

## Our Mission:

**LOVN CHAT will build a partnership of community members and providers to positively address the health of our community through:**

**AWARENESS: Increase the awareness and coordination of prevention, health promotion (education), and wellness services in the community.**

**ACCESS: Improve access to health care services, particularly for the underserved, uninsured and low-income residents through local programs.**

**AVAILABILITY: Improve the health services available to and used by all citizens in the community.**



**The LOVN CHAT is part of CHIP in Sarasota County, Florida  
For more information go to  
[www.CHIP4Health.org](http://www.CHIP4Health.org)**

The LOVN Community Health Action Team welcomes all persons, businesses and organizations, who live or work in our community, to be a part of the “action”. Joining is as simple as attending a CHAT meeting, or participating on one of our committees. Through the passion and commitment of our members, the CHAT is making a difference in our community.

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**Our Community Health Depends  
Upon Our Community Voices...**

# The LOVN CHAT

Community Health Action Team

***Laurel, Osprey, Venice  
and Nokomis***



# LOVN Community Health Action Team

The LOVN CHAT is part of a network of Community Health Action Teams in Sarasota County. CHATs work on issues related to improving the health of their community - from access and availability of health care services, to improving community relationships. Members include those who live in, or work in, the CHAT's community. There is no membership fee and no membership process. Anyone can come to a CHAT meeting and participate to the degree they choose.

The LOVN CHAT has been active in the Communities of Laurel, Osprey, Venice and Nokomis since 2002. Through the work of our members, we have worked on initiatives to improve awareness, access and availability of health services in our community. The LOVN CHAT strives to find creative and effective ways to increase opportunities for all community members - young and old - to add their voice and ideas to build a strong, healthy community.



**Awareness:** The LOVN CHAT developed and continues to support several projects that build awareness in the community of both health care needs and services. Through CHIP Community Surveys, the CHAT provides information to residents, providers and businesses, on gaps in services. Through bi-annual editions of a Health and Human Services Resource Directory, as well as the CHIP Health and Wellness Information Centers, the CHAT provides information to its community on what services are available. The CHIP Centers are now expanding throughout Sarasota County, and will include an innovative kiosk approach to locating Health and Wellness Information in all County Libraries.

Additionally, the LOVN CHAT partners with other community organizations to provide workshop opportunities to learn about pertinent health information. Previous workshops have explored the impact of substance abuse and addiction on the community, as well as what you need to know about home health care options. The CHAT has also developed an outreach project for seniors which promotes the health benefits of remaining physically active throughout life.

**Access:** The LOVN CHAT has used its voice to help improve access to services. This includes successfully advocating for increased public transportation, and working on initiatives which explore solutions to the issue



of uninsured/underinsured residents of our community.

The CHAT also worked with local providers on a grant to study effective interventions for persons who are homebound and have a difficulty managing diabetes. This project led to the creation of a resource book for diabetes, and an increased realization of the benefits of partnerships among providers to offer more holistic approaches to health care services.

**Availability:** The LOVN CHAT also works on issues related improving the availability of services in our community. Sarasota County's Mobile Health Unit (*Health in Motion*) is a direct result of the community successfully advocating for its ideas to be enacted. CHAT members also learn about ways other communities have successfully increased services, and look for ways to apply them in our community.