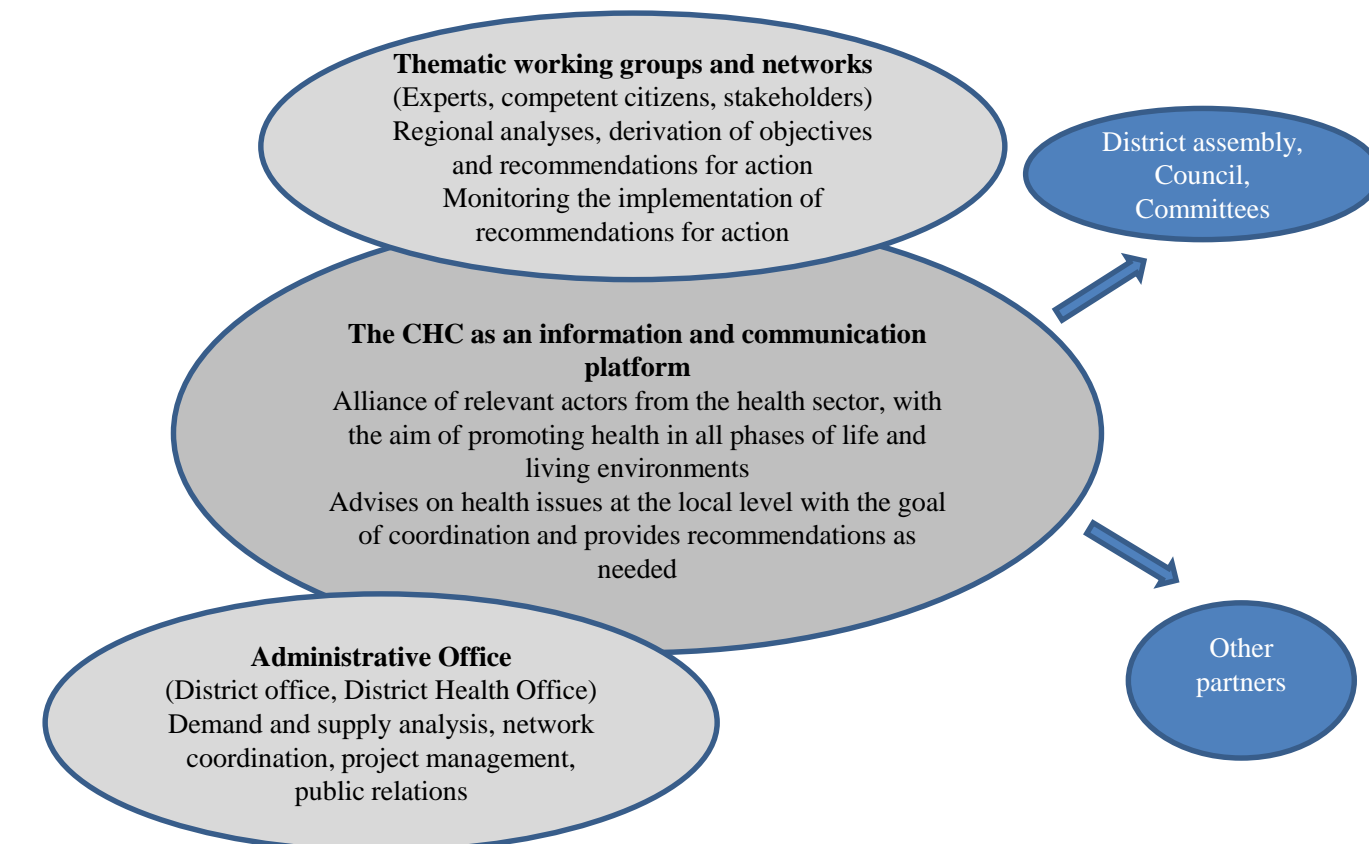
The Communal Health Conference, together with the University of Tuebingen are implementing a completely new model of health care in the municipality of Hohenstein. Key to this is the development of a Patient-Oriented Center for Primary and Long-Term Care (PORT) health center which is currently under construction and is expected to open in spring 2019. The health center is part of a wider health network that is accountable for health in Hohenstein. The center will offer:

- Comprehensive primary care
- Extended therapeutic offers (for example, via special and consultation hours, telemedicine)
- prevention services
- Networking with existing civic initiatives and associations
- Patient-oriented cooperation and communication structures (e-health)
- Establishment of research practice enables innovative therapeutic approaches.



Governance & management

The governance and management structure can be described as follows.



Impact

Hohenstein ist the first community in Baden-Württemberg to establish a PORT Health Center. The anticipated benefits of this includes:

- Patient orientated services
- Integration and networking of all relevant actors in the region
- Citizen engagement
- Orientation to regional requirements
- Team of different health professions
- Cooperation and communication "at eye level"
- Implementing innovative concepts: communication, patient support, case management, mobility, etc.

The following components are currently being piloted: case management, patient support, clarification of medical / health processes and assistance, agreement on treatment path, forwarding to diagnosis and therapy in the centre and externally

Insights / lessons learnt

Obstacles to the establishment of local health centers

- currently sectors of care are fragmented
- legal requirements and framework conditions
- financing – e.g. for interprofessional coordination, "pilot", case presentation
- individual characteristics and interests of the actors
- interpersonal aspects