

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF RICHMOND OF THE VCU HEALTH SYSTEM

# Community Health Needs Assessment

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FY 2017-19 Implementation Strategies

Approved by Board of Directors

10/19/2016

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**Community Health Needs Assessment  
Implementation Plan for  
Children’s Hospital of Richmond of the  
Virginia Commonwealth University Health System**

**FY 2017-2019**

**I. Introduction and Purpose**

This written plan is intended to satisfy the requirements set forth in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(r)(3) regarding community health needs assessments and implementations strategies. The overall purpose of the implementation strategy is to align the hospital’s limited resources, services, and activities with the findings of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that was performed in Spring 2016.

**A. Description of Hospital**

Children’s Hospital of Richmond of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (“Hospital”) provides specialty pediatric post-acute care thru outpatient rehabilitative therapies; inpatient long term care for children with medical complexities; and pediatric specialty dental care, including operative services. These services are provided at locations on the main campus that has 47 staffed beds and 5 community therapy centers.

**Rehabilitative Therapy Services:**

Occupational therapy services include evaluation and treatment for daily living/self-care skills; fine motor & handwriting skills; oral-motor & feeding skills; visual motor & perceptual skills and sensory integration/processing. Physical therapy services include evaluation and treatment for balance & coordination skills; developmental skills; flexibility & posture; gait training; gross motor skills; orthopedic/sports-related injuries and strengthening. Speech and Language Pathology services include evaluation and treatment for articulation & language skills; cognitive skills; feeding & swallowing skills; fluency; oral-motor function; pragmatic language & social skills; and voice therapy.

**Assistive Technology Services:**

Evaluation and training services for children and adults for the following: assistive daily living aids; augmentative communication; classroom, home or work-related modifications; computer access/adaptations; environmental controls; independent living evaluations; positioning aids; orthotics & head pointers; and wheelchairs & seating. Services include a state of the art “Smart Suite” available for evaluation and training.

**Feeding Disorders Services:**

Designed for children who have a medical condition that has affected their feeding and growth. Interdisciplinary services include behavioral and feeding therapy provided by occupational and speech/language therapists, nutritionists, psychologists with special training in feeding issues. Treatment addresses medical, developmental, behavioral, social, oral motor, and sensory feeding issues.

#### Nutrition Services:

Registered dietitians/nutritionists serve children and adolescents with complex medical issues or specific concerns. Services include medical nutrition therapy; nutrition screenings and counseling.

#### Dental Services:

Pediatric and endodontic dentistry provided to children from approximately one year to 21 years old. Services include diagnostic, preventive, and restorative care by pediatric dentists, endodontic specialist and pediatric dental residents under the supervision of the dentists. In addition to chair side care, more complex care is provided under general anesthesia in the outpatient operative suite.

#### Long Term Care Services:

The Transitional Care Unit is a 47-bed long-term inpatient program serving children from infancy to age 21. To receive services the child must have ongoing health conditions that require both medical and nursing supervision, and specialized equipment or services. The children in this program receive interdisciplinary care under the direction of a pediatric physician.

#### Psychology Services:

The Hospital's Psychology Department specializes in working with children from birth to age 17 who have psychological needs related to medical, emotional and behavioral issues, and neuropsychological evaluations following a neurological injury or illness. Psychologists provide individual and family therapy, behavioral consultation and a variety of evaluations, for hospitalized patients and through outpatient referrals.

### **B. Hospital's Mission**

The Hospital's mission is to be a complete and supportive resource where children and their families find the medical and therapeutic services they need to thrive.

The community benefit that the Hospital provides includes:

- Patient care provided on a charitable basis,
- Participation in research,
- Health professions education,
- Medicaid shortfall and,
- Community outreach programs.

### **II. Community Definition**

The Hospital services area includes 51 zip codes adjacent to its six locations. Most of these zip codes fall within the counties of Chesterfield, Henrico, King George, Powhatan, Spotsylvania and Stafford and the cities of Colonial Heights, Fredericksburg, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond.

### **III. How Implementation Strategy was Developed**

This implementation strategy was developed by members of the leadership team of the Hospital representing several departments within the organization including clinical, administration and support. This strategy will be reviewed and used to guide the

Hospital in determining whether changes should be made to better address the health needs of its communities.

#### **IV. Goals of the Implementation Strategy**

- A. Community Focus: Positively impact the health and wellbeing of the members of the communities we serve
- B. Value: Continually strive to increase the quality and efficiency of care that is delivered
- C. Knowledge: Actively support and train the next generation of health care professionals and build an engaged workforce

#### **V. Summary of the Community Health Needs Identified**

Secondary data and key stakeholder feedback were reviewed to identify and analyze the needs raised by each source. (Please see the attached Community Health Needs Assessment for more details.) The top health needs of the Children's Hospital community include those that are supported by the data and feedback provided in the assessment:

- A. Children's Health Support
  - Learning more about the child's health and developmental needs
- B. Children's Health Conditions
  - Childhood Asthma
  - Low Birth Weight
  - Behavioral Health
  - Childhood Obesity
  - Disabilities (intellectual and developmental)

#### **VI. Implementation Strategies**

##### **Key Objectives:**

Provide care to children requiring post-acute rehabilitative and restorative care; provide training for disciplines focused on the care of children with disabilities; and advocate for those with disabilities. Due to the rehabilitative specialty focus of the Hospital it cannot directly address certain community health needs identified in the assessment. However, it can and does support other agencies to help with these needs.

The Hospital is affiliated with the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System ("VCUHS") and is component of the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU (CHoR) that is Central Virginia's only comprehensive, full-service children's hospital. As Virginia's only Level 1 pediatric trauma center, CHoR offers a wide range of children's health services, including pediatric emergency services, primary care, specialty and subspecialty care, burn, trauma, transplant and long-term care. With more than 15 locations across Central Virginia, CHoR provides pediatric inpatient and outpatient services that cover nearly all children's health-related needs. CHoR is committed to

ensuring access to care for all children, training future pediatric caregivers and making new discoveries that improve understanding and treatment of childhood diseases.

### **Children's Health Support**

The Hospital's advocacy efforts are supported by the Office of Government Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University. The office serves as a liaison among the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, agencies of the Commonwealth, Richmond City Council local boards of supervisors and Virginia's congressional delegation. Government Relations cultivates relationships with elected and appointed government officials in an effort to secure financial and legislative support.

In collaboration with the Children's Hospital Foundation the Hospital supports a variety of pediatric initiatives and outreach programs for the general community, such as Health and Safety Days in Richmond and Petersburg, Fire Prevention Day in Richmond and the Dental Outreach Program. Every year, these programs educate thousands of young children and give them the tools and knowledge to lead safe and healthy lives.

The CHoR Community Health Education Center provides patients, families and the public up-to-date information from reliable sources about health and medicine. Resources include books, journals, videos and computers with internet connections. The center is staffed by a full-time health sciences librarian, a part-time library assistant, and trained volunteers.

#### **A. Children's Health Conditions** **Childhood Asthma**

CHoR has the region's only pediatric severe asthma clinic, staffed by both allergists and pulmonologists. This comprehensive, blended approach to evaluation and management enhances the care for children with chronic asthma, while decreasing the time commitment for both children and their families. Parents and children also receive education and training in a number of areas including asthma education; use and cleaning of inhaled medication and delivery devices; airway clearance methods and equipment; and administration of inhaled medications.

#### **Low Birth Weight**

Within VCUHS, the Obstetrics and Gynecology services are dedicated to providing comprehensive reproductive and gynecologic care to women of all ages. Care is provided for pregnancies affected by illnesses that can lead to a complicated pregnancy or impact the baby. Also, the most medically complex newborns in Central Virginia get the dedicated, specialized care they require in the region's most up-to-date neonatal intensive care unit. There is a large team of dedicated and experienced health care professionals that enables VCUHS to offer complete Level 3+ neonatal services – the highest level available.

#### **Behavioral Health Conditions**

The VCUHS Virginia Treatment Center for Children (“VTCC”) provides services for children and adolescents with mental health issues ranging from depression and ADD/ADHD to anxiety, autism spectrum disorder and behavioral problems at home and school. VTCC offers both inpatient programs – including acute care crisis stabilization and evaluations – and outpatient programs – including evaluations, family and individual therapy and specialty clinics.

The Hospital’s Psychology Department specializes in working with children from birth to age 17 who have psychological needs related to medical, emotional and behavioral issues, and neuropsychological evaluations following a neurological injury or illness. Psychologists provide individual and family therapy, behavioral consultation and a variety of evaluations, for hospitalized patients and through outpatient referrals.

### **Childhood Obesity**

The Hospital provides registered dietitians services for children and adolescents with complex medical issues or specific concerns. Services include medical nutrition therapy; nutrition screenings and counseling.

The CHoR Healthy Lifestyles Center aims to stem the rising tide of childhood obesity by promoting healthy weight management, eating, exercise and lifestyle habits that can last a lifetime. The Healthy Lifestyles Clinic team works with children and their families to identify and modify behavioral (e.g., exercise) and psychological (e.g., stress) factors that contribute to obesity, and to promote healthy eating and exercise habits for a lifetime.

### **Disabilities**

The CHoR Child Development Clinic is committed to providing comprehensive developmental assessments for children and youth who are suspected of having developmental delays and/or disabilities. The staff offers medical, psychological, social work, evaluations and testing to assist in making a diagnosis. Recommendations are generated from the evaluations for parents and other professionals to assist with care planning, referrals, follow-up care coordination, and intervention services.

The Hospital provides Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech and Language Pathology services that are based on a plan of care that is individualized for each patient based on his/her therapeutic needs. Rehabilitation patients may be given responsibility for performing minor tasks as part of their therapeutic plan. Such assignments are made through a collaborative team approach, which includes the patient and family. The plan is adjusted based on ongoing assessments, reassessment and any associated diagnostic testing. The patient’s assessed learning needs and abilities are used to provide education and training through an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach.

## **VII. Other Needs Identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment**

Each of the health needs identified in the attached Community Health Needs Assessment is important and many are being addressed by numerous program and initiatives throughout VCUHS. The Hospital cannot directly address certain community

health needs that do not relate to its mission. These may be needs that governmental or other non-profit agencies have the more appropriate expertise and resources necessary to address. Although the Hospital cannot address these needs directly, it can and does support the efforts of governmental and other agencies to help with these needs.

**VIII. Board Approval of Implementation Strategies**

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Hospital on October 19, 2016.