

# Hunterdon Medical Center

2016-2018

COMMUNITY NEEDS IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN

*Prepared by: Kim Blanda, RN, BSN*

*kblanda@hhsnj.org*

## Introduction

Hunterdon Medical Center (HMC), part of the Hunterdon Healthcare System (HHS) and the only hospital in Hunterdon County, opened its doors in 1953 and has since evolved into a sophisticated center for medical excellence. HMC serves residents in Hunterdon and its neighboring counties. It is a 178-bed teaching hospital that provides a full range of preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic inpatient and outpatient hospital, home and community health services. It treats over 8,300 inpatients annually, with 33,000 Emergency Department visits and over 292,000 outpatient visits per year. In addition, HHS is the largest employer in the county with approximately 2,380 full-time, part-time employees and over 400 volunteers.

Hunterdon Healthcare's mission and vision reaffirm HMC's commitment to provide the best healthcare possible and drive it to fulfill the needs of the community. This commitment to improve the health of the Hunterdon community has remained constant over its 60 plus year history, and will continue to do so.

***Mission:*** *Hunterdon Healthcare System delivers compassionate and exceptional care that improves the health of the community.*

***Vision:*** *Hunterdon Healthcare System is recognized as a national model for offering community focused health improvement that is consumer-centered and driven by a passion for excellence.*

## Community Health Needs Assessment

The Hunterdon County Partnership for Health (PFH), a collaboration that includes HMC and other county agencies such as schools, government, non-profit, business, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, and healthcare completed, in June 2016, a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify the health needs and issues of the Hunterdon County community. The CHNA identified seven health issues as priorities for Hunterdon County. They are: Obesity/Overweight (Focus on Healthy Weight), Transportation, Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Chronic Disease, Preventive Care, and Healthy Behaviors. The complete report can be found at <http://hunterdonhealthcare.org> under About Us- Community Needs.

## Strategies to Address Identified Priority Community Health Issues

Hunterdon Medical Center understands that collaboration is important in maintaining a healthy community. Working with other agencies enables the community to tackle complex issues more efficiently, effectively and with a broader reach. HMC is a key partner of the Partnership for Health, employing the PFH Coordinator, providing meeting space and administrative support and encouraging HMC employees to participate on Action Teams and attend quarterly meetings. HMC plans to continue its effort and collaboration with various agencies through the Partnership for Health and the Action Teams.

After much discussion and deliberation, Partnership for Health attendees reached consensus and identified obesity to be the priority health issue of Hunterdon County to be adopted for inclusion in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Three subcommittees or action teams, all concentrating on different challenges related to obesity, have been established: Access and Transportation, Mental Health, and Lifestyle/Behaviors. There will be a fourth committee responsible for communication. A member of the communication committee will sit on each of the three action teams for better collaboration and communication between Partnership for Health members and the community at large.

Action Team members are individuals with the expertise, passion, and knowledge to define attainable goals and objectives, and develop strategies to address obesity and its related challenges. In addition, Action Team members will also discuss and identify broad measures to track and measure both short-term and long-term progress and success in addressing each of the identified objectives.

Although the Partnership for Health will specifically address healthy weight in their Community Health Improvement Plan, HMC will address all of the needs identified in the CHNA as indicated below.

### ***Focus on Healthy Weight:***

**Goal:** Increase the number of Hunterdon County residents within a healthy weight range as defined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

#### **Outcome Measures:**

1. Increase the percentage of patients, ages 19 to 39 in our primary care practices with pre-diabetes, who receive their BMI measurement and a plan for achieving healthier weight, by 20 percentage points from 2015 to 2018.

2. Increase the percentage of adults (18 and over) in our primary care practices, with a BMI in the healthy weight range by 2.5% from 2015 to 2018.

### **Substance Abuse:**

**Goal:** Reduce the prevalence and incidence of substance abuse in Hunterdon County.

#### **Outcome Measures:**

1. Increase the percentage of patients, age 18 and above in the primary care setting with chronic opioid prescriptions (3 or more prescriptions for an opioid for over 20 pills each within the last 12 months) with a signed Controlled Substances Agreement, by 15 percentage points from 2015 to 2018.
2. Increase the percentage of patients, in the primary care setting with chronic opioid prescriptions in which the physician has documented in the electronic health record (EHR) using the New Jersey Rx Monitoring Program, by 15 percentage points from 2015 to 2018.
3. Decrease the number of patients in the primary care setting on chronic opioids by 10% from 2015 to 2018.

### **Mental Health:**

**Goal:** Increase the number of Hunterdon County residents being assessed for behavioral health treatment services.

#### **Outcome Measures:**

1. Increase the percentage of patients, age 65 and above in the primary care setting who have been screened for depression and have a plan to address depression within the last 12 months, by 15 percentage points from 2015 to 2018.
2. Increase the percentage of patients, age 65 and above in the primary care setting who have had a cognitive assessment (Mini-COG) at least once within the last 12 months, by 15 percentage points from 2015 to 2018.

## **Preventive Care/Chronic Disease Management:**

**Goal:** Empower patients to take measures to prevent disease and manage chronic illness.

### **Outcome Measures:**

1. Increase the percentage of patients, age 50 and above in the primary care setting who seek preventive care within the last 12 months, by 10 percentage points from 2015 to 2018.
2. Increase the percentage of Latino patients, in the primary care setting age 51-74 years who have been appropriately screened for colorectal cancer, by 10 percentage points.

## **Healthy Behaviors:**

**Goal:** Encourage Hunterdon County residents to choose healthy behaviors.

### **Outcome Measures:**

1. Increase the number of Hunterdon Healthcare System employees who have a primary care physician as documented in the Occupational Health electronic health record by 5 percentage points from 2015 to 2018.
2. Increase documentation (and therefore awareness) of “food insecurity” in the electronic health record (NextGen) in the primary care setting, for patients 65 and above.
3. Report quarterly during 2016\*, 2017 and 2018 on the percentage of patients age 13 and above in the primary care setting with a tobacco status taken within 12 months who use e-cigarettes. This information will be shared with the Hunterdon County Partnership for Health’s Healthy Behaviors Action Team. \*The first reporting period will be 2016 Q3 since documentation in the Tobacco Status template was developed during 2016.

## Community Needs Not Directly Addressed by HMC

### **Transportation:**

Addressing transportation issues in a rural area is complex involving public and private entities. Hunterdon Healthcare employed physician practices will collect data about patient transportation challenges and share this information with the Hunterdon Area Rural Transit (HART). As a non-profit corporation, HART promotes sustainable transportation in Hunterdon County by working with commuters, employers and communities and is spearheading efforts to improve transportation in Hunterdon County. HART is funded, in part, by the Federal Highway Administration via the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, NJ Department of Transportation, NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety, NJ TRANSIT and private funding sources.

**Goal:** Increase documentation of transportation challenges experienced by patients and supply information to Hunterdon Area Rural Transit (HART).

### **Outcome Measure:**

1. Report quarterly during 2016, 2017 and 2018 on the percentage of patients reporting transportation as a barrier to care as documented in the electronic health record Care Coordination template implemented during 2016.

## Collaboration with other agencies

Hunterdon Medical Center will collaborate with over 50 agencies throughout the Hunterdon County region, in order to address the issues identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment and outlined in this Community Needs Implementation Plan.

### List of agencies (Partnership for Health Members):

- American Heart Association
- Anderson House
- Easter Seals- New Jersey
- Cancer Coalition of Hunterdon and Mercer
- Calvary Episcopal Church
- Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
- Delaware Valley Family Health Center
- Fisherman's Mark
- Flemington Jewish Community Center
- Francis Desmares Elementary School

- Flemington Area Food Pantry
- HART Commuter Information Services
- Hunterdon Care Center
- Hunterdon Cardiovascular Associates
- Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce
- Hunterdon County Residents
- Hunterdon County Department of Human Services
- Hunterdon County Division of Health
- Hunterdon County Division of Senior, Disabilities and Veterans Services
- Hunterdon County Economic Development
- Hunterdon County Medication Access Partnership
- Hunterdon County Medical Reserve Corps
- Hunterdon County Office of the Prosecutor
- Hunterdon County Parks and Recreation
- Hunterdon County Public Health Nursing and Education
- Hunterdon County Superintendent Office
- Hunterdon County YMCA
- Hunterdon Drug Awareness Program
- Hunterdon Helpline
- Hunterdon Healthcare System
- Hunterdon HealthCare Partners
- Hunterdon Medical Center
  - Center for Healthy Aging
  - Center for Nutrition and Diabetes Management
  - Home Health Services
  - Hunterdon Behavioral Health
  - HMC Foundation
  - Hunterdon Regional Cancer Center
- Hunterdon/Mercer Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- Hunterdon Pediatric Associates
- Hunterdon Regional Community Health
  - Hunterdon Hospice
  - Visiting Health and Supportive Services
  - Hunterdon Lifeline
  - Hunterdon Integrative Medicine
- Hunterdon and Mercer County Regional Chronic Disease Coalition
- Hunterdon Prevention Resources
- Latino Healthcare Access Committee
- NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection

- NJ SNAP- Ed
- Phillips Barber Family Health Center
- Raritan Valley Community College
- Readington Township Board of Health
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension Services
- Safe Communities Coalition of Hunterdon and Somerset County
- State of New Jersey- Department of Education
- Shoprite of Hunterdon County
- Templo Internacional de Restauracion
- United Way of Hunterdon County
- Zufall Health

## Conclusion

HMC will continue its collaboration with Partnership for Health and Action Team members. It will also seek to build new relationships with other organizations to help better address the identified community health needs. Hunterdon County has been ranked the healthiest in New Jersey by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute's County Health Rankings for the past seven years. However, there are still a range of concerns and problems that impact the health and welfare of the community. This implementation plan provides a broad view of HMC's goals and expected outcomes, and the partnerships it will enhance to address the identified needs. Activities, programs and interventions will continuously be monitored, evaluated and improved, to ensure that they are effectively promoting the quality of life and the health status of the Hunterdon Community.

## Approval

Hunterdon Medical Center Board Approval:

By: Colleen Carr Date: 10/31/16

Colleen Carr

Assistant Secretary

Hunterdon Medical Center Board of Trustees