

Lehigh Valley Health Network 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan





IMPLEMENTATION PLAN INTRODUCTION

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Implementation Plan outlines how Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) will be responsive to health needs we identified in the [CHNA Health Profiles](#) over the next three years and beyond. Based on the prioritization process outlined in the 2019 CHNA Process Overview, LVHN has prioritized five areas that will be addressed in the Implementation Plan:

- 1. Behavioral Health**
- 2. Access to Care for Vulnerable Populations**
- 3. Inclusion and Diversity**
- 4. Health Promotion and Prevention**
- 5. Social Determinants of Health**

These five priority areas address many of the health needs highlighted by the community and LVHN CHNA Executive Teams as presented in the 2019 CHNA Process Overview document. In addition, they build on the work highlighted in the 2016 CHNA Implementation Plan. Those efforts that were signaling early successes will be continued and further deepened in this next CHNA Implementation Plan.

Caring for an entire community – whether that is a county, town or neighborhood – takes a team of dedicated people. Recognizing that health care only contributes a small portion to the overall health outcomes of the community, LVHN believes in partnering with other sectors and stakeholders to address health-related issues in

communities where our patient population is most accessible. Our intention around collaboration with community entities is illustrated by the wide range of community partners listed throughout the implementation plan, including government agencies, nonprofit agencies and school districts.

Health needs that were identified in the CHNA Introduction but are not being explicitly addressed, such as health needs of an aging population, are not listed because of a lack of resources, partners or clear strategy. There is continually work underway to address all of the health needs that are identified; however, for the 2019 CHNA Implementation Plan, we are focusing on five areas that we would like to see improve over the next few years as we work with partners and our community members.

We will continually measure the impact of initiatives outlined at left over the next three years. This evaluation will include indicators that will demonstrate the reach of the efforts, such as number of participants or number of events; impact of the initiatives, including obtaining health insurance, improvement in behavioral health outcomes and improvement in healthy eating; and an economic analysis to show the economic and social value of these initiatives.

We hope information in the 2019 CHNA Health Profiles and Implementation Plan encourages you to join our quest to make the five counties LVHN represents a better, healthier place to live.





**CC/17/M – LVH–Cedar Crest
LVH–17th Street
LVH–Muhlenberg**

H – LVH–Hazleton

S – LVH–Schuylkill

P – LVH–Pocono

Priority Area: Behavioral Health

Initiatives	CC/17/M	H	S	P	Community Partners
1. Address mental health needs of the community through prevention, coordination, collaboration and innovation.					
Prevention: Decrease stigma and increase skills of professionals and community members to recognize mental health concerns and promote mental wellness.	■	■	■	■	Schuylkill County VISION (S) Hazleton Integration Project (H) Local School Districts (CC/17/M)
Coordination: Centralize the referral process to outpatient behavioral health services, particularly for depression, through the deployment of a referral coordinator.	■				
Collaboration: Participate in and take a leadership role within community-based Trauma-Informed Care Collaboratives to create more trauma-informed communities.	■		■		
Innovation: Reduce barriers to mental health services through use of technology, including tele-psychiatry in community-based interventions, tele-therapy, app deployment and eConsults.	■	■	■		
Innovation: Reduce barriers to mental health services through the provision of behavioral health services in school settings.	■				
2. Decrease risk for the development of substance use disorder and improve access to addiction treatment.					
Linkages to treatment: Collaborate with addiction service providers and county drug and alcohol in each county to establish an effective warm hand-off process from the health care system to drug and alcohol services to reduce gaps in care.	■	■	■	■	County Drug and Alcohol Services Drug and Alcohol Treatment Providers
Opioid stewardship: Provide education to health care providers and staff around safe prescribing, and implement pain management tool kits to reduce opioid utilization and over-prescribing.	■	■	■	■	
3. Provide education, increase awareness and decrease stigma by collaborating with the community to prevent suicide.					
Suicide prevention: Participate in cross-sector County Suicide Prevention Task Forces to coordinate and promote suicide prevention efforts in the community.	■		■	■	Youth Employment Service (P) County Mental Health Services Schuylkill County VISION (S)
Zero suicide: Reduce the number of suicides per year at Lehigh Valley Health Network through standardized screening and use of evidence-based interventions in health care encounters.	■			■	

Priority Area: Access to Care for Vulnerable Populations

Initiatives	CC/17/M	H	S	P	Community Partners
1. Reduce barriers to care for vulnerable populations.					
Individuals experiencing homelessness: Provide health care to individuals experiencing homelessness through the Street Medicine Program.	■				Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley
Veterans: Provide greater access to benefits and health care through the Veterans Health Program.	■				
Health care transportation: Provide daily transportation through a van service from Schuylkill County to health care services in the Lehigh Valley for community members living in rural areas.			■		
2. Assist patients to obtain necessary medications at a more affordable cost.					
Obtain costly prescription medications at a lower cost to the patient to reduce cost of health care services.	■				
3. Connect to health insurance.					
Facilitate health insurance application for coverage for the uninsured to increase access to health care.	■		■	■	PATHS

Priority Area: Inclusion and Diversity

Initiatives	CC/17/M	H	S	P	Community Partners
1. Language and communication					
Interpreter services: Increase ability for patients to obtain care in their primary language by implementing innovative strategies to support access to interpretation at all health care service sites.	■	■	■	■	Cross-Cultural Health Care Program
2. Support development of a culturally competent organization.					
Staff education: Provide staff training and education on populations with special needs at each of our campuses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQ populations and patients with disabilities (CC/17/M) • Cultural differences in patient populations (S/H) • Poverty (P) 	■	■	■	■	Pocono Mountains United Way (P) Hazleton Integration Project (H)

Priority Area: Health Promotion and Prevention

Initiative	CC/17/M	H	S	P	Community Partners
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1. Promote free and low-cost health care screenings in communities with underserved populations.

Promote free and low-cost screenings for chronic conditions and cancer screenings in neighborhoods where vulnerable populations are located in order to increase utilization of these services and early detection.	■	■	■	■	Health Bureaus
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Priority Area: Social Determinants of Health

Initiatives	CC/17/M	H	S	P	Community Partners
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1. Improve access to healthy food and reduce obesity rates in our communities.

In-school education: Promote healthy eating habits and physical activity in youth through in-school education.	■	■	■	■	Kellyn Foundation (LV), Weller (LV/H) Local School Districts
Healthy lifestyle: Promote utilization of trails and parks, explore a Wellness Park and implement Healthy Lifestyle program to promote physical activity and weight loss.				■	
Healthy communities: Promote healthy food and nutrition through development of community gardens throughout the county.			■		Schuylkill County VISION
Mobile Market Initiative: Provide access to healthy food for LVHN colleagues in the Lehigh Valley, community organizations and local residents who typically have limited access to fresh, organic foods – double SNAP points and WIC accepted; offer cooking and nutrition education for participants who visit the mobile market.	■				Rodale Institute

2. Partner with community organizations to minimize barriers to safe and healthy housing and decrease impacts of poverty.

Collaborate with PA legal aid service entities to remove barriers to safe and stable housing for vulnerable patients through referrals to legal aid services or through a full medical-legal partnership.	■		■	■	North Penn Legal Services (LV/P) Mid-Penn Legal Services (S) Pocono Mountains United Way (P)
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(LV) = Lehigh and Northampton Counties, (S) = Schuylkill County, (P) = Monroe County, (H) = Luzerne County



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