



2013 Community Health Needs Assessment

Catholic Health Partners' (CHP) long-standing commitment to the community covers more than 150 years. This commitment has expanded and evolved through considerable thought and care in considering our communities' most pressing health needs. One avenue for examining these needs is through a periodic, comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for each CHP hospital. The most recent assessments were completed by teams comprised of CHP and community leaders. They include quantitative and qualitative data that guide both our community benefit and strategic planning.

Through our CHNA, CHP has identified the greatest needs among each of our hospital's communities. This enables CHP to ensure our resources are directed appropriately toward outreach, prevention, education and wellness opportunities where the greatest impact can be realized.

The following document is a detailed CHNA for Mercy Defiance Hospital (MDH). Mercy Defiance Hospital, a 23-bed medical/surgical hospital, is part of Mercy, a faith-based, not-for-profit health system based in Toledo. Mercy Defiance Hospital and its sister facility, Mercy Defiance Clinic, a multi-specialty medical group, serve Defiance and surrounding communities in the six-county area forming the northwest corner of Ohio. The hospital campus includes Fauster Surgery Center for inpatient and outpatient procedures, a 24-hour Emergency Center, and the Mercy Defiance Sleep Disorders Center. Mercy is a member of Catholic Health Partners, the largest health system in Ohio and one of the largest non-profit systems in the country, employing more than 32,000 associates in Ohio and Kentucky.

CHP has responded to community health needs as part of a five-year strategic plan that concludes in 2013. Planning also has begun on a five-year plan that will guide CHP through 2018. Recently, CHP has built new hospitals in Cincinnati, Springfield and Willard, all in Ohio, and renovated and expanded facilities in Toledo, Youngstown, Lima and other communities served by CHP. CHP is investing more than \$300 million in an electronic health system as we build integrated networks of care designed to improve the health of communities. We operate health and fitness centers, hospice facilities, outpatient clinics and senior living facilities.

CHP contributes more than \$1 million per day in community benefit services as we carry out our long-standing mission of extending care to the poor and under-served.

Mercy Defiance Hospital strives to meet the health needs of its community. Please read the document's introduction below to better understand the health needs that have been identified.

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Introduction

Community Served by Hospital

MDH serves a broad geographic area encompassing Defiance County and surrounding counties in northwest Ohio. Patient data indicates that the primary service area of persons served at MDH reside in Defiance County, based upon the county of residence of discharged inpatients. The population of the primary service area is approximately 39,000 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 (92.8%), Hispanic (8.7%), Black (1.9%), Asian (0.3%), American-Indian (0.3%), and some other race (2.8%). 12.4% of residents are in households below the federal poverty guidelines. 21.9% of Defiance residents are enrolled in Medicaid.

Information and Data Considered in Identifying Potential Need

Information and Data Sources: Federal, State or Local Health or Other Departments or Agencies; Community Input

Source #1: 2012 Defiance County Health Needs Assessment

Date of Data/Information: 2012

Source #2: Defiance Community Health Improvement Plan

Date of Data/Information: 2013

Executive Summary

Decrease obesity among adults and youth.

Implement a healthy choices and vending campaign, increase opportunities for youth to increase physical activity, update and disseminate community wellness guides and calendars that contain information about walking trails, sports programs, and exercise and nutrition programs available in Defiance County, increase opportunities for businesses to provide wellness and insurance incentive programs for their employees, and increase community gardens.

- Almost three-fourths (74%) of Defiance County adults were either overweight (39%) or obese (35%). 15% of youth were obese, according to Body Mass Index (BMI) by age. Almost half (48%) of all youth were trying to lose weight, increasing to 60% of Defiance County female youth (compared to 36% of males). (Source 1 and 2)
- 8% of adults ate 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day. 12% of youth ate 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day. (Source 2)
- 51% of adults were engaging in physical activity for at least 30 minutes on 3 or more days per week. 76% of youth in grades 6-12 participated in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on 3 or more days in the past week. (Source 1 and 2)
- Persons who are obese have medical costs that are \$1,429 higher than those who are normal weight. (Source 1)
- Defiance County obesity rates in adults are 5% higher than Ohio and 7% higher than the US average. (Source 1)

Capacity and Adequacy of Service Levels

- MDH offers dietician services with a physician referral.
- MDH offers free health screenings to employees.
- Ohio Cooperative Extension Services provides nutrition program for all ages.
- The American Cancer Society provides worksite wellness programs for adults.
- The United Way, Defiance College, YMCA, and St. John's Church of Christ offer the Backpack Buddy Program for elementary students (weekend food program for those who qualify for free and reduced lunches). 500 backpacks weekly serving 700 children. (Source 2)
- Community gardens are provided by the Defiance Senior Center, Hicksville Fairgrounds Master Gardeners, and Kirchers. (Source 2)

Current Service Providers

- MDH provides health screenings at community events, such as annual health fairs at the Defiance mall and the Defiance Senior Center.
- Mercy promotes healthy living across Defiance County via a regular healthcare column in the bimonthly publication, "Happenings", and through occasional print media and radio interviews.
- Mercy Defiance Hospital and Mercy Defiance Clinic medical staff provide patients with appropriate educational material regarding nutrition, fitness and weight control.
- Mercy Defiance Hospital and Mercy Defiance Clinic hosted an educational program by Mercy Weight Loss Center physician, Dr. Matthew Fourman.

Decrease youth depression and suicide.

Increase awareness of available mental health services, create a network of follow-up support systems, expand evidence-based programs targeting youth, and increase the number of primary care physicians who screen for depression during office visits.

- 15% of Defiance County youth reported they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months. 18% of high school youth had seriously considered attempting suicide, compared to the 2011 YRBS rate of 16% for U.S. youth and 14% for Ohio youth. (Source 1)
- One-fourth (25%) 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. (Source 1 and 2)
- 4% of Ohio youth had a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse in the 12 months prior to the survey. (Source 1)

Capacity and Adequacy of Service Levels

- The United Way funds a school-based mentoring program for all elementary school age children in all 5 districts.
- The Four County Family Center offers various resources for youth to deal with depression and suicide. Referrals from schools, courts and other community organizations are also welcome. For those that qualify, there is a sliding fee scale based on the size of the household and on the

income. They also work with Medicaid, private health insurance and the Four County ADAMH's Board.

- ✦ The Maumee Valley Guidance Center offers diverse behavioral health needs to the community. When funds are available through the Four County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services, a sliding fee schedule is used to determine your cost based upon your family size and income.

Current Service Providers

- ✦ The Four County Family Center provides the Incredible Years program to teach young children skills associated with conduct problems and drug abuse. They also provide FAST (Families and Schools Together) which is an early intervention and prevention program designed to assist children and their families in being more successful in school, as a family and in life. This is a collaborative effort between community agencies and the school bringing the families together for support and guidance in learning how to communicate more effectively and have fun. The program builds bridges between families and schools and the community. They also offer mental health counseling for detained juveniles.
- ✦ The Maumee Valley Guidance Center offers a Signs of Suicide (SOS) program to area high school students. The program teaches students how to identify the symptoms of depression and suicidality in themselves or their friends, and encourages help-seeking through the use of the ACT[®] technique (Acknowledge, Care, Tell).
- ✦ First Call for Help, Inc. provides a suicide prevention hotline for teens and a crisis stabilization unit.
- ✦ Providers at Mercy Defiance Hospital and Mercy Defiance Clinic are alert to problems and provide referrals when appropriate.

Decrease youth bullying.

Implement the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, and implement evidence-based parent programs.

- ✦ 51% of Defiance County youth had been bullied in the past year with 36% occurring on school property, which is 13% higher than the state average and 16% higher than the national average. (Source 1 and 2)

Capacity and Adequacy of Service Levels

- ✦ The OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program is offered to all schools K-12 by the Center for Child & Family Advocacy.

- ✦ The Four County Family Center offers various youth bullying resources. Referrals from schools, courts and other community organizations are also welcome. For those that qualify, there is a sliding fee scale based on the size of the household and on the income. They also work with Medicaid, private health insurance and the Four County ADAMH's Board.

Current Service Providers

- ✦ The Center for Child & Family Advocacy provides the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program to all schools K-12.
- ✦ The Four County Family Center provides outpatient and home-based therapy by three Child and Adolescent Board Certified Psychiatrists.
- ✦ Providers at Mercy Defiance Clinic are alert to problems related to bullying and provide referrals when appropriate.

Decrease youth alcohol use.

Expand the LifeSkills training curriculum in Defiance County, secure a Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant, implement a family mentoring program, and increase awareness of available programs.

- ✦ More than half (57%) of all Defiance County youth (ages 12 to 18) have had at least one drink of alcohol in their life, increasing to 78% of those ages 17 and older, which is 7% higher than the state and national average. (Source 1 and 2)
- ✦ 14% were defined as binge drinkers, increasing to 27% of those ages 17 and older, which is 3% higher than the state average and 5% higher than the national average. (Source 1 and 2)
- ✦ Approximately 1,253 teen pregnancies and 36,019 teens engaging in risky sex can be attributed to underage drinking in 2009. (Source 1)
- ✦ Youth with serious alcohol problems are 1.5 times more likely to require hospital ER care. (Source 1)

Capacity and Adequacy of Service Levels

- ✦ Assessment, outpatient counseling, and treatment are offered to adolescents through adults by the Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio.
- ✦ Area high school staff and students are involved with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).
- ✦ Local YMCA, Library, Schools, and Churches are involved with safe after-prom events.

Current Service Providers

- ☞ Mercy Defiance Hospital and Mercy Defiance Clinic nurses and providers are alert to problems, e.g., the Emergency Room staff asks about alcohol use, and make referrals when appropriate.
- ☞ Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio provide assessment, outpatient counseling, and treatment to adolescents through adults. They also offer Life Without Drugs to 12-18 year olds at the Juvenile Detention Center. And, they provide Too Good For Drugs to any student who has been referred due to drugs and alcohol.

Process and Methods

Process for Gathering and Analyzing Data/Information

(IRS Notice 2011-52 Section 3.03 (2))

Data Gathering Process:

Adult Survey:

Adults ages 19 and over living in Defiance County were used as the sampling frame for the adult survey. Since U.S. Census Bureau age categories do not correspond exactly to this age parameter, the investigators calculated the population of those 18 years and over living in Defiance County. There were 39,037 persons ages 18 and over living in Defiance County. The investigators conducted a power analysis to determine what sample size was needed to ensure a 95% confidence level with a corresponding confidence interval of 5% (i.e., we can be 95% sure that the “true” population responses are within a 5% margin of error of the survey findings.) A sample size of at least 379 adults were needed to ensure this level of confidence. The random sample of mailing addresses of adults from Defiance County was obtained from American Clearinghouse in Louisville, KY. Prior to mailing the survey to adults, an advance letter was mailed to 1,000 adults in Defiance County. This advance letter was personalized, printed on Defiance County Health Partners stationery and was signed by Kimberly Moss, Health Commissioner, Defiance County General Health District. The letter introduced the county health assessment project and informed the readers that they may be randomly selected to receive the survey. The letter also explained that the respondents’ confidentiality would be protected and encouraged the readers to complete and return the survey promptly if they were selected. Two weeks following the advance letter, a three-wave mailing procedure was implemented to maximize the survey return rate. The initial mailing included a personalized hand signed cover letter (on Defiance County Health Partners stationery) describing the purpose of the study; a questionnaire printed on colored paper; a self-addressed stamped return envelope; and a \$2 incentive. Approximately two weeks after the first mailing, a second wave mailing included another personalized cover letter encouraging them to reply, another copy of the questionnaire on colored paper, and another reply envelope. A third wave postcard

was sent two weeks after the second wave mailing. Surveys returned as undeliverable were not replaced with another potential respondent. The entire mailing procedure for adults took place from April through May 2012. The response rate for the mailing was 50% (n=482). This return rate and sample size means that the responses in the health assessment should be representative of the entire county.

Adolescent Survey:

The Project Coordinator met with all school district superintendents and obtained approval for the survey. Superintendents approved the survey. Schools and grades were randomly selected. Each student in that grade had to have an equal chance of being in the class that was selected, such as a general English or health class. Classrooms were chosen by the school principal. Passive permission slips were mailed home to parents of any student whose class was selected to participate. The response rate was 93% (n=408). The survey contained 74 questions and had a multiple choice response format. The students were surveyed in May 2012.

Data Analysis Process:

The health needs of Defiance County that were examined by the needs assessment include but are not limited to: health status, health care coverage, health care access & utilization, cardiovascular health, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, asthma & other respiratory disease, weight status, tobacco use, alcohol use, substance abuse, women’s health, men’s health, preventive medical and health screenings, sexual behavior and pregnancy outcomes, quality of life, social context and safety, mental health & suicide, oral health, parenting, youth weight control status, youth tobacco use, youth alcohol consumption, youth substance abuse, youth sexual behavior and teen pregnancy outcomes, youth mental health & suicide, youth safety and youth violence issues. There were over 30 key leaders from the community that represented public health, law enforcement, schools, churches, local officials, social service agencies and other various community members in attendance at the public release of the community health needs assessment. At the event, participants participated in focus groups and priorities were chosen for Defiance County to focus on. Immediately after this event, Defiance County Health

Partners began a strategic planning process to thoroughly review the 2012 health assessment project data and other sources of information to determine important priority health issues for Defiance County adults (ages 19 and over) and youth (ages 12-18). They summarized and examined the data collected to determine gaps in current services by age, geographic location, and other criteria. The Strategic Planning Group met to outline a three-year strategic plan which addresses the priority areas, recommends research-based strategies and interventions, identifies outcome measurements to monitor progress over time, and identifies evaluation strategies to measure if the measures implemented are effective. The Defiance County Health Partners met in from November, 2012 through March 2013 to complete this process.

Information Gaps:

As with all county assessments, it is important to consider the findings in light of all possible limitations. First, the Defiance County adult assessment had a high response rate. However, if any important differences existed between the respondents and the non-respondents regarding the questions asked, this would represent a threat to the external validity of the results (the generalizability of the results to the population of Defiance County). If there were little to no differences between respondents and non-respondents, then this would not be a limitation. Second, it is important to note that, although several questions were asked using the same wording as the CDC questionnaires, the adult data collection method differed. CDC adult data were collected using a set of questions from the total question bank and adults were asked the questions over the telephone rather than as a mail survey. The youth CDC survey was administered in schools in a similar fashion as this county health assessment.

Community Input

(IRS Notice 2011-52 Section 3.06)

Resources used to gather community input: **must** include 1) federal, regional, state or local health officials, departments or agencies including individuals with current data or information relevant to the health needs of the community served by the Hospital and 2) individuals with “special knowledge of or expertise in public health including the individuals’ affiliation and description of their expertise:

Individuals contacted:

Eric Peltz, Pastor, Defiance First Presbyterian Church and Defiance Ministerial Association, 2012

Erin Spieth, Juvenile Probation Officer, Defiance County, 2012

Organizations contacted:

American Cancer Society, 2012

Amy Boehm (PH), Educator

Jessica West (PH), Educator

Center for Child & Family Advocacy, 2012

Anna Marshall, Case Manager

City of Defiance, 2012

David Plant, Council Member

Community Memorial Hospital, 2012

Jane Zachrich, RN (PH), Nurse Manager

Defiance Area YMCA, 2012

Rich Seward, Director

Katelyn Samples, Marketing Director

Defiance City Schools, 2012

Jay Jerger, Assistant Principal

Defiance County Commissioners, 2012

Laura Howell, Administrator

Defiance County Family and Children First Council, 2012

Julie Voll (PH), Coordinator

Defiance County General Health District, 2012

Kim Moss (PH), Commissioner

Laura Coressel, RN (PH), Director of Nursing

Stacy Lucas, RN (PH), Nurse

Defiance County Sheriff, 2012

Gary Plotts, Deputy

Defiance Development & Visitors Bureau, 2012

Cindy Mack, Director

Four County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health, 2012

Les McCaslin (PH), CEO

Pam Pflum (PH), Director of Quality Improvement

Four County Family Center, 2012

Kathy Helmke (PH), Director

Help Me Grow, 2012
Jackie Williams, Early Intervention Contract Manager

Hicksville Community Service Center, 2012
Paula Fairchild (PH), Staff Member

Maumee Valley Guidance Center, 2012
Connie Planson (PH), President & CEO

Mercy Defiance Clinic, 2012
Janet Koeplinger, RN (PH), Director of Nursing

Mercy Defiance Hospital, 2012
Sonya Selhorst, RN (PH), Administrator and
Chief Nursing Officer
Faith Smith (PH), Director of PR & Marketing

Migrant Health Promotion, 2012
Carrie Durbin, Director of Development & Marketing

ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital, 2012
Gary Cates (PH), President & CEO
Diane Simon (PH), Trauma Coordinator
Sandy Gang, RN (PH), Chief Nursing Officer
Stephanie Small (PH), Public Relations Specialist

United Way of Defiance County, 2012
Carrie Wetstein (PH), Director

Village of Hicksville, 2012
Diane Collins, Village Clerk

Leaders, representatives, or members of medically underserved, low-income and minority populations, and populations with chronic disease needs contacted:
Refer to list above.

Community Input Process:

There were over 30 key leaders from the community that represented public health, law enforcement, schools, churches, local officials, social service agencies and other various community members in attendance at the public release of the community health needs assessment. At the event, participants participated in focus groups and priorities were chosen for Defiance County to focus on. Immediately after this event, Defiance County Health Partners began a strategic planning process to thoroughly review the 2012 health assessment project data and other sources of information to determine important priority health issues for Defiance County adults (ages 19 and over) and youth (ages 12-18). They summarized and examined the data collected

to determine gaps in current services by age, geographic location, and other criteria. The Strategic Planning Group met to outline a three-year strategic plan which addresses the priority areas, recommends research-based strategies and interventions, identifies outcome measurements to monitor progress over time, and identifies evaluation strategies to measure if the measures implemented are effective. The Defiance County Health Partners met in from November, 2012 through March 2013 to complete this process.

Local community agencies were invited to participate in the health assessment process, including choosing questions for the surveys, providing local data, reviewing draft reports and planning the community event, release of the data and setting priorities. The needs of the population, especially those who are medically underserved, low-income, minority populations and populations with chronic disease needs, were taken into account through the sample methodology that surveyed these populations and over-sampled minority populations. In addition, the organizations that serve these populations participated in the health assessment and community planning process, such as First Call for Help, Four County Family Center, United Way of Defiance County, etc.

Prioritization of Health Needs

Beginning in November 2012, the Defiance County Strategic Planning Committee met six (6) times and completed the following planning steps:

1. Choosing Priorities – Use of quantitative and qualitative data to prioritize target impact areas
2. Ranking Priorities – Ranking the health problems based on magnitude, seriousness of consequences, and feasibility of correcting
3. Resource Assessment – Determine existing programs, services, and activities in the community that address the priority target impact areas and look at the number of programs that address each outcome, geographic area served, prevention programs, and interventions
4. Gap Analysis – Determine existing discrepancies between community needs and viable community resources to address local priorities; Identify strengths, weaknesses, and evaluation strategies; and Strategic Action Identification

5. Best Practices – Review of best practices and proven strategies, Evidence Continuum, and Feasibility Continuum
6. Draft Plan – Review of all steps taken; Action step recommendations based on one or more the following: Enhancing existing efforts, Implementing new programs or services, Building infrastructure, Implementing evidence based practices, and Feasibility of implementation

The plan was approved by the Strategic Planning Committee in April 2013. The hospital actively participated in the development of the Community Strategic Plan and formed a hospital-based Health Improvement Implementation Team to oversee the hospital’s role in implementing plan. This team developed the hospital-based implementation plan, including goals and a budget.

Prioritized Needs

1. Decrease obesity among adults and youth.

To work toward decreasing youth obesity, the following action steps are recommended:

- ☞ Implement a Healthier Choices campaign, which will lead to increased fruit and vegetable consumption, as well as other healthy foods
- ☞ Increase opportunities for students to engage in physical activity and decrease sedentary behavior

To work toward decreasing adult obesity, the following action steps are recommended:

- ☞ Implement a healthy vending campaign, which will lead to increased fruit and vegetable consumption
- ☞ Update and disseminate community wellness guides and calendars that contain information about walking trails, sports programs, and exercise and nutrition programs available in Defiance County
- ☞ Increase opportunities for business to provide wellness programs and insurance incentive programs for their employees
- ☞ Implement community gardens

2. Decrease youth depression and suicide.

- ☞ Increase awareness of available mental health services
- ☞ Create a network of follow-up support systems
- ☞ Expand evidence-based programs targeting youth
- ☞ Increase the number of primary care physicians who screen for depression during office visits

3. Decrease youth bullying.

- ☞ Implement the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in Defiance County Schools
- ☞ Implement evidence-based parent programs

4. Decrease youth alcohol use.

- ☞ Expand the LifeSkills training curriculum in Defiance County
- ☞ Secure a Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant
- ☞ Implement a family mentoring program
- ☞ Increase awareness of available programs

Existing Health Care Facilities and Resources Available to Meet Identified Needs

1. Decrease obesity among adults and youth.

- ☞ Nutrition/dietician
- ☞ Weight management
- ☞ Physical activity

Resources currently available include:

United Way
 NOCAC
 YMCA
 American Cancer Society
 Ohio Cooperative Extension Service
 Child and Adult Care Food Programs
 Backpack Buddy Program
 Farmer’s Markets
 Mercy Defiance Hospital
 ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital

2. Decrease youth depression and suicide.

- ☞ Awareness
- ☞ Screening tools
- ☞ Prevention
- ☞ Treatment
- ☞ Mentoring
- ☞ Evidence-based protocols

Resources currently available include:

Four County Family Center
 Center for Child & Family Advocacy
 Maumee Valley Guidance Center
 Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio
 United Way
 YMCA
 First Call for Help
 Area schools

3. Decrease youth bullying.

- ▨ Education
- ▨ Support groups
- ▨ Prevention
- ▨ School-wide policies

Resources currently available include:

Center for Child & Family Advocacy
Four County Family Center
First Call for Help
Area schools

3. Decrease youth alcohol use.

- ▨ Early intervention
- ▨ Education
- ▨ Treatment
- ▨ Screening in ER
- ▨ Awareness

Resources currently available include:

Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio
Four County Family Center
ProMedica
YMCA
AA
Area police and sheriff departments
Area schools

Collaborating Partners

(IRS Notice 2011-52 Section 3.03 (2))

American Cancer Society
306 Clinton St, Defiance, OH 43512

City of Defiance
324 Perry St., Defiance, OH 43512

Community Memorial Hospital
208 Columbus Street, Hicksville, OH 43526

Defiance Area YMCA
1599 Palmer Drive, Defiance, OH 43512

Defiance County Board of Commissioners
500 Court Street, Suite A, Defiance, OH 43512

Defiance County Family and Children First Council
1300 East Second Street, Suite 100, Defiance, OH 43512

Defiance County General Health District
1300 East Second Street, Suite 100, Defiance, OH 43512

Defiance County Sheriff
113 Biede Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512

First Call For Help
600 Freedom Dr., Napoleon, OH 43545

Four County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction
and Mental Health

T-761 State Route 66, Archbold, OH 43502

Four County Family Center
118 Clinton St., Defiance, OH 43512

Hicksville Community Service Center
104 N Main Street, Hicksville, OH 43526

Maumee Valley Guidance Center
211 Biede Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512

Mercy Defiance Hospital
1404 E. Second Street, Defiance, OH 43512

ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital
1200 Ralston Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512

United Way of Defiance County
511 Perry Street, Defiance, OH 43512

Village of Hicksville
111 S Main St, Hicksville, OH 43526

Contracted Vendors:

The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio

3231 Central Park West Drive, Suite 200, Toledo, OH 43617

The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio has been in existence since 1972. HCNO has 22 full members and 11 Affiliate/Associate members. The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio is a member driven organization that represents and advocates, through a politically neutral forum, on behalf of its member hospitals and health systems and provides collaborative opportunities to enhance the health status of the citizens of northwest Ohio.

Surveys of various sorts, such as semi-annual wage and benefits compensation studies, monthly hospital utilization reviews and other studies are conducted, with the results distributed to the survey participants. Committee meetings are held in the Hospital Council conference room for hospital administrative staff to enable them to stay abreast of current topics of concern, including legislation, The Joint Commission requirements and other matters. These committees provide members with professional networking opportunities, as well. The Hospital Council arranges for speakers, and notifies committee members of meetings. C.E.U.s may be awarded for some topics. The Hospital Council publishes a Media Manual that includes public relations contacts and disaster information for its members. This manual is then sent to media outlets in the Northwest Ohio area. The Hospital Council provides its members the opportunity to positively impact their communities through collaborative efforts.

Bricker & Eckler LLP /

Quality Management Consulting Group

100 South Third St., Columbus, OH 43215

Jim Flynn is a partner in the Bricker & Eckler Health Care group where he has practiced for 23 years. His general health care practice focuses on transactional, reimbursement-related and health planning matters, including experience in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, certificate of need, non-profit and tax-exempt health care providers, federal and state administrative appeals, federal and state regulatory issues, fraud and abuse, False Claims Act, physician recruitment, corporate compliance, corporate organization and structure, public hospitals, and long term care issues. Mr. Flynn has provided consultation to health care providers, including non-profit and tax-exempt health care providers and public hospitals, on community health needs assessment.

Chris Kenney is the Director of Regulatory Services with the Quality Management Consulting Group of Bricker & Eckler LLP. Ms. Kenney has over 30 years' experience in health care planning and policy development, federal and state regulations, certificate of need regulations, state licensure, and Medicare and Medicaid certification. Since 2010, Ms. Kenney has been actively involved in conducting, reviewing, and consulting on Community Health Needs Assessments. She provides expert testimony on community need and offers presentations and educational sessions regarding Community Health Needs Assessments. As Director of Ohio's Certificate of Need Program from 1997-2009, she prepared legislation and developed policy directives to address community needs including the development and introduction of the long-term care bed need methodology currently in use in Ohio. Ms. Kenney works with provider associations, industry groups, state agencies and providers on various health care delivery related issues. She has provided consultation to various state agencies on health care matters, health care providers on planning and regulatory matters, and Ohio's Executive Branch on state long-term care policy matters.