

## **GOAL #4 – HEALTH CARE**

---

**Healthcare issues are of paramount concern, both on a local and national level. Due to the uniqueness of PSA2AAA, concerns at the national level are amplified in our five - county area.**

---

### RATIONALE

Needs assessments continue to focus on all areas of healthcare as one of the greatest unmet needs. Focus is on exorbitant costs which prohibit health insurance coverage, dental and optical services, and the attainment of prescriptions, all of which, if not utilized, result in failing health and jeopardize the ability to age at home.

Lastly, due to the remoteness, challenging terrain, and inclement weather of the PSA2AAA region, health care and mental health care services are simply and largely unavailable. Mental health care services are extremely limited (with only one psychiatric service available) in our five counties. A majority of health care cases in need of hospital attention initially results in the transportation of the client to other counties which have the hospital/service. Often times, the client is forced to sell their residence and relocate closer to the medical services required.

While the PSA2AAA does not receive funding specific to enhancing the local healthcare industry, it is the goal of PSA2AAA to strive to help where ever possible.

### OBJECTIVES

- A. The PSA2AAA Advisory Council will seek volunteers to expand the existing HICAP program which seeks lower prescription costs for seniors.
- B. The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) service provider will increase the community presentations to include all service provider sites which will result in increased program participation, public awareness of available programs, and participant cost savings.
- C. The HICAP service provider will develop an informational handout which will be massively disbursed to service providers, and the general public to facilitate participant cost savings in various venues of healthcare.