

Mercy Children's Hospital



2017-2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan

ADOPTED BY THE MARKET PARENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DECEMBER 2016

MERCY HEALTH — CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

2213 Cherry St., Toledo, Ohio 43608



A Catholic healthcare ministry serving Ohio and Kentucky

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Introduction

Mercy Health — Children's Hospital is a 102-bed, full-service hospital providing inpatient, outpatient and ancillary health care services. Along with local health, education, social service, non-profit and governmental agencies, we participated in a Community Health Needs Assessment ("CHNA") conducted for Lucas County and surrounding areas. The detailed process, participants and results are available in Mercy Health — Children's Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment Report, which is available on mercy.com.

This Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan addresses the significant community needs identified through the CHNA. The plan indicates which needs Mercy Health — Children's Hospital will address and how, as well as which needs Mercy Health — Children's Hospital won't address and why.

Beyond the programs and strategies outlined in this plan, Mercy Health — Children's Hospital will address the health care needs of the community by continuing to operate in accordance with its mission to extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of its communities with emphasis on the poor and under-served. This includes providing care for all individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

The strategies and tactics of this implementation plan will provide the foundation for addressing the community's significant needs between 2017 and 2019. However, we anticipate that some of the strategies, tactics and even the needs identified will evolve over that period. Our flexible approach to addressing the significant community needs that will allow for adaption to changes and collaboration with other community agencies.

COMMUNITY SERVED BY HOSPITAL

Mercy Health — Children's Hospital has defined its main communities served as Lucas County, Ohio. Mercy Health — Children's Hospital serves a broad geographic area encompassing Lucas County and surrounding counties in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Patient data

indicates that the primary service area of persons served at Mercy Health — Children's Hospital reside in Lucas County, based upon the county of residence of discharged inpatients. The population of the primary service area is approximately 436,000 and is older, poorer and has worse health statistics than state and national averages. The demographic area served by the primary service area includes the following ethnic and cultural groups: Caucasian (75.3%), Black (19.7%), Hispanic (6.7%), Asian (1.5%), American-Indian (0.4%), and some other race (2.8%). Eleven percent of residents are in households below the federal poverty guidelines. Twenty percent of families are on Medicaid or other assistance.

In 2015 the top five zip codes represented from Ohio Hospital Association patient discharge data were 43608, 43605, 43604, 43611 and 43612. All five of those zip codes are located in Lucas County, Ohio.

MISSION

We extend the healing ministry of Jesus by improving the health of our communities with emphasis on people who are poor and under-served.

Mercy's Mission and culture are expressed through the organizational core values:

Compassion

Our commitment to serve with mercy and tenderness

Excellence

Our commitment to be the best in the quality of our services and the stewardship of our resources

Human Dignity

Our commitment to value the diversity of all persons and to be respectful and inclusive of everyone

Justice

Our commitment to act with integrity, honesty and truthfulness

Sacredness of Life

Our commitment to reverence all life and creation

Service

Our commitment to respond to those in need

Executive summary

BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

The process of conducting the community health needs assessment, including how we identified and prioritized the significant needs, the data sources we consulted and the list of participants, is explained in detail in Mercy Health — Children's Hospital's CHNA report, which is available at mercy.com

Mercy Health — Children's Hospital and Mercy Health — St. Vincent Medical Center ("MHSVMC"), while separately licensed, are affiliated facilities with a common parent that jointly meet the needs of Lucas County residents. Based on experience, available resources, the service area of government agencies and other county service organizations, and Mercy Health's unified governance structure, Mercy Health — Children's Hospital and MHSVMC believed it made more sense to define its community in the same manner and prepared a joint CHNA report.

Mercy Health — Children's Hospital is an active member of Healthy Lucas County, a collaborative strategic planning process involving many community agencies and coalitions from various sectors, developed a CHNA conducted for Lucas County and surrounding areas to assess and identify the health needs of the community.

Health related data was collected for Lucas County adults (19 years of age and older), youth (in grades 5-12), and children (ages 0-11) during the countywide health assessment survey during December 2013 through June 2014. The findings are based on self-administered surveys using a structured questionnaire. The questions were modeled after the survey instruments used by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for their national and state Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) and the National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) developed by the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio collected the data, guided the health assessment process and integrated sources of primary and secondary data into the final report. These data

findings for children, youth and adults were presented at a community event in September 2014.

List of organizations providing input

- Adelante, Inc.
- American Cancer Society
- Aspire
- Brightside Academy
- Center for Hope
- City of Toledo, Board of Community Relations
- City of Toledo, Department of Neighborhoods
- Harbor Behavioral Health
- Healthy Lucas County
- Jerusalem Township Fire Department
- Live Well Greater Toledo
- Lourdes University
- Lucas County Children Services
- Lucas County Emergency Management Agency
- Lucas County Juvenile Court
- Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
- Mercy Health North Division
- Mobile Care Group
- Neighborhood Health Association
- City of Oregon
- ProMedica
- Springfield Township Fire Department
- Sylvania Township Fire Department
- Toledo Community Foundation
- Toledo Fire and Rescue Department
- Toledo-Lucas County Health Department
- Toledo-Lucas County Commission on Minority Health
- Toledo Public Schools
- St. Luke's Hospital
- University of Toledo
- United Way of Greater Toledo
- Whitehouse Township
- Zepf Center

Identifying significant needs

To facilitate the Community Health Improvement Process, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department along with local hospitals, invited key community leaders to participate in an organized process of strategic planning to improve the health of residents of the county. The National Association of City County Health Officer's (NACCHO) strategic planning tool, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), was used throughout this process. From December 2014 to March 2015, Healthy Lucas County met eight (8) times to review the process and timeline, finalize committee members, create or review the vision, choose priorities based on quantitative and qualitative data, rank the priorities, assess existing resources and community strengths, identify gaps in community resources, and draft plans to address the needs.

Health problems were ranked based on magnitude, seriousness of consequences, and feasibility of correcting the issue. Quantitative and qualitative data was used to prioritize the target areas. In addition, existing programs, services and activities in the community were identified that address the priority target impact area. The target areas also were reviewed in consideration of the Local Public Health System Assessment and Quality of Life Survey. The Lucas County Health Improvement Plan was presented to the community in September 2015.

Implementation Plan

Mercy Health — Children's Hospital is continuing to work with other county agencies and is committed to developing a Lucas County Community Health Improvement Plan. While that plan is still being finalized, we are committed to addressing the health needs of the community through the strategies and tactics described in this Implementation Plan, which will be in alignment with the overall Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

PRIORITIZED SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

The table below lists the significant community needs that were identified through the CHNA and specifies which needs we will address.

Prioritized significant community health need	Addressed by hospital
Increase healthy weight status.....	Yes
Decrease chronic disease.....	No
Decrease youth mental health issues and bullying....	Yes
Decrease infant mortality	Yes
Increase school readiness	Yes

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

Mercy Health — Children's Hospital's leadership has developed the following implementation strategy within the context of the hospital's overall strategic plan, and the availability of finite resources. The implementation strategy identifies specific activities and services that directly address Lucas County health priorities, and are intended to positively impact the communities it serves.

INCREASE HEALTHY WEIGHT STATUS

Description

As detailed in MHSVMC's Community Health Needs Assessment Report:

In 2014, the health assessment indicated that more than two-thirds (70%) of Lucas County adults were either overweight (34%) or obese (36%) by body mass index (BMI). This puts them at elevated risk for developing a variety of diseases. In 2013-2014, 13% of Lucas County youth were classified as obese and 10% were classified as overweight by BMI. In 2014, 24% of children were classified as obese and 13% were classified as overweight by BMI.

Goal

Reduce the number of residents in Lucas County with a weight classification of overweight or obese. Increase the knowledge of strategies to use to help maintain a healthy weight status.

Expected impact

Reduce the number of residents in Lucas County with a weight classification of overweight or obese. Increase the knowledge of strategies to use to help maintain a healthy weight status.

Targeted populations

Lucas County adults, youth and children.

Strategies

Healthy Connections – Kohl's Kids in Action: Provides community-based health education to reduce the incidence of childhood obesity by utilizing three major components:

1. Health education outreach at community events
2. Print, radio and online public awareness/educational campaign
3. Community-based health education programs in local elementary schools and community centers

Strategic measures

Healthy Connections – Kohl's Kids in Action: Projected audience reach through marketing efforts:

- Event reach: 62,309;
- Paid media reach: 3,914,660;
- Unpaid media: 1,700,548;
- Internal reach: 154,764;
- Promotional paid reach: 18,075

Community collaborations and resources available

The existing community collaborations, healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include:

- Silver Sneakers Program – YMCA
- Safe Routes to School – Live Well Greater Toledo
- Corner Store Program – Live Well Greater Toledo
- Mobile A – Food for Thought
- The Farm Toledo Grows – Toledo Botanical Garden
- Pediatric Weight Management Program – University of Toledo Medical Center

- Adolescent Medicine – University of Toledo Medical Center
- Health Kids Conversation Maps – ProMedica
- Healthy Eating in the Real World – ProMedica
- Boxing/Wrestling – Soul City
- Healthy U Program – Area Office on Aging/Mercy Health
- Food Pantry – Multiple organizations/churches
- Super Fitness Kids program – Super Fitness Gym
- Cooking Kitchen/Garden – Toledo Seagate Food Bank
- Club Recreation – Catholic Club of Toledo
- Healthy by Choice – Friendly Center and MLK Kitchen for the Poor
- Community HUBS – United Way of Northwest Ohio
- Nutrexit Game – ProMedica
- Weekender Program – Mobile Meals
- School nutrition support – Children's Hunger Alliance
- Employee Wellness programs – Lucas County
- Catch Kids Club – Children's Hunger Alliance
- Cycling Program – PEAC
- Nutrition Education – Sofia Quintero Community Center
- School Gardens & Fitness programs – Toledo Public Schools
- Fitness/cooking classes – Zepf Center
- Healthy Living Center – Thomas Wernert Center
- Matter of Balance – Area Office on Aging
- Fun Bus program, summer/day camps, family wellness programs, group fitness – YMCA (monthly rates based on household income)
- Youth obesity program, LEAP – YMCA (monthly rates based on household income)
- Food programs & summer food programs – YMCA (monthly rates based on household income)
- Bariatric program – ProMedica
- Life Steps – St. Luke's Hospital
- Scale Down, Diet FREE – ProMedica Wellness
- Fitness Center, Script4Fitness – ProMedica Wellness
- Mercy Weight Management Program (surgical, non-surgical and adolescent weight loss programs) – Mercy Health
- Kohl's Kids in Action – Mercy Health
- Center for Health Promotion – Mercy Health

DECREASE CHRONIC DISEASE

Description

As detailed in MHSVMC's Community Health Needs Assessment Report:

In 2014, 37% of Lucas County adults had been diagnosed with high blood pressure. The 2011 BRFSS reports hypertension prevalence rates of 33% for Ohio and 31% for the U.S. Twenty-five percent of adults had been diagnosed with high blood cholesterol. The 2011 BRFSS reported that 39% of Ohio adults and 38% of U.S. adults have been told they have high blood cholesterol.

Goal

Mercy Health — Children's Hospital will not directly address this community need as other organizations in Lucas County are specifically designed and better prepared to respond to this need through resources and experience. We do not service or treat adult patients.

Community collaborations and resources available

The existing community collaborations, healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include:

- CPR training – multiple organizations throughout the county
- Primary Care and Specialty Network – Toledo/Lucas County CareNet
- CareNet Link: Community Health Worker utilizing Pathways for Care Coordination – Toledo/Lucas County CareNet
- Adult Pathways Care Coordination through the Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB – Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio
- Lucas County Wellness Program – Lucas County
- Wellness program – multiple employers/organizations
- Health clinics and free clinics – various locations throughout the county
- Multiple specialty clinics – UT Cardiovascular Center
- General internal medicine – University of Toledo Medical Center
- Heart Institute – ProMedica
- Youth diabetes education – Diabetes Youth Services
- Diabetes support – Thomas Wernert Center
- AIDS/HIV testing (mobile van) – Nuestra Gente/Mercy Health — Children's Hospital
- Various programs – AIDS Resource Center, Toledo
- The Ryan White program – University of Toledo Medical Center
- Screenings – Kidney Foundation
- African American Male Wellness Walk Initiative – Toledo Fire and Rescue
- Screenings and medication monitoring – Toledo-Lucas County Health Department
- Various programs – Area Office on Aging
- Parish nurse education/screening programs – Local churches
- Various programs and services at clinics – Toledo-Lucas County Health Department
- Silver Sneakers – YMCA
- Fun Bus program, summer/day camps, family wellness programs, group fitness – YMCA (monthly rates based on household income)
- Youth obesity program, LEAP – YMCA (monthly rates based on household income)
- Tobacco cessation program – ProMedica and St. Luke's Hospital
- Cardiac services: Coumadin clinic, wound care, pain, children's pulmonary, pulmonary rehab, sleep, cancer center – ProMedica
- Tobacco cessation program – Mercy Health — Toledo
- Diabetes education – Mercy Health
- Starting Fresh program – Mercy Health
- Healthy U program – Mercy Health and Area Office on Aging
- Health screenings – Mercy Health Community Health Affairs
- Parish Nurse program – Mercy Health
- Mercy Be Well Within – Mercy Health employee wellness program
- Mercy Health St. Charles Mobile Health Van – Mercy Health
- Mercy outreach program – Mercy Health
- Cardiac services, diagnostic testing, heart failure clinic, cardiac rehab – Mercy Health
- Coumadin Clinic – Mercy Health
- Wound Care Clinic – Mercy Health
- Pain Clinic – Mercy Health

- Palliative Care – Mercy Health
- Children’s Pulmonary Center – Mercy Health
- Pulmonary Rehab – Mercy Health
- Sleep Clinic – Mercy Health
- Podiatry Clinic – Mercy Health
- Cancer Center – Mercy Health
- Mercy MAP (Mammogram Assistance Program) – Mercy Health
- Check it Out – HADASSAH & Mercy Health
- Nutrition & Diabetes counseling with Dietitian – Mercy Health
- Pulmonary Function Lab – Mercy Health
- Respiratory Therapy – Mercy Health
- Vascular Lab – Mercy Health

DECREASE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND BULLYING

Description

As detailed in MHSVMC’s Community Health Needs Assessment Report:

In 2013-2014, the Health Assessment results indicated that 16% of Lucas County youth (7th-12th grade) had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year and 7% admitted actually attempting suicide in the past year. Forty-three percent of youth had been bullied in the past year and 28% had been bullied on school property. Thirty-six percent of parents reported their child was bullied at some time in the past year. Twenty-eight percent of youth reported they felt so sad or hopeless, almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities (2013 YRBS reported 26% for Ohio and 30% for the U.S.).

Goal

Reduce the youth suicide rate, youth suicide attempts, and bullying of youth in Lucas County.

Expected impact

To help reduce the incidence of youth suicide attempts and incidence of bullying of youth in Lucas County.

Targeted populations

Lucas County 7th-12th grade youth.

Strategies

Lucas County Suicide Prevention Coalition: Mercy Health — Children’s Hospital and MHSVMC will continue to support the initiatives of the Lucas County Suicide Prevention Coalition, partnering with many community partners including ProMedica, University of Toledo, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Lucas County, Cenpatico, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio.

Mercy Health Behavioral Health Institute: Mercy Health — Children’s Hospital and MHSVMC are piloting the Adolescent Weight Management program by providing LISW to provide mental health counseling to program participants. Additionally, through the Behavioral Health Institute (BHI), there will be consultants, primarily LISW’s, will become part of the care team for the Pediatric Subspecialty population.

Strategic measures

Lucas County Suicide Prevention Coalition:

1. Build the coalition and board.
2. Hire part-time coordinator.
3. Increase funding streams for coalition programs and services.
4. Expand activities and programs of the coalition to include community loss team, suicide prevention programs and activities into public, charter and parochial high schools; develop the Student Ambassador Program with local high schools; build collaborative relationship with University of Toledo for research; elicit state support through the state coalition for funding and support; coordinate program activities and resources with other coalitions such as BRAVE coalition, Trauma coalition, Anti-bullying task force.
5. Provide a community educational conference by 2017.

Mercy Health — Behavioral Health Institute: Work in coalition with BHI and the Adolescent Weight Management program and Pediatric Subspecialty population to track the number of patients referred for mental health services.

Community collaborations and resources available

The existing community collaborations, healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include:

- Assessment Center – Lucas County Juvenile Court
- Dose of Reality (overnight program) – Young Men and Women for Change
- Incredible Years – University of Toledo Medical Center Kobacker Center
- Padua Center – Toledo Diocese
- Bullying prevention programs – Various schools in Lucas County
- Second Chance program – Toledo Area Ministries
- Advocacy and Education Parenting classes – NAMI of Greater Toledo
- Bullying Coalition – University of Toledo and various organizations
- Transitional care/care management, adolescent/youth counseling, anger management, child abuse counseling – Zepf Center
- General crisis intervention hotline, youth suicide prevention hotline, bullying prevention – Young Men and Women for Change
- Outpatient mental health facilities, child abuse counseling – Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of Ohio
- Self-esteem workshops for youth, anger management, adolescent/youth counseling, family counseling, mental health halfway houses for youth – A Renewed Mind
- General crisis intervention hotlines, runaway/homeless youth hotlines, suicide prevention hotlines, youth issues lines – Boys Town National Hotline
- Bullying prevention – PACER Center
- Adolescent/Youth counseling, general crisis intervention hotlines – Comprehensive Crisis Care
- Bullying Prevention (Lucas County Bullying Hotline) – Lucas County Sheriff's Office
- Anger management – Operation Re-Seed Christian Ministries
- Adolescent/youth counseling, group counseling, central intake/assessment for psychiatric services, psychiatric case management – CHOICES Behavior Health Care
- Anger management – Sarah Outreach and Recovery Center
- Mental health assessments and treatment – Court Diagnostic Treatment Center
- Sexual assault counseling, child abuse counseling, child abuse support groups, child sexual abuse counseling – Nirvana Now!
- Children's psychiatric in-patient unit, general crisis intervention hotline, in person crisis intervention – Rescue Incorporated
- Children's psychiatric in-patient unit – ProMedica Toledo Hospital
- Child abuse counseling – Toledo-Lucas County Victim Witness Program
- Family counseling, home based mental health services – Unison Behavioral Health Group
- Family, adolescent/youth counseling – Family Service of Northwest Ohio
- Life coaching, adolescent/youth counseling, youth/student support groups – Paraclete Social Outreach
- Infant and early childhood mental health, clinical psychiatric evaluation, psychiatric medication monitoring, family counseling, psychiatric day treatment – Harbor
- Children's out of home respite care – Providence Center for Social and Economic Empowerment
- Child abuse prevention, counseling for children affected by domestic violence, child abuse counseling, child sexual abuse counseling, in person crisis intervention, transitional case/care management – Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center Lucas County
- Adolescent/youth counseling, family counseling – Cullen Center for Children, Adolescents and Families
- Adolescent/youth counseling, family counseling – Center for Solutions in Brief Therapy
- Adolescent/youth counseling – Twelve of Ohio, Inc.
- Runaway/homeless youth counseling and hotlines – National Runaway Safe Line
- Adolescent/ youth counseling, clinical psychiatric evaluation, individual counseling, psychiatric day treatment, adolescent and child psychiatric in-patient units, adolescent and child mental health hotlines – University of Toledo Medical Center Kobacker Center
- Self-esteem workshops – Toledo Mountain Mentors
- Alcohol dependency support groups – Al-Anon/Alateen

DECREASE INFANT MORTALITY

Description

As detailed in MHSVMC's Community Health Needs Assessment Report:

In 2014, the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics reported that Lucas County had an overall Infant Mortality rate of 9.3 versus the Ohio state rate of 6.8. In 2014, 94% of mothers got prenatal care within the first three months for their last pregnancy. Eight percent of mothers smoked during their last pregnancy. Sixty-eight percent of parents put their child to sleep on his or her back. Twenty-nine percent of mothers never breastfeed their child. Of those with incomes less than \$25,000, 44% never breastfeed their child.

Goal

To reduce the incidence of low birth weight births and increase the number of children reaching the age of one among the high risk pregnant population in Lucas County by using evidence-based strategies such as prenatal care, safe sleep environments and breastfeeding.

Expected impact

Increase the number of women in Lucas County delivering babies at a healthy birth weight, attending prenatal care visits, attending a post-partum medical visit, connecting the infant to a medical home and attending a one month well-visit.

Targeted populations

Healthy Connections – Pathways: Pregnant women in Lucas County with multiple risk factors for poor birth outcomes. Eligible women must meet criteria on Buckeye, Paramount Advantage or United Healthcare Medicaid Managed Care Plans. Grant funds are available for uninsured clients on an approval basis.

Healthy Connections – Mother and Child Dependency

Program: Pregnant, substance-abusing women residing in Lucas County.

Strategies

Healthy Connections – Pathways: Care coordinators find program-eligible pregnant women and create relationships that allow them to help ensure these women have a medical home for prenatal and post-partum care, practice appropriate pregnancy self-care, get connected

to needed social services to remove barriers to care, and learn basic maternal and baby care with the goal of achieving a full term, healthy birth weight, attendance of a post-partum visit, and ensure that baby is connected to a medical home.

Healthy Connections – Mother and Child Dependency

Program: Care coordination, needs assessment, advocacy, linkage with community resources, monitoring medication compliance, sober support, skill-building, stress management, parenting support, and transportation assistance.

Strategic measures

Healthy Connections – Pathways: Aims to reduce the incidence of low birth weight births among the high-risk population in Lucas County through achieving the following objectives:

1. Early entry into prenatal care
2. Attendance of regular prenatal visits
3. Birth weight of baby is 5 lbs. 8 oz. or greater
4. Attendance of post-partum visit 21-56 days after delivery
5. Infant connected to a medical home and attends a one-month well visit.

Healthy Connections – Mother and Child Dependency

Program: Serves 50 clients, greater than 80% of women will complete the program, less than 20% of women will drop out of the program, of those women who have stayed enrolled in the program, 85% of those babies will test negative for illicit drugs.

Community collaborations and resources available

The existing community collaborations, healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include:

- Pathways: Lucas County initiative to improve birth outcomes – Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio coordinates with the following seven participating agencies: Adelente, The East Toledo Family Center, Mercy Health – Children's Hospital, Neighborhood Health Association, Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, ProMedica Toledo Hospital, and The Providence Center
- Cribs of Kids Safe Sleep initiative – Toledo-Lucas County Health Department
- Healthy Start Program – Toledo-Lucas County Health Department

- Prenatal clinics – Multiple locations (Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, Neighborhood Health Association, local hospitals)
- Mother and Child Dependency Program – Mercy Health and Zepf Center
- First Haven – UMADOP of Lucas County
- Nosotras (prenatal education, health and development classes) – Adelante
- Parenting classes – East Toledo Family Center
- WIC Program (8 sites) – Toledo-Lucas County Health Department
- Education, workshops, support groups – Double ARC
- Early intervention home visiting services – Lucas County Help Me Grow
- Pregnancy support center/education – Heartbeat of Toledo
- The Sudden Unexpected Death Enhancement Act – Legislation Introduced by Sherrod Brown
- NICU – Mercy Health — Children’s Hospital
- Vermont Oxford Network – Mercy Health with many other organizations
- Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative - Mercy Health with many other organizations
- Help Me Grow - Mercy Health with Ohio Department of Health

INCREASE SCHOOL READINESS

Description

As detailed in MHSVMC’s Community Health Needs Assessment Report:

In 2014, only 33% of parents reported they or someone in the family reads to their 0 to 5 year-old child every day. In 2011-2012, the Ohio average was 53% and the U.S. average was 48%.

Goal

Increase the proportion of children who are ready for school in all five domains of health development physical development, social-emotional development, approaches to learning, language, and cognitive development. Increase the proportion of parents who use positive parenting and communicate with their doctors or other

health care professionals about positive parenting. These goals are based on the Healthy People 2020 goals.

Expected impact

Increase the number of children ready for school in Lucas County.

Targeted populations

Healthy Connections – Early Head Start Home Visitation

Program: Low-income pregnant women and families with children ages 0-3 years. To be eligible for Early Head Start Home Visiting, most families must be at or below the federal poverty level. Early Head Start Home Visiting programs must make at least 10% of their enrollment opportunities available to children with disabilities who are eligible for Part C services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in their state.

Healthy Connections – Help Me Grow: Expectant first-time mothers and first time parents of infants under 6 months, low income parents, residents of Lucas and Wood Counties.

Strategies

Healthy Connections – Early Head Start (EHS) Home Visitation Program: Works to:

1. Promote health prenatal outcomes for pregnant women.
2. Enhance the development of very young children.
3. Promote healthy family functioning.

The Early Head Start home visiting supports children and families through home visits and group socialization experiences. The home visits provide comprehensive services to support and strengthen the relationships between infants, toddlers and their parents. The strength and quality of these relationships are essential for optimal child development outcomes during this period of rapid social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Parents are encouraged and supported to later recreate and build on activities that are introduced during the home visit. Goals for children’s development and learning are established in partnership with parents and based on the child’s ongoing developmental assessment. Group socialization strengthen and support relationships by providing parents with opportunities to obtain feedback from EHS staff and other parents or community-based professionals about their child’s interests, strengths, needs and resources; observe their children responding

to other children and adults; and share and learn from others about the challenges and joys of parenting. The program utilizes the Growing Great Kids and Growing Great Families Curriculum. The Growing Great Kids Curriculum is a transformative, skill-driven curriculum that provides practitioners with research-informed, strength-based and solution-focused “Home Visit Conversation Guides” for engaging parents, cultivating secure attachments, and bolstering child development, while building parenting, family strengthening and other essential life skills with parents who themselves have experienced childhood adversity and other traumatic events.

Healthy Connections – Help Me Grow (HMG): Is a home visiting program for expectant or new parents to help them create a sturdy foundation for their child’s future achievement. Home visitors conduct developmental screenings and develop an Individualized Family Service Plan for each family. Home visitors also refer families to helpful community resources. The program is based on the nationally recognized evidence-based Healthy Families America (HFA) home-visiting model and utilizes the Growing Great Kids and Growing Great Families Curriculum. HFA is designed to work with overburdened families who are at-risk for adverse childhood experiences, including child maltreatment.

Strategic measures

Healthy Connections – Early Head Start Home Visitation

Program: Provide weekly 90 minute home visits for 48 children.

Healthy Connections – Help Me Grow: The program has four central goals:

1. Increase healthy pregnancies.
2. Improve parenting confidence and competence.
3. Increase family connectedness to community and social supports.
4. Improve child health, development and school readiness.

Community collaborations and resources available

The existing community collaborations, healthcare facilities and other resources in the community that are available to meet the prioritized need include:

- Uses Lucas County data track to see which initiatives are working (children enter kindergarten ready to succeed) – Aspire
- Head Start / Early Head Start – TPS/WSOS Community Action
- Head Start / Early Head Start – Brightside Academy (3 locations in Toledo)
- Step Up to Quality Programs – Various accredited daycare programs
- Child development programs – YMCA
- Free books – Juvenile Court
- Free books/reading programs – Various libraries/OCALI lending library-ships books home
- Reach Out to Read Literacy Program – University of Toledo Foundation
- Early learning/school readiness/parent involvement – State Support Team Region 1/ODE
- Incredible Years – University of Toledo Medical Center Kobacker Center
- Early childhood development/education – Harbor
- Creating Family Readers Program – Read for Literacy
- Leamos Juntos – Adelante
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library – United Way of Northwest Ohio
- Early childhood resource and referral – YMCA
- Building Roads to the Future Parenting classes – Polly Fox Academy
- Educational advocacy programs – Bright Horizons & Ability Center
- Early Childhood education centers – various sites throughout Lucas County
- Libraries/ Literacy-learn to read – various sites throughout Lucas County
- Early Head Start Home Visitation Program – Mercy Health
- Healthy Connections Home Visitation Program – Mercy Health
- Help Me Grow –Mercy Health with ODH
- YMCA Childcare Sites (25 sites), leadership program, arts & humanities classes – YMCA