# ADVOCATE LUTHERAN GENERAL HOSPITAL 2021 COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

#### A PROGRESS REPORT ON OUR 2020-2022 IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Every three years, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital completes a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) by collecting and analyzing demographic and health data, as well as gathering input from community residents through a community health survey.

For the 2017-2019 CHNA, Advocate Lutheran General worked with the Community Health Council (CHC) to review the significant health issues affecting the primary service area (PSA). In addition, Advocate Lutheran General works in alignment with the Alliance for Health Equity (AHE). The AHE is one of the largest collaborative hospital-community partnerships in the country with the current involvement of 30+ nonprofit and public hospitals, seven local health departments, and more than 100+ community organizations serving on action teams.

In 2021, due to the ongoing concerns of COVID-19, the Community Health Department across Advocate Aurora Health (AAH) shifted its strategies to meet the immediate needs of the community. AAH enhanced preventive services to address COVID-19 by increasing access to free vaccination clinic, health education, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), COVID-19 community testing and several other immediate services. At Advocate Lutheran General, community programs continued to thrive through the pandemic, bringing forth resources to communities identified in the 2017-2019 CHNA report.

#### **Priority: Healthy Lifestyles**

### **Program Outcomes for 2021**



Partners Involved: Irving Park Food Pantry, Advocate Diabetes Care Center, Advocate Bone Marrow Transplant Center, Advocate Nesset Pavilion, ACH-PR Care Management, Produce Alliance, Skokie School District 69, Belmont Cragin Early Childhood Center

- The Lutheran General Hospital-Based Pantry was created in December of 2020 to serve food insecure patients. In 2021, the pantry served a total of 71 patients and continues to expand into multiple departments within Advocate Lutheran General. Additionally, the Community Heath team is working with hospital departments to establish a fresh produce, home delivery program.
- Advocate Lutheran General partnered with Produce Alliance and Belmont-Cragin Early Childhood Center to establish a Pop-up Pantry for local residents. Through this partnership, our team was able to distribute over 6,000 boxes; roughly 186,000 pounds of food was distributed to food insecure communities. From February 2021 through the end of May 2021, the program offered weekly access to healthy food.
- Additionally, Advocate Lutheran General partnered with Skokie School District 69 to implement a Pop-up Produce Market for families that screened positive for food insecurity. The program offered fresh produce for 50 families per event, a total of four events were organized at the end of 2021. A dietitian was also onsite to offer health education to families.

#### **Priority: Behavioral Health**

#### **Program Outcomes for 2021**



- Advocate Lutheran General's Community Health team partnered with Sertoma Centre to implement two, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings for Advocate Lutheran General's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) department and local health professionals.
- A total of 40, hospital and community, health professionals were trained, in person, by two MHFA instructors from the Sertoma Centre. The two trainings included fire fighters, paramedics, fire chiefs, dispatchers, tele communicators and other health professionals. One cohort included 19 participants, the second cohort included 21 participants.
- Partners Involved: Advocate Lutheran General's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) team, Sertoma Center, Turning Point, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's Behavioral Health Department
- Advocate Lutheran General also partners with Turning Point in Skokie to support the Living Room program, which provides mental health services for those in crises. Support is provided through trainings and workshops for Turning Points Living Room staff.

#### **Priority: Workforce Development**

#### **Program Outcomes for 2021**



- Advocate Lutheran General continues to work with School D207 to offer paid internships and hands on experience to local high school students that are interested in joining the healthcare workforce after graduation. Lutheran General also aims to provide permanent employment to students.
- Advocate Lutheran General's Community Health team provided two orientations to JumpStart students placed in internships at Lutheran General Hospital. Seven students completed the orientation and were placed in paid internships with Advocate Lutheran General's Food and Nutrition department.
- **Partners Involved:** District 207, Maine East High School and JumpStart Youth Employment Program
- In partnership with Maine East School District 207 and Advocate Lutheran General's Licensed Clinical Social Worker, a one hour, stress management workshop was held for local high school students. The program focused on stress management in the workplace and offered coping strategies. A total of 30 students attended the virtual workshop.

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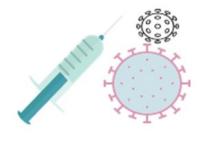
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#### **Accomplishments in 2021**

#### **COVID-19 in the Community:**

#### **Services Provided:**

• During the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines, when supplies were limited, Advocate Lutheran General's Community Health team worked diligently with Advocate Aurora Health's leadership team to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine in communities with high rates of COVID-19.



- The Community Health team worked with local community based organizations (CBO) to give them special access to the Advocate Wrigley Field Vaccine Clinic. Partners were granted a unique code to schedule their community members for their COVID-19 vaccine. Over 10,000 individuals were vaccinated through this initiative.
- Advocate Lutheran General's Community Health team and AAH's
   Mobile team partnered to provide a free community clinic serving
   the uninsured and underinsured.
   Vaccinations were provided in the
   Belmont-Cragin community a
   community in Chicago with a high
   rate of COVID-19.



## **Stories from the Community**

**Neighbor to Neighbor Vaccine Champion Pro**gram: AAH developed the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program to increase vaccination rates in high-risk communities. The program trained over 130 vaccine champions and engaged over 8,000 community members in Wisconsin and Illinois. In addition, the program awarded \$9,250 in microgrants to support community-based organizations in providing vaccine education and to address hesitancy.

Advocate Lutheran General's Community Health team partnered with the Charitable Foundation team and their Junior Board members to coordinate a food drive to support Advocate Lutheran General's hospital-based food pantry program. The donation supported over 40 families.

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# ADVOCATE LUTHERAN GENERAL HOSPITAL 2022 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATES

#### A FORECAST INTO OUR 2022 PROGRAM PLANS

AAH hospitals reserve the right to redirect resources to address emerging public health threats even if doing so slows the ability to implement plans for addressing key priorities selected through the CHNA process. The AAH community health team will remain focused on community education, prevention and promoting COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as continuing to address other key issues exacerbated by the pandemic, such as food insecurity, housing and need for connecting people to vital resources in the community. In 2022, AAH hospitals plan to reactivate community health improvement implementation plan activities whenever and wherever possible.

#### **Community Health Initiatives**

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital will continue to work with local partners to address the identified health priorities, which are behavioral health (BH), healthy lifestyles and social determinants of health/workforce development. For BH, Advocate Lutheran General will continue to implement Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) in the community. Additional trainings on behavioral health will be offered to parents of local school partners. Advocate Lutheran General will also continue to work with Turning Point to educate staff and strengthen our partnership. For healthy lifestyles and obesity prevention, Advocate Lu-

Year: 2022

of local school partners. Advocate Lutheran General will also continue to work with Turning Point to educate staff and strengthen our partnership. For healthy lifestyles and obesity prevention, Advocate Lutheran General's community health team will continue to manage the hospital-based food pantry and continue to coordinate Pop-Up markets in the community. The Community Health team will explore home delivery programs for eligible patients and will also work with school partners to implement the Fresh Hubs program, which provides healthy food and nutrition education to food insecure children and families.

### **Workforce Development Program**

**Year: 2022** 

Advocate Lutheran General's Community Health team will continue to work with D207's JumpStart youth employment program. The Community Health team will ensure that all student interns have a comprehensive orientation and that they have access to learning opportunities by working with our health care leaders to educate students on healthcare career paths. Advocate Lutheran General's Community Health team will also work with internal staff leaders to offer students educational seminars on stress management and other essential trainings to prepare them for future employment. Our team will also explore opportunities to work with Advocate's Workforce Initiative.

#### **Social Determinants of Health**

**Year: 2022** 

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital will continue to explore new opportunities to address the social determinants of health, specifically around workforce development, food insecurity and access to care. The Community Health team will also continue working with internal and external partners to address the barriers associated with equitable care. In addition, Advocate Lutheran General hired a Cultural and Community Liaison to enhance culturally appropriate resources, community education, community outreach and engagement focused on diverse populations. The program works closely with the Community Health team and aims to expand its services to the following groups, the South Asian, Latinx, Polish and Russian population.

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