



**Loyola University Health System-Gottlieb Memorial Hospital
Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan
Summary**

Overview

Loyola University Health System (LUHS), composed of Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC) and Gottlieb Memorial Hospital (GMH), together completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and implementation planning process in 2012-2013. Through the CHNA, the rising rate of obesity and access to healthcare services were identified as the health issues of greatest concern facing west suburban Cook County communities. LUHS developed a plan based on its available resources for impacting these health priorities over a three-year period (when the next CHNA will be performed).

Community Health Needs Assessment

LUHS has a long tradition of serving communities, particularly the underserved. By engaging in the CHNA process, LUHS learned valuable insights and information to enhance its services. LUHS performed the CHNA in adherence with certain federal requirements for not-for-profit hospitals set forth in the Affordable Care Act and by the Internal Revenue Service.

The CHNA report summarizes:

- A six-month CHNA process, facilitated in partnership with the Illinois Public Health Institute, involving a steering committee with representatives from more than 10 community organizations, public health agencies, and the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.
- Community statistics, health data and input about health issues from nearly 500 community residents, faith groups, social service agencies, physicians and others across 22 municipalities surrounding LUHS' two hospital sites: Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood and Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park.
- Broad health concerns and barriers facing the nearly 500,000 people in the CHNA service area of the western Chicago suburban market (bordered by Cicero, Berkeley, Franklin Park and Brookfield) with special attention to vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

The assessment also uncovered these key findings about the CHNA service area:

- About half of the population, nearly 250,000 people, were uninsured or on Medicaid in LUHS' fiscal year 2010.
- Substantial disparities exist in socioeconomic status, unemployment rates, education levels and health status.
- The Hispanic population is growing, and youth and senior populations dominate in certain CHNA service areas.
- West suburban Cook County fares worse in health status by most indicators than all suburban Cook County, including higher mortality rates for heart disease, cancer and stroke.
- Diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, overweight or obesity were among top health diagnoses reported by respondents.

- Increased access to preventive and specialty healthcare services, coordination of healthcare options, nutritional education, availability of healthy food, safe places to play and economic stability were factors that respondents identified to improve health.
- More than 200 nearby healthcare resources, including clinics, medical groups, outpatient surgery centers, hospitals, nursing homes and home health agencies, are available in the area.

The CHNA steering committee reviewed the assessment findings and considered the likelihood of impacting problems at a local level. The steering committee members identified **obesity and access to healthcare as top priorities**.

Health issues and barriers were identified through the CHNA process (see below) that impact the two top priorities. These served as a guide to developing the implementation of activities over the next three years.



The full CHNA report and its two data appendices are available at www.loyolamedicine.org/chna. Other hospitals, health care agencies, schools, community organizations and municipalities have been and continue to be encouraged to use the CHNA report as a guide for them in addressing west suburban Cook County's health priorities.

Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan

LUHS has developed a plan for impacting the rate of obesity and access to healthcare services in the CHNA services area, particularly the disadvantaged, within its resources. LUHS looked at enhancing existing programs and opportunities to partner with others on initiatives. LUHS also obtained further input from the CHNA steering committee, community focus groups, and internal leaders. Below are highlights from LUHS' CHNA three-year implementation plan, subject to refinement, beginning in summer 2013.

Impacting the Rising Rate of Obesity:

- **Establish a Pediatric Weight Management Program (PWMP)** – Overweight and obese children are at higher risk than their healthy-weight peers for a host of serious illnesses. A multi-faceted approach is needed to help them. The PWMP, focused on children ages 5 to 18 within targeted disadvantaged communities, will have four components:
 - Specialty Care: Improve quality-of-life for overweight/obese children through low-cost, family-centered treatment at a Pediatric Obesity Specialty Care Clinic located at GMH and free family group sessions in the community.
 - Pediatric Providers: Educate and provide tools to physicians and nurses who treat children on American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations about caring for young overweight and obese patients.
 - Community: Raise awareness about childhood obesity by partnering with the local elementary school district and a community program on wellness activities and provide space for community wellness activities program at GMH.
 - Gottlieb Fitness Center - Donates memberships to meet the needs of CHNA communities, including families involved in pediatric weight management programs
- **Government Relations**- Support advocacy efforts that improve access to healthcare for those living within our CHNA communities.

Impacting Access to Healthcare Services

The communities surrounding Gottlieb Memorial Hospital will benefit from the following programs that will be implemented as part of Loyola University Medical Center's CHNA Implementation Plan. LUHS has partnered with not-for-profit organizations to provide charitable care to uninsured patients, including:

- **Access Community Health Network** –GMH will work with LUHS/LUMC to facilitate emergency department patients without primary care/medical home to Access Community Health Network clinics for follow-up.
- **The Access to Care Program** – LUHS continues its long partnership with Access to Care, a program assisting uninsured individuals. In fiscal year 2012, LUHS provided free or significantly discounted medical care to 600 Access to Care patients, with plans to expand to serve an additional 200 patients.
- **Pediatric Mobile Health Unit Locations** – Since its inception in 1998, Loyola's Pediatric Mobile Health Unit has provided free health screenings and education to more than 100,000 underserved children in Chicago's western suburbs through various partnerships. LUHS will continue the Mobile Unit's free services with emphasis on providing improved access to care within disadvantaged neighborhoods in LUHS' CHNA service area.
- **Proviso East High School's School-based Health Clinic (SBHC)** – LUHS will continue to provide free laboratory services related to students seen at the SBHC operated by Loyola University Chicago's Marcella Neihoff School of Nursing.
- **Metropolitan Breast Cancer Task Force (MBCTF)** – LUHS recently partnered with the MBCTF to provide 350 free screening mammograms to improve access for uninsured patients.