Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Community Health Implementation Strategy

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2026

Community health improvement is an effective tool for creating a shared vision and supporting a planned and integrated approach to improving health outcomes. The basic premise of community health improvement is that entities identify community health issues, prioritize those that can be addressed, and then develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to address those issues. Tax-exempt hospitals are required to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) and develop an implementation strategy to document how the hospital will address prioritized community health needs. The following outlines a summary of the CHNA process and provides details on Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant's plans to address their prioritized community health needs.

SUMMARY OF AURORA MEDICAL CENTER – MOUNT PLEASANT COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In 2023, Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant (Aurora Mount Pleasant) completed the first Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) since opening the facility in February 2022. Aurora Mount Pleasant, Ascension Wisconsin, Children's Wisconsin, City of Racine Public Health Department, and the Racine County Public Health Department conducted a collaborative CHNA in Racine County, which consisted of a comprehensive presentation and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data.

The Aurora Mount Pleasant CHNA relies on three sources of information:

- **Community Health Survey (primary data):** a comprehensive mail-based survey, with an online option, that gathered specific data on the behavioral and lifestyle habits of the adult population and selected information about child health.
- **Hospital Steering Council Interviews (primary data):** a summary of the top health issues, existing strategies to address the issues, barriers or challenges to addressing the issues, additional strategies needed to address the issues, from the perspective of the members of the Aurora Eastern Racine/ Kenosha Steering Council.
- **Metopio (secondary data) was a key source of data for the 2023 Aurora Lakeland CHNA.** The data platform is an internet-based resource which includes data for demographics, health, emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalization rates, and more. This secondary data was crucial in analyzing the hospital's health needs. All data collected through Metopio was quantitative and included Wisconsin data comparisons between county, state, and national data.

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As part of the CHNA process, Community Health teammates presented extensive community data to the Aurora Eastern Racine/Kenosha County Steering Council, which is comprised of hospital and community representatives. The Steering Council provided oversight of the 2023 CHNA process through a series of meetings by reviewing and analyzing data. The top nine health issues identified in the Aurora Mount Pleasant Community Health Needs Assessment were:

- Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury
- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Accessible and Affordable Health Care
- Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
- Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Heart Failure, Stroke)
- Food Insecurity
- Maternal and Infant Health
- Housing and Transportation
- Falls (Unintentional Injuries)

The Steering Council prioritized the significant health needs using criteria including severity of the health issues, effectiveness of available interventions, available resources, and ability to effectively address or impact health issues through collaboration. Council members selected the top three health issues of mental health, suicide and self-injury, housing and transportation, and food security as the priority needs to address in the 2024-2026.

SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEEDS IDENTIFIED AND SELECTED FOR IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND WHY

Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury

Mental health, suicide and self-injury was selected as the first health priority for the CHNA based on the data presented at the Steering Council meetings. The rates of mental health, suicide and self-injury continues to increase over time in Racine County indicating that more work needs to be done to address the ever-growing need for additional services, access to programs and support services in our communities.

Housing and Transportation

Housing and transportation were selected as the second health priority for the CHNA. Access to affordable housing and transportation were major themes in both qualitative and quantitative data presented to the Steering Council.

Food Security

Food security was selected as the third health priority for the CHNA based on the data presented to the Steering Council. While positive progress is being made in Racine County to increase food security, there is still more work that needs to be done around vulnerable populations that are disproportionately affected.

PRIORITY: Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury

IMPACT:

Reduce mental health, suicide, and self-injury rates in Racine County

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- Emergency Department (ED) and hospitalization rates due to mental health in Racine County are highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population, Females, and Young Adults (18-39 years).

Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2018-2022

- The Non-Hispanic Black population, Females and Young Adults (18-39 years) have the highest ED and hospitalization rates due to suicide and self-injury in Racine County.

Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2018-2022

- Suicide mortality rates are highest in Racine County among Males and Young Adults (18-39 years).

Source: Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020

- Over 50 percent of 9th – 12th grade respondents had experienced significant problems with anxiety and over 15 percent of respondents seriously considered suicide.

Source: Centers for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Racine County Report, 2023

ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING STRATEGIES

LOCAL: **Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Strategy**

- Access to behavioral health services (Advocate Health)
- Racine County Community Health Improvement Plan (Racine County Public Health)

STATE: **Wisconsin State Health Plan Priority Areas**

- Mental and emotional health and well-being

NATIONAL: **HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030**

- Improve mental health

HEALTH PRIORITY: Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury cont.

STRATEGY #1: Implement Zero Suicide Initiative to decrease suicide rates

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS	OBJECTIVES
• Implement the Zero Suicide Initiative in the Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Emergency Department	• Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Emergency Department • Racine County Public Health • City of Racine Public Health • Local community organizations	• Decrease suicide rates in Racine County • Increase awareness and access to mental health services in the community

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of patients screened in the emergency department
- Number of patients who screen positive on the Zero Suicide screen who are referred to mental health services
- Percentage change in Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant emergency department and hospitalization rates due to suicide and self-injury

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

STRATEGY #2: Improve mental health through community collaborations and services

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS	OBJECTIVES
• Implement youth mental health initiatives in Racine County • Support local coalitions and community organizations that address mental health • Explore interventions that address mental health concerns among high need populations	• Racine Unified School District • Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health • Local community organizations in Racine County • Racine County Public Health • City of Racine Public Health • NAMI of Racine County	• Collaborate with community partners to increase awareness of mental health services available to youth • Increase coordination to and awareness of local community organizations for high need populations

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of individuals served
- Number of referrals make to community-based organizations or support programs
- Percentage change in Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant emergency department and hospitalization rates due to mental health among youth population

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

PRIORITY: Housing and Transportation

IMPACT:

Increase opportunity for safe, stable housing and transportation in Racine County

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- In Racine County, 69.1 percent of housing units were owner occupied, higher than Wisconsin at 67.4 percent, with the lowest rate of ownership among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 25.8 percent.

Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021

- Almost 22 percent of Racine County residents are severely rent-burdened (spending more than 50 percent of their income on rent).

Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-202

- According to the Aurora Eastern Racine/Kenosha Steering Council Stakeholder Interviews, two major themes were among housing and transportation as a barrier in every health topic.

Source: Aurora Eastern Racine/Kenosha Steering Council Stakeholder Interviews, 2022

ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING STRATEGIES

LOCAL: **Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Strategy**
- Housing (Advocate Health)

STATE: **Wisconsin State Health Plan Priority Areas**
- Healthy housing

NATIONAL: **HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030**
- Promote health and safe home environments
- Promote safe and active transportation

HEALTH PRIORITY: Housing and Transportation cont.

STRATEGY #1: Improve awareness of local resources for housing and transportation

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS	OBJECTIVES
• Support local coalitions and community-based organizations that address housing and transportation • Explore opportunities to advocate for housing and transportation services	• Community-based organizations • Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Emergency Department, Care Management • Racine County Public Health • City of Racine Public Health • Government agencies	• Collaborate with community leaders to address housing and transportation needs in community

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of individuals served
- Number of patients referred to housing/transportation programs or services

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

STRATEGY #2: Implement FindHelp closed-loop referrals for housing and transportation

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS	OBJECTIVES
• Educate teammates at Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant on Social Drivers of Health Wheel in Epic • Increase community-based organizations to FindHelp platform for housing and transportation	• Community-based organizations • Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Emergency Department, Care Management	• Increase awareness of resources available in Epic through FindHelp platform

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of referrals for FindHelp related to housing and transportation
- Number of teammates trained in Social Drivers of Health screening

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

HEALTH PRIORITY: Food Security

IMPACT:

Increase rates of food security in Racine County

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- A total of 7.5 percent of Racine County residents experienced food insecurity at some point, with the highest rates among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 25.0 percent.

Source: Metopio, Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2021

- Over 60 percent of Racine County residents are considered to have low access to food, which is higher than Wisconsin (47 percent) and the U.S. (50.2 percent), with the highest rates among the Non-Hispanic White population (61.3 percent) and Seniors (65 and older) at 60.8 percent.

Source: Metopio, USDA, 2019

- Almost four percent of Racine County residents are living in food deserts.

ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING STRATEGIES

LOCAL: **Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Strategy**

- Food security (Advocate Health)

STATE: **Wisconsin State Health Plan Priority Areas**

- Physical, mental and systemic safety
- Person and community centered health care

NATIONAL: **HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030**

- Reduce overweight and obesity by helping people each healthy and get physical activity
- Improve health by promoting healthy eating and making nutritious foods available
- Help people earn steady incomes that allow them to meet their health needs

HEALTH PRIORITY: Food Security cont.

STRATEGY #1: Increase access to healthy foods

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS	OBJECTIVES
• Implement a Community Garden on site at Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant	• Aurora Health Care Foundation • University of Madison Extension • Local food pantries • Farmers Markets	• Introduce and foster relationships between community partners to develop onsite community garden • Expand access to healthy foods for food insecure residents

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of donors/dollars collected for community garden
- Number of pounds of produce donated to local food pantries

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

STRATEGY #2: Increase food security in community

SPECIFIC INTERVENTIONS	COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS	OBJECTIVES
• Educate teammates at Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant on Social Drivers of Health Wheel in EPIC • Increase community-based organizations to FindHelp platform for food insecurity • Implement food insecurity screening and referrals for patients	• Aurora Health Care • Local community-based organizations • Local food pantries • University of Wisconsin Extension	• Increase referrals to community resources for patients identified as being food insecure • Reduce the number of residents who are food insecure • Increase awareness of resources available in Epic through FindHelp platform

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

- Number of organizations on closed-loop referral process
- Number of patients screened as being food insecure
- Number of completed closed-loop referrals in EPIC/FindHelp
- Percentage change in Aurora Medical Center -Mount Pleasant food insecurity rate in Racine County

**Impact measures are subject to change depending on the direction of each intervention.*

Note: Plans to address selected CHNA priorities are dependent upon resources and may be adjusted on an annual basis to best address the health needs of our community.