



2022 Community Health Needs Assessment – Implementation Plan

Mercy Health - Cincinnati

2023 – 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment – Implementation Plan

Mercy Health – Cincinnati

Adopted by the Mercy Health - Cincinnati Board of Trustees, April 25, 2023

Mercy Health has been committed to the communities it serves for nearly two centuries. This long-standing commitment has evolved intentionally, based on our communities' most pressing health needs.

The following document is a detailed Community Health Implementation Plan for Mercy Health – Cincinnati. As a system, Mercy Health is dedicated to our Mission of extending the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of our communities and bringing good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved. We strive to create effective strategies to meet the health needs of our community.

Having identified the greatest needs in our community, the Community Health Implementation Plan ensures our resources for outreach, prevention, education, and wellness are directed towards opportunities where the greatest impact can be realized.

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Mercy Health CHIP Short
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Table of Contents

Introduction.....4

Executive Summary.....7

 BACKGROUND AND PROCESS.....7

Implementation Plan.....8

 PRIORITIZED SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEEDS.....8

 PRIORITIZED SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH NEEDS
 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES9

 PRIORITIZED SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL HEALTH NEEDS IMPLEMENTATION
 STRATEGIES13

 PRIORITIZED SIGNIFICANT CLINICAL HEALTH NEEDS IMPLEMENTATION
 STRATEGIES17

Board Approval.....22

Introduction

Mercy Health – Cincinnati services the Greater Cincinnati area through its five hospitals, with an emphasis on the communities immediately surrounding its care locations. It strives to ensure all community residents have access to the care they need, when they need it, regardless of financial capacity and social circumstance.

- The Jewish Hospital – Mercy Health, a 184-bed facility located in ZIP code 45236, predominately serves residents of the same and contiguous ZIP code areas, which include portions of Hamilton, Warren, Butler and Clermont counties and surrounding areas.
- Mercy Health – Anderson Hospital, a 230-bed facility located in ZIP code 45255, predominately serves residents of the same and contiguous ZIP code areas, which include portions of Hamilton, Clermont and Brown counties and surrounding areas.
- Mercy Health – Clermont Hospital, a 165-bed facility located in ZIP code 45103, predominately serves residents of the same and contiguous ZIP code areas, which include Adams, Brown, Clermont, Hamilton, and Highland counties and surrounding areas.
- Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital, a 214-bed facility located in ZIP code 45104, predominately serves residents of the same and contiguous ZIP code areas, which include portions of Butler and Hamilton counties and surrounding areas.
- Mercy Health – West Hospital, a 227-bed facility located in ZIP code 45211, predominately serves residents of the same and contiguous ZIP code area, which includes Hamilton County and surrounding areas.

Mercy Health – Cincinnati participated alongside regional health partners and hospitals to develop the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The detailed process, participants, and results are available in Mercy Health – Cincinnati’s Community Health Needs Assessment, which is available at [Mercy.com](https://www.mercy.com). Mercy Health – Cincinnati prepared a joint CHNA report, including The Jewish Hospital – Mercy Health, Mercy Health – Anderson Hospital, Mercy Health – Clermont Hospital, Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital, and Mercy Health – West Hospital to reflect the hospitals’ collaborative efforts to assess the health needs of the community they serve.

This Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan will address the prioritized significant community health needs through the CHNA. The Plan indicates which needs Mercy Health – Cincinnati will address and how, as well as which needs Mercy Health - Cincinnati won’t address and why. Mercy Health – Cincinnati intends to take a regional approach to address its CHNA and the identified prioritized needs, and therefore the needs the hospitals intend to take, and the strategies outlined in this Community Health Needs Implementation Plan are the same and combined into one plan document.

Beyond programs and strategies outlined in the plan, Mercy Health - Cincinnati will address the health care needs of the community by continuing to operate in accordance with its mission to extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of its communities with emphasis on the poor and underserved. This includes providing care for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

The strategies in this Implementation Plan will provide the foundation for addressing the community's significant needs between 2023 – 2025. However, Mercy Health - Cincinnati anticipates that some strategies and even the needs identified will evolve over that period. Mercy Health – Cincinnati plans a flexible approach to addressing the significant community needs that will allow for adaptation to changes and collaboration with other community agencies.

Community Served by the Hospital

The five Mercy Health – Cincinnati hospitals reach suburban, urban, and rural areas throughout Greater Cincinnati, encompassing a total of 52 ZIP codes and a population over 1.1 million people.¹ By race and ethnicity, this population is 68.7% non-Hispanic White, 17.8% non-Hispanic Black, 4.7% Hispanic/Latino, 4.3% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 4.3% two or more races. Adults aged 40-64 years make up 32% of the population, followed by adults 18-39 years of age (29.1%), juveniles 5-17 years of age (17.2%), seniors 65 years and older (15.5%), and children 0-4 years of age (6.2%).²

¹Geographic Details. Metopio. <https://metop.io/place/region/bon-secours-mercy-cincinnati-oh-market/>. Accessed October 3, 2022.

²Pie Charts. Metopio. <https://metop.io/place/region/bon-secours-mercy-cincinnati-oh-market/>. Accessed October 3, 2022

Our Mission

As a system Mercy Health is dedicated to extending the compassionate ministry of Jesus by improving the health and well-being of our communities and bring good help to those in need, especially people who are poor, dying and underserved.

Our Vision

Inspired by God's hope for the world, we will be a ministry where associates want to work, clinicians want to practice, people seek wellness and communities thrive.

Our Values

Human Dignity

We commit to upholding the sacredness of life and being respectful and inclusive of everyone.

Integrity

We commit to acting ethically and modeling right relationships in all of our individual and organizational encounters.

Compassion

We commit to accompanying those we serve with mercy and tenderness, recognizing that “being with” is as important as “doing for.”

Stewardship

We commit to promoting the responsible use of all human and financial resources, including Earth itself.

Service

We commit to providing the highest quality in every dimension of our ministry.



Executive Summary

Background and Process

Mercy Health – Cincinnati participated alongside 36 regional hospitals, 22 public health departments, and numerous community health partners across 26 counties to develop the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in a collaboration driven by The Health Collaborative (THC) and the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA). The CHNA provides a robust view of the health needs of the Greater Cincinnati and Dayton area, including Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana. Data collection strategies were equity-centered and guided by the Healthy People 2030 Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) framework to identify the community conditions that impact the health of community members. The entire process was overseen by an Advisory Committee of 42 members of the community representing hospitals, public health departments, Federally Qualified Health Centers, community-based organizations, public health professional associations, funders, and hospital associations.

A comprehensive approach was used in the data collection, incorporating expansive primary and secondary data sources. A total of 8,321 community surveys, 859 health and social service provider surveys, 38 interviews with system leaders, and 51 targeted focus groups were conducted in addition to an extensive review of current literature and existing community data. Large secondary data sources utilized include the American Community Survey (ACS), National Center for Health Statistics, CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, as well as the 2021 County Health Rankings (CHR).

Identifying Significant Needs

The health needs of this region were identified through a series of quantitative and qualitative data collection methods across community members, healthcare and social service providers, subject matter experts in hospitals, health departments, and community-based organizations, and through review of secondary data. A total of 25 one-on-one stakeholder meetings were conducted to review results of the data collection process. Using specific criteria, the top priorities were identified and refined into a list of data-driven, actionable recommended priorities/needs as follows:

- Increase **access to services** to improve equitable outcomes for the region's top health needs: behavioral health, cardiovascular disease, dental and vision.
- Address access to and use of resources for **food and housing security**, with a focus on the development and strengthening of partnerships between providers and community-based organizations.
- Strengthen **workforce pipeline and diversity**, including cultural competence within the healthcare ecosystem.

Implementation Plan

Mercy Health – Cincinnati is committed to addressing the prioritized significant health needs of the community through the strategies described in this Implementation Plan.

Prioritized Significant Health Needs

The table below lists the prioritized significant health needs identified through the CHNA and specify which needs Mercy Health – Cincinnati will address.

Prioritized Significant Health Need	Hospital Addressing Need (Y/N)				
	Anderson	Clermont	Fairfield	Jewish	West
Access to Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Food and Housing Security	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Workforce Pipeline Diversity and Cultural Competency	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Mercy Health – Cincinnati market will address each need with regional strategies that have various activation dates throughout the three-year implementation life cycle. Some of the strategies will take place in communities that are geographically associated/tagged to a specific hospital.

Prioritized Significant Social Determinant of Health Needs Implementation Strategies

Workforce Pipeline Diversity and Cultural Competency

Description

Data from the CHNA highlight a lack of diversity in the healthcare provider and management workforce. According to the community, lack of workforce diversity negatively impacts the cultural relevancy of health care and health care accessibility. This lack of diversity is believed to be an outcome of structural racism, unwelcoming workplace cultures, and disparity in pursuing healthcare careers across community groups, particularly for those who are economically disadvantaged and/or from underserved areas.

The Greater Cincinnati Region established a goal to ensure that the healthcare education pipeline and workforce are strong, reflect the diversity of our region, and deliver equitable care to everyone. In support of that regional goal, Mercy Health – Cincinnati has established three goals to advance progress around healthcare workforce pipeline and diversity.

Goal 1

Collaborate with community organizations to support job readiness and placement for diverse residents from neighborhoods that are underserved.

Expected Impact

Increase workforce diversity.

Target Populations

First generation college students, students from families at or below 250% FPL, students from underserved communities, and adults living in disadvantaged circumstances.

Strategies

De Paul Christo Rey High School is a uniquely affordable Catholic, college prep curriculum and innovative work study program that supports students from families with low incomes through high school and college graduation. Mercy Health is a work study program partner and pays an annual fee to host students every school year. These funds are used to defray student tuition.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health Cincinnati, in conjunction with De Paul Christo Rey High School, will measure the number of students placed at Mercy Health facilities and college acceptance rates on an annual basis, with a target to maintain 2021-2022 school year statistics.

Mercy Neighborhood Ministries (MNM) promotes the empowerment of individuals through proven programs that educate, foster self-sufficiency, and support enhanced quality of life. The MNM workforce development program excels at stabilizing and improving the quality of life for those living in disadvantaged circumstances. In partnership with Mercy Health, the MNM hospital worker readiness program (HWRP) results in a guaranteed interview with an opportunity to be hired within the Mercy Health system. Job opportunities include patient transport, dietary/nutrition, and environmental services. The HWRP offers the opportunity to learn professional behaviors in the workforce, various healthcare job related skills such as safety and infection control, basic computer skills, resume creation, application completion and interview and ongoing employment coaching after graduation.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health Cincinnati, in conjunction with Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, will measure the number of HWRP participants, graduates and employment placements at Mercy Health on an annual basis, with a goal of maintaining or exceeding 2022 statistics.

Community Collaborations

Mercy Neighborhood Ministries

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include CityLink, Cincinnati Works, and Community Action Agency.

Goal 2

Design and implement projects that specifically address disparities in patient outcomes and care experiences.

Expected Impact

Improvement in patient experience and maternal health outcomes.

Target Populations

Black women in Hamilton and Butler counties who are breastfeeding, and Black parents-to-be in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Strategies

Baby Café is a free, drop-in, informal community-based lactation support group offering ongoing professional lactation care and intervention. Mercy Health – Cincinnati is committed to providing staff and funding to launch two new Baby Cafés. As part of the effort, Mercy Health – Cincinnati will also focus on increasing certification and competency of diverse lactation professionals.

Strategic measure(s)

Baby Café is a new program for Mercy Health – Cincinnati. Initial focus is successful implementation of the Baby Cafés in Butler and Hamilton County and collection of baseline statistics.

Mama Certified Equity Centered Maternal Care is a national pilot and collaborative project in response to a call from mothers in Hamilton County for a solution that would provide them with the information they need to make informed decisions about where they seek maternal care. As a collective impact approach to maternal and infant health equity, the purpose of the project is to provide Black parents-to-be with visibility into the maternal-related efforts of local hospital networks and to promote increased efforts toward maternal equity. This project brings together birthing hospitals in Greater Cincinnati to address maternal equity and improve outcomes for Black and Brown mothers and babies in their care. Mercy Health Cincinnati is committed to ongoing participation in this important effort.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mama Certified is a new initiative for Mercy Health – Cincinnati. Initial focus is successful implementation and collection of baseline statistics.

Community Collaborations

Mercy Health Perinatal Outreach Program, Ohio Department of Health, Cradle Cincinnati, Baby Café LLC, UC Health, The Christ Hospital, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, TriHealth, Queens Village, and The Health Collaborative.

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include the Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), AMEN, BOOBS, and Project Milk.

Goal 3

Support pathways for career exploration and advancement within Mercy Health.

Expected Impact

Increase workforce diversity.

Targeted Populations

Individuals with economic insecurity and/or from disadvantaged circumstances.

Strategies

The ***Guild Education Program*** provides tuition assistance/reimbursement to current Mercy Health employees, including full-time, part-time and PRN associates. With over 100 educational offerings included, the program is designed for working adults to encourage career growth and to attract new talent to the ministry. Personal assistance from live coaches and other supports aid associates in finding and completing their desired educational pathway for career growth and development. Available programs include certifications and bootcamps, high school diploma completion, language programs and higher education degree programs ranging from associate degrees through doctoral programs. Bon Secours Mercy Health is committed to this partnership with Guild to provide education benefits to help associates develop in-demand skills and build a career path within the ministry.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health Cincinnati, in conjunction with the Guild Education Program, will track the number of associates who complete a program on an annual basis. The intended target is an increase in associates enrolled and programs completed from 2022 baseline.

Community Collaborations

Educational programs, colleges, and universities.

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include: educational programs, colleges, and universities.

Prioritized Significant Social Health Needs Implementation Strategies

Food and Housing Security

Description

Economic stability, measured as having enough money to pay bills, enough food to eat, and safe and stable housing, has an impact on individual and family health. Individuals with low economic stability are more likely to experience poor health related to heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and maternal complications, among other health concerns. Approximately 3 out of every 10 community members surveyed in the regional CHNA reported having low economic stability, particularly in rural counties and the Cincinnati Metropolitan Service Area (MSA). Food insecurity, defined as lack of access to enough food or nutritionally adequate foods, is noted to be highest in rural areas while being low income and not living close to a grocery store is more prevalent within the Cincinnati MSA. In addition, the combination of rising costs and stagnating incomes have created unprecedented housing affordability challenges, with nearly one-third of Hamilton County residents paying more than 30% of their income for housing.

The Greater Cincinnati Region established a goal to ensure that everyone in the region has access to healthy, affordable food, and quality, affordable housing. In support of that regional goal, Mercy Health – Cincinnati has established four goals to advance progress around food and housing security.

Goal 1

Conduct routine screening for health-related social needs in clinical care settings.

Expected Impact

Reduction in preventable hospitalizations, reduction in nutrition-related illness, reduction in the percent of the population that is food insecure, reduction in housing instability.

Target Populations

Patients with health-related social needs.

Strategies

Social Drivers of Health Screening acknowledges that individuals may experience health-related social needs like food insecurity, transportation difficulty or housing instability that directly impact clinical outcomes, utilization patterns and total healthcare costs and therefore incorporates evidence-based screening into the clinical workflow. Mercy Health – Cincinnati primary care practices and OB offices will routinely screen new patients and existing patients at their annual well visits. Screening has historically included food insecurity and financial resource strain, and in 2023 will also assess for housing instability and transportation needs.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health Cincinnati will track the percentage of eligible adult patients seen in primary care and OB practices who were screened for social drivers of health with a goal of screening 60% of eligible patients in the Cincinnati Market in 2023.

Mercy Serves AmeriCorps is a diverse, energetic volunteer corps servicing Mercy Health Emergency Departments and supporting patients with substance use disorders. In 2023, Mercy Health – Cincinnati will expand the scope of the Members’ role to include screening, brief intervention of social determinants of health (SDOH) and referral to community resources for emergency department patients. The program will also offer expanded training around social determinants and patient navigation, including Community Health Worker (CHW) curriculum and certification for select Members. The Mercy Serves program is generously supported by Mercy Health – Cincinnati, Mercy Health Foundation, and federal funding through ServeOhio and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health – Cincinnati will track the successful implementation of SBIRT screening for SDOH and establish baseline statistics that can be tracked on a quarterly basis.

Community Collaborations

Mercy Health providers and staff, ServeOhio, Corporation for National and Community Service, Health Care Access Now, Produce Perks Midwest, New Life Furniture, and Dispensary of Hope.

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized needs include St. Vincent de Paul, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Legal Aid, Talbert House, Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program, Social Security, Mental Health Providers, and Inter Parish Ministries.

Goal 2

Reduce eviction and foreclosure for high-risk patients.

Expected Impact

Reduction in residential evictions, reduction in severe housing problems, and reduction in preventable hospitalizations.

Target Populations

Individuals living at or below 200% FPL, and individuals experiencing financial strain.

Strategies

Financial assistance for patients facing potential eviction or foreclosure is available to participants actively engaged in Mercy Health Community Health programs. These participants have access to Emergency Assistance, which can cover eligible housing expenses, including application fees and past due rent. Similarly, associates of Mercy Health have access to the *Caring for Our Own* General Hardship Fund to cover housing expenses in times of financial hardship.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health – Cincinnati will track the number of program participants receiving emergency assistance to prevent eviction/foreclosure.

Community Collaborations

LISC Greater Cincinnati and Working in Neighborhoods.

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority, Community Action Agency, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, People Working Cooperatively, St. Vincent de Paul, and Talbert House.

Goal 3

Provide investment in new, affordable housing development and the preservation of existing affordable housing.

Expected Impact

Increase in quantity of available and affordable housing, reduction in residential evictions, and reduction in preventable hospitalizations.

Target Populations

Individuals under 120% AMI.

Strategies

The **Affordable Housing Trust Fund** is a coordinated suite of financial products that can dramatically increase the production and preservation of affordable units and is supported by a diverse portfolio of public and private partners. Bon Secours Mercy Health has committed low interest, patient loan capital that can be leveraged with other fund investments to advance the community-wide affordable housing effort.

Strategic Measure(s)

In collaboration with the Cincinnati Development Fund, Mercy Health – Cincinnati will track the number of affordable units produced and/or preserved on an annual basis.

Community Collaborations

Cincinnati Development Fund

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County and other jurisdictions, LISC Greater Cincinnati and other Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI).

Goal 4

Provide healthy food and increased food access points for patients and communities experiencing food insecurity.

Expected Impact

Reduction in nutrition-related illnesses and reduction in food insecurity.

Target Populations

Individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

Strategies

Mercy Health's partnership with **Produce Perks Midwest (PPM)** supports healthy food purchases through nutrition (produce) prescriptions, fruit/vegetable vouchers and other incentives to assist families experiencing financial challenges and struggling with nutrition-related illness. Programs also provide nutrition education and basic household cooking equipment to support long-term health and wellness. In addition, PPM and Mercy Health are committed to increasing the capacity of the community to support nutrition programming by growing the number of community locations participating in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and equipped to carry fresh fruits and vegetables.

Strategic Measure(s)

In collaboration with Produce Perks Midwest, Mercy Health – Cincinnati will track the number of participants enrolled in PPM programming, the number of participating locations, and increases in healthy food purchases by SNAP recipients with a goal to improve 2022 service and performance levels.

Community Collaborations

Mercy Health providers, Ohio Department of Health, USDA, and redemption partners.

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include: Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, Freestore Food Bank, Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council, Inter Parish Ministries, Shared Harvest Foodbank, and St. Vincent de Paul.

Prioritized Significant Clinical Health Needs Implementation Strategies

Access to Services

Description

The CHNA identified several unmet health needs, defined as a condition for which treatment was needed but not received. Across the region, cardiovascular conditions and mental health have the highest prevalence and among the highest rate of unmet needs as compared to the other priority conditions. Approximately three in ten residents from the Regional CHNA community survey reported needing treatment for high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol. Mental health was reported as the leading unmet need across the region, with nearly one in three individuals indicating they did not receive treatment for mental health when needed. Likewise, approximately two in ten community members reported needing treatment for vision and dental concerns but not receiving it within the past year. In addition, multiple barriers to a healthy life and to health care were identified, which included information accessibility and service availability, affordability and health insurance, and feeling safe and having negative past experiences regarding health care.

The Greater Cincinnati Region established a goal to ensure everyone in the region has access to healthcare when they need it, specifically for the region's top needs: behavioral health, oral health, vision care and heart disease. In support of that regional goal, Mercy Health – Cincinnati has established three goals to address access to care needs.

Goal 1

Provide dedicated social workers and community health workers to advocate and navigate patients through benefits and community resources.

Expected Impact

Reduction in preventable hospitalizations, reduction in proportion of people who can't get prescription medications when needed, reduction in deaths due to substance use disorder, reduction in percent of people who are uninsured, reduction in preterm birth, and reduction in infant mortality.

Targeted Populations

Individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, 200% or below FPL, patients with substance misuse disorders, and Black/African American women in the Mercy Health – Fairfield Hospital and Mercy Health – West Hospital service areas having high infant mortality rates and racial disparities.

Strategies

Mercy Health Partnership Program (MHPP) is a team who serves as patient advocates for medical access and health equity by helping vulnerable patients address social barriers, medical and medication access, complex health care needs, and health insurance coverage or optimization. Three LSWs are fully dedicated to the program and serve the Cincinnati region, accepting referrals from ambulatory and acute care providers.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health Partnership Program will track the number of uninsured participants who are assisted with insurance enrollment on a quarterly basis, with a target to maintain current service levels and ensure 95% of those eligible for assistance receive it.

Mercy Serves AmeriCorps is a diverse, energetic volunteer corps serving in Mercy Health Emergency Departments to prevent and reduce substance use disorder. AmeriCorps members provide patient education, substance use risk screening, emotional support, and referrals to treatment and social services for Emergency Department patients. AmeriCorps members work alongside nurses, providers, and social workers to ensure patients receive necessary support and resources to make healthy choices and encourage behavior change. The Mercy Serves program is generously supported by Mercy Health – Cincinnati, Mercy Health Foundation, and federal funding through ServeOhio and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Serves will track the number of patients referred and admitted to treatment on a quarterly basis with a target of 100% eligible and receptive are referred to treatment and ongoing improvement in treatment admission rates.

Mercy Health Perinatal Outreach Program (POP) is part of Mercy Health's larger response to addressing infant mortality in Greater Cincinnati. POP consists of two certified Community Health Workers (CHWs) and a Program Manager dedicated to providing education, advocacy, and support to ensure a healthy pregnancy and birth for both at-risk moms and babies, with a particular focus on families who are Black/African American. The program removes obstacles contributing to high infant mortality rates, pre-term births, and racial disparities in maternal and infant health. Support for the program is a collaborative funding of Mercy Health – Cincinnati, Mercy Health Foundation, Cradle Cincinnati and the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health Perinatal Outreach Program will track the number of pregnant people supported through the program and percentage of babies born at full gestational age, with a target of maintaining current service levels and ongoing improvement in birth outcomes.

Community Collaborations

Mercy Health providers and staff, Ensemble, New Life Furniture Bank, Kroger, Dispensary of Hope, Produce Perks Midwest, AmeriCorps, ServeOhio, Cradle Cincinnati, Healthy Moms and Babes, and Health Care Access Now.

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include St. Vincent de Paul, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program, Social Security, Mental Health providers, Addiction Services Council, Life Point Solutions, Bethany House, Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Talbert House, Hopeline – One City for Recovery, Child Focus, Inc., OHMAS, Brightview, Beckett Springs, Modern Psychiatry and Wellness, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Federally Qualified Health Centers, prenatal providers and birthing hospitals; Fatherhood Collaborative, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health, and the Unspoken Word Alliance.

Goal 2

Provide access and/or connections to health services that address the Region’s unmet health needs, including dental care, vision care and other preventative services.

Expected Impact

Reduction in preventable hospitalizations, reduction in proportion of people who can’t get prescription medications when needed, reduction in proportion of people who can’t get medical care when they need it and increase in childhood immunization rates.

Targeted Populations

Uninsured and underinsured, at 200% or below FPL, and individuals who are medically underserved.

Strategies

Vision screenings are available to Mercy Health patients through a partnership with **Prevent Blindness Ohio**, a local non-profit committed to reducing unnecessary vision loss and impairment by providing access to donated vision care services for uninsured and underinsured patients. Mercy Health Partnership Program staff are trained to conduct vision screenings and refer eligible participants for services through Prevent Blindness Ohio.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health – Cincinnati will track the number of participants assisted with vision needs through the Prevent Blindness Ohio program on a quarterly basis with a target of 100% eligible referred and ongoing improvement in completed appointments. This is a new program, so baseline will be established in 2023.

Mercy Care Clinics at Anderson and Clermont Hospitals provide critical primary care access to uninsured and underinsured patients in underserved communities at no cost to the patient.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health – Cincinnati will track the number of patients served through the Mercy Care Clinics as well as connections to prescription assistance programs and other clinical/community support with a goal of maintaining service levels from 2022.

Mercy Health School-based Health Centers provide critical health care access to students and their families by offering a location that is safe, convenient, and accessible. These health centers are strategically placed within medical deserts and are open to the community to help support the broader primary care needs. The school-based health team works alongside school leadership, community organizations and families to ensure children and adolescents have the resources they need to thrive in the classroom and beyond.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health – Cincinnati in conjunction with schools will track the number of patients supported and the percent of eligible students who are up to date on immunizations. The expected target is maintenance of the current service levels and performance based on 2021-2022 school year data.

Dental Assistance is available to Mercy Health patients through a partnership with CincySmiles, a local non-profit committed to ensuring all members of the community have access to oral health education, disease prevention, and discounted treatment services. Patients with low incomes presenting to the Emergency Department with dental needs are scheduled at CincySmiles for free services, often for exams, x-rays, fillings, and extractions. Mercy Health subsidizes the cost of this care on a case-by-case basis. Referrals made to CincySmiles are currently focused on the west side of Cincinnati.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health Cincinnati will track the number of Mercy patients provided dental assistance. The target is maintenance of the current service levels based on 2022 data.

Mercy Health Financial Assistance programs are designed to assist in finding resources that may help pay health care bills. Financial assistance is available for emergency and other medically necessary care to uninsured and underinsured patients whose family income does not exceed four times the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Mercy Health – Cincinnati is committed to providing care to everyone who seeks care regardless of his or her ability to pay and has a team of financial counselors who can assist patients in obtaining financial assistance and more sustainable health insurance coverage.

Strategic Measures(s)

Mercy Health Cincinnati will track the number of patients provided support through Mercy Health financial counselors.

Community Collaborations

Prevent Blindness Ohio, Dispensary of Hope, School districts in which clinics are located (Mt. Washington, Pleasant Hill, Saylor Park, Little Miami, Clermont Northeastern, and Southwest Local), CincySmiles, Bootsy Collins Foundation.

Community Resources Available

CEI Foundation, Federally Qualified Health Centers, St. Vincent de Paul, Kroger, Clermont County Safety Net Alliance, Ohio Health Care Assurance Program, and Department of Job and Family Services.

Goal 3

Expand resources and partnerships to support access to medications for financially strained patients.

Expected Impact

Reduction in preventable hospitalizations, and reduction in proportion of people who can't get prescription medications when needed.

Targeted Populations

Uninsured and underinsured, and Dispensary of Hope participants who are uninsured and at 300% or less FPL.

Strategies

Charitable Pharmacy is prescription assistance provided through a variety of settings. Hospital outpatient pharmacies provide free/reduced cost medications at discharge for patients with financial need. Mercy Health – Clermont Hospital is also a Dispensary of Hope partner, a charitable medication distributor providing donated medications that can be provided to patients free of charge. In 2023, Mercy Health will expand the services provided by Dispensary of Hope to support a small number of primary care practices in the Cincinnati Market who see a high number of uninsured patients. St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy also provides free medications to Mercy Health patients throughout Greater Cincinnati.

Strategic Measure(s)

Mercy Health – Cincinnati will track the number of unique prescriptions filled on an annual basis with a goal to increase in the number of unique prescriptions filled through Dispensary of Hope.

Community Collaborations

Harness Health, Dispensary of Hope, and St. Vincent DePaul.

Community Resources Available

The existing healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include pharmacies and primary care providers.

Board Approval

The Mercy Health – Cincinnati market 2023 Community Health Improvement Plan was approved by the Mercy Health – Cincinnati Market Board on April 25, 2023.

Board Signature  _____
Ed Babbitt, Chair

Date 4/25/2023 _____

For further information or to obtain a hard copy of this CHIP, please contact: Gina Hemenway, Executive Director, Community Health
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Mercy Health CHIP Website: <https://www.mercy.com/about-us/mission/giving-back/community-health-needs-assessment>