

Mercy Medical Center
Community Service Plan Executive Summary
2019-2021

We, at Catholic Health Services, humbly join together to bring Christ's healing mission and the mission of mercy of the Catholic Church expressed in Catholic health care to our communities.

Catholic Health Services of Long Island (CHS) is an integrated health care delivery system with some of the region's finest health and human services agencies. CHS includes six hospitals, three skilled nursing facilities, a regional home nursing service, hospice and a multiservice, community-based agency for persons with special needs. Under the sponsorship of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, CHS serves hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders each year, providing care that extends from the beginning of life to helping people live their final years in comfort, grace and dignity.

Selection of Community Health Priorities for 2019-2021

As a faith-based organization, the interventions and outreach provided to the community is rooted in our mission and is part of the health care ministry of the Catholic Church. These programs address needs of the community and the New York State (NYS) Prevention Agenda priorities for 2019-2021 to improve the health and well-being of all Long Islanders and to promote health equity in all populations who experience disparities.

Mercy Medical Center is a member of the Long Island Health Collaborative (LIHC), a grant-funded Population Health Improvement Program for Long Island. Collaborators include hospitals, Nassau and Suffolk County Health Departments, academic partners, community-based organizations, physicians, health plans, schools and libraries, local municipalities and other community partners who held a vested interest in improving community health and supporting the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Prevention Agenda.

In 2019, members of the LIHC reviewed extensive data sets selected from both primary and secondary data sources to identify and confirm prevention agenda priorities for the 2019-2021 community health needs assessment cycle. For detailed information about the data review, please refer to the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment.

Community partners selected the following areas of focus for Long Island from the New York State Prevention Agenda priorities:

1. Prevent Chronic Disease
Focus Area 4: Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Management
2. Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
Focus Area 2: Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevention

The health disparity that partners are focusing on is the inequities experienced by those in low-income neighborhoods. As such, low income—one social determinant of health—precludes members from these communities from accessing preventive and/or medical care due to their difficulty in affording copayments/deductibles (if insured) or care at all if they are uninsured. Additionally, financially-stressed individuals have difficulty affording nutritious foods, leaving them more vulnerable to poorer chronic disease management outcomes, since nutrition and diet play a pivotal role in almost every chronic disease.

Mercy Medical Center partners with community-based organizations in select communities to hold culturally relevant chronic disease management educational programs.

Summary of Interventions, Strategies and Community Outreach Activities

Prevent Chronic Disease

Goals and selected interventions concentrate on Focus Area 4: *Chronic Disease Preventive Care and Management*, with additional programming addressing other focus areas.

Interventions include:

- Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management education/workshop series (offered by the LIHC)
- Cultural Competency Health Literacy train-the-trainer program (offered by the LIHC)
- *Live Better* public information campaign (developed and managed by LIHC)
- To prevent illnesses, disease and other health problems, or to detect illness at an early stage, offer regularly scheduled preventive health screening in local communities, particularly those in medically-underserved communities, including blood pressure, body mass index (BMI), mammography, vein and mental health screenings
- *Healthy Sundays'* community outreach events held in collaboration with churches, houses of worship and communities. Events are held three to five times per year and include health screenings, education and referrals to care along with select partners offering free or discounted services.
- Monthly lectures, symposiums and education events.
- Smoking cessation programs are offered to reduce the risk of diseases caused by or affected by smoking.

Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders

Goals and selected interventions will concentrate on Focus Area 2: *Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevention* with additional programming in Focus Area 1: *Promote Well-Being*.

Interventions include:

- Promotion of all programs, events and education offered by LIHC members that speak to the prevention of mental and substance use disorders.
- Participation in local task forces addressing opioid use disorders.

- Support groups bring together people who are going through or have gone through similar experiences. Mercy Medical Center offers free support groups open to all community members and their families.
- Distribution of CHS's *Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services Guide* to CHS partners within the hospital and at hospital outreach events.
- An annual drug take-back day in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

In addition to the two selected New York State priority and focus areas, Mercy Medical Center also participates in community outreach activities that address other New York State Prevention Agenda priorities.

Promote Healthy Women, Infants and Children

- Mercy Medical Center hosts a breastfeeding café to promote the health benefits of breastfeeding and provide peer support to nursing mothers.
- Free adult and pediatric CPR classes are offered.

Promote a Healthy and Safe Environment

- Free, evidence-based fall prevention programs designed to improve balance and strength and help reduce falls and build confidence in older adults.

Prevent Communicable Diseases

- Offer free flu vaccinations at events in underserved communities, at Healthy Sundays outreach, hospital health fairs and other community venues.

To learn more about program data, projections and outcomes for the priority areas, please see the Mercy Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment and Attachment E found at <https://mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org/>

Living the Mission

The CHS mission is the driving force behind all community outreach activities. In addition to the interventions summarized above, Mercy Medical Center, along with the CHS Continuing Care Division, provide additional outreach programs that emphasize the health care ministry of the Catholic Church and social determinants of health.

CHS Mission and Social Determinants of Health

- American Heart Association Long Island Heart Walk
- American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
- Programs that support staff resiliency such as Code Lavender and daily prayer
- Blood drives supporting Long Island Blood Services
- Wounded Warrior Project soldier ride, supporting services and programs for wounded warriors
- Cancer Survivor celebrations
- EMS and EMT education events

- Babies' and Children's Memorial and Community Burial of the Unborn
- Collection drives for food, clothing and school supplies
- Adopt-a-family collections at Christmas

Dissemination of the Plan to the Public

The Mercy Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment and attachments are available to read or download from the hospital's website at <https://mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org/>. Copies are also available upon request.

Conclusion

The Community Service Plan is intended to be a dynamic document. Using the hospital's strengths and resources Mercy Medical Center, along with community partners, will continue to work to address health disparities and needs. The hospital strives to improve the overall health and well-being of individuals and families by expanding free health promotion and disease prevention education, screenings and programs in communities where they are most needed. Mercy Medical Center is committed to living the CHS mission, promoting good health, access to care and serving the community.