

Lehigh Valley Health Network 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan



INTRODUCTION

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Implementation Plan outlines how Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) will be responsive to the health needs identified in the CHNA Health Profiles over the next three years and beyond. Based on the prioritization process outlined below, each Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) campus has prioritized two initiatives that will be addressed in the Implementation Plan and are specific to that county's community.

The priority areas outlined in this report address many of the health needs raised by the community and were selected by LVHN campus leadership based on three criteria:



MAGNITUDE/IMPACT: To what extent is this health priority a large-scale pressing need in the community?



CAPACITY: Does LVHN already have initiatives underway that we can build on? Or do we have the bandwidth to take this on either alone or through partnership?



ALIGNMENT: Does this align with already established LVHN clinical, community and population health goals?

In addition, they build on the work highlighted in the 2019 CHNA Implementation Plan. Those efforts that were signaling early successes will be continued and further deepened in this CHNA Implementation Plan.

Caring for an entire community – whether that is a county, town, neighborhood or group of underserved individuals – 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 the communities where our patient population is most accessible. Our intention around partnering with community entities is reflected in the wide range of Community Partners listed throughout the Implementation Plan, including nonprofit agencies and school districts.

We also recognize that there are many more health-related concerns that are not explicitly addressed in this plan and that many of the health-related concerns and social determinants are often interdependent. While there is continuous work underway to address all of the health needs that are identified, the 2022 CHNA Implementation Plan focuses these efforts on two areas that we hope to see demonstrable improvements in over the next few years.

Therefore, LVHN will measure the impact of the initiatives outlined below over the next three years. This evaluation will include indicators that will demonstrate the reach of the efforts, such as the number of participants or number of events; the 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, where possible. Some of the measures of success that will be tracked over the next three years are outlined with each initiative below.

We hope the information in the 2022 CHNA Health Profiles and Implementation Plan encourages you to join our quest to make the seven counties LVHN represents a better, healthier place to live.

CARBON COUNTY (LVH-CARBON)

1. School-based behavioral health services

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse, particularly among youth
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Increase access to behavioral health care for students by providing access to on-site or telehealth care and provide services to students and their families using trauma-informed, evidence-based, family-allied and culturally responsive approaches
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
Jim Thorpe Area School District, Lehighon Area School District
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of students provided mental health services within the county
 - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
 - The number of youth with a positive screening for suicide during treatment (C-SSRS)
 - Rates of depression, anxiety and substance abuse among those youth served
 - Improvement in youths' ability to function in school
 - In-kind hours provided

2. Access to primary care and other preventive services in rural areas

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Lack of primary care providers and services throughout the county, close to residents' homes; transportation and other barriers to accessing care in rural areas because of travel distance to service locations

- **APPROACH FOR 2022-025:** Assess need for primary care and preventive services throughout the county and expand primary care practices, health care service access points, and preventive health screening opportunities throughout the county, particularly in rural areas.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of new primary care practices and health care service access points
 - The number of preventive health screening events
 - The number of patients receiving preventive health screenings



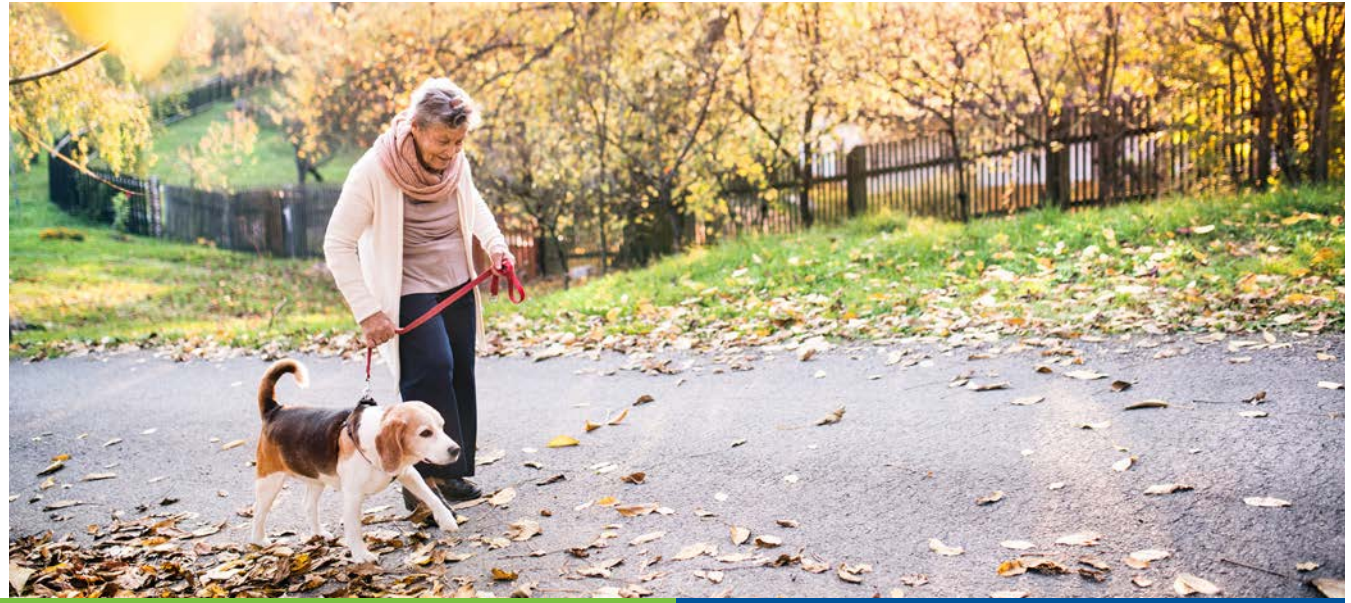
LACKAWANNA COUNTY (LVH-DICKSON CITY)

1. Food access, particularly for children and families

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Residents' lifestyles have become more sedentary, and opportunities for healthy food access and physical activity are limited. Additional supports for development of healthy habits early in life and investments in community assets, like parks and trails, is needed.
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Given the new presence in Dickson City, explore and develop partnerships with community-based organizations that provide healthy food in the community to increase access for patients at LVH-Dickson City.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
To be determined
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of food and nutrition-related partnerships established with LVH-Dickson City

2. Mental health prevention and education

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse and the stigma associated with mental health needs
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Decrease stigma and increase the skills of professionals and community members to recognize mental health concerns and promote mental wellness
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of behavioral health awareness events LVHN is a partner of or hosts
 - The number of mental health awareness or skill-building trainings held and the number of participants



LEHIGH COUNTY (LVH-CEDAR CREST AND LVH-17TH STREET)

1. Mental health prevention and education

- **HEALTH CONCERN:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse and the stigma associated with mental health needs
- **APPROACH FOR 2022–2025:** Decrease stigma and increase the skills of professionals and community members to recognize mental health concerns and promote mental wellness
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of behavioral health awareness events LVHN is a partner of or hosts
 - The number of mental health awareness or skill-building trainings held and the number of participants



2. School-based behavioral health services

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse, particularly among youth
- **APPROACH FOR 2022–2025:** Increasing access to behavioral health care for students by providing access to on-site or telehealth care, and provide services to students and their families using trauma-informed, evidence-based, family-allied and culturally responsive approaches
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable): Allentown School District, East Penn School District, Executive Education Academy Charter School, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute, Southern Lehigh School District, Whitehall School District
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of students provided mental health services within the county
 - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
 - The number of youth with a positive screening for suicide during treatment (C-SSRS)
 - Rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse among those youth served
 - Improvement in youths' ability to function in school
 - In-kind hours provided



- 1) $(x+2)(x+3)=0$
- 2) $(4x+3)(x-3)=0$
- 3) $(2x-5)(3x+2)=0$
- 4) $(4x+8)(2x-8)=0$
- 5) $(5x-15)(4x-2)=0$
- 6) $(9x-12)(5x+20)=0$

$$x^2 - 20 = 5$$

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 $x \neq 0$

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Practice Time

$x = ?$

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LUZERNE COUNTY (LVH-HAZLETON)

1. School-based behavioral health and preventive health services for youth

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse, particularly among youth; rising obesity rates; significant socio-economic disadvantages, particularly among the Hispanic population
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Provide mental health services and preventive health services to children in Hazleton, including dental services and immunizations. Increase access to behavioral health care for students by providing access to on-site or telehealth care, and provide services to students and their families using trauma-informed, evidence-based, family-allied and culturally responsive approaches.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
Hazleton Area School District
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of students provided mental health services within the county
 - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
 - The number of youth with a positive screening for suicide during treatment (C-SSRS)
 - Rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse among those youth served
 - Improvement in youths' ability to function in school
 - In-kind mental health service hours provided
 - The number of children immunized
 - The number of children receiving dental services

2. Address language barriers in health care to improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Barriers to health care or difficulty in access health-related services due to language barriers.
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Diversify the staff at LVH-Hazleton to be more reflective of the community being served, including through human resource recruitment and workforce development efforts
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
Dominican House, Hazleton Integration Project
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of bilingual staff hired for open positions at LVH-Hazleton
 - Increased access to services provided in Spanish



MONROE COUNTY (LVH-POCONO)

1. Expansion of behavioral health services

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse and the stigma associated with mental health needs, as well as limited access to behavioral health services in the county
- **APPROACH FOR 2022–2025:** Increase the number of behavioral health providers and services through the emergency department and outpatient settings at LVH–Pocono. Decrease stigma and increase the skills of professionals and community members to recognize mental health concerns and promote mental wellness.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of patients served in the emergency department and through outpatient practices for behavioral health concerns
 - The number of behavioral health awareness events LVHN is a partner of or hosts
 - The number of mental health awareness or skill-building trainings held and the number of participants

2. Diabetes prevention

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing rates of diabetes in the communities in Monroe County due in part to poor food habits and choices. There is a need for prevention programs to decrease the risk for developing diabetes.
- **APPROACH FOR 2022–2025:** Provide individual and group-based prevention and education efforts through the Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Living Program and dietitian services to increase awareness and address the influences of diabetes, including physical activity, healthy eating and mental health.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable): N/A
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of prevention and education efforts led by the dietitian at LVH–Pocono and surrounding communities.
 - The number of participants in these prevention and education efforts
 - Diabetes rates among LVH–Pocono patients



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY (LVH-MUHLENBERG AND LVH-HECKTOWN OAKS)

1. Mental health prevention and education

- **HEALTH CONCERN:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse and the stigma associated with mental health needs
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Decrease stigma and increase the skills of professionals and community members to recognize mental health concerns and promote mental wellness
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of behavioral health awareness events LVHN is a partner of or hosts
 - The number of mental health awareness or skill-building trainings held and the number of participants

2. School-based behavioral health services

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing mental health concerns, including increased substance abuse, particularly among youth
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Increase access to behavioral health care for students by providing access to on-site or telehealth care, and provide services to students and their families using trauma-informed, evidence-based, family-allied and culturally responsive approaches
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
 - Bethlehem School District, Easton Area School District
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of students provided mental health services within the county
 - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
 - The number of youth with a positive screening for suicide during treatment (C-SSRS)
 - Rates of depression, anxiety and substance abuse among those youth served
 - Improvement in youths' ability to function in school
 - In-kind hours provided

3. Housing instability

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Increasing housing-related costs is leading to unstable housing as well as increased eviction rates in the county.
- **APPROACH FOR 2022-2025:** Strengthen partnership between the health system, county partners, and community-based organizations to reduce gaps in unstable housing as patients are released from the hospital.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable):
 - Northampton County Community and Economic Development, North Penn Legal Services, Valley Health Partners
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of patients that inpatient case management connects to county- and community-based services related to housing concerns
 - The number of referrals to North Penn Legal Services for patients facing potential eviction and other housing-related issues
 - The number of opportunities created to obtain preventive and wellness services at housing facilities in Northampton County

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY (LVH-SCHUYLKILL)

1. Healthy lifestyle

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Lack of opportunity for physical activity and increasing obesity rates; increased rates of diabetes
- **APPROACH FOR 2022–2025:** In partnership with LVH-Schuylkill, Schuylkill County VISION will support and implement programming and policy efforts to increase physical activity and healthy eating, as well as promote wellness.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable): Schuylkill County VISION
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - Frequency of use of QR codes on walking trails (visits to website)
 - Obesity rates
 - The number of people participating in wellness events
 - The number of repeat participants in wellness events
 - The number of policies implemented in communities

2. Access to primary care and other preventive services in rural areas

- **NEED PRIORITIZED:** Lack of primary care providers and services throughout the county, close to residents' homes; transportation and other barriers to accessing care in rural areas because of travel distance to service locations
- **APPROACH FOR 2022–2025:** Assess need for primary care and preventive services throughout the county, and expand primary care practices, health care service access points and preventive health screening opportunities throughout the county, particularly in rural areas.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS** (if applicable): Schuylkill County VISION
- **METRICS OF SUCCESS:**
 - The number of new primary care providers and practices and health care service access points
 - The number of preventive health screening events
 - The number of patients receiving preventive health screenings



