

# **Duke Regional Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan**

## **FY 23 Progress Report and FY 24 Implementation Plan**

For more than 45 years, Duke Regional Hospital has cared for residents of Durham and the surrounding communities. Duke Regional is a not-for-profit hospital, and we honor our tax-exempt status and responsibility to the community through programs, activities and partnerships aimed at improving the health of our friends and neighbors.

As part of Duke Health, Duke Regional partnered with Durham County Department of Public Health and the Partnership for a Healthy Durham to conduct the 2020 Durham Community Health Assessment (CHA). The Durham CHA identifies the strengths of Durham and the areas in which our community is the most vulnerable. This information is used to create three-year Community Health Improvement Plans around the top health priorities. Duke Regional Hospital builds our annual hospital-specific plans to help address these identified health priorities. The 2020 survey was conducted between May and September 2019, and carried out by 243 community volunteers, Partnership members, and staff from Durham County Department of Public Health and Duke Health. The county wide survey sample size was doubled in 2019 to analyze data by race and ethnicity. The assessment included 612 resident surveys in county wide and Hispanic or Latino neighborhood samples. The 2020 Community Health Assessment report was the first to disaggregate data by race and ethnicity for Black and white residents.

Duke Health partnered again in 2023 with Durham County Department of Public Health and the Partnership for a Healthy Durham to conduct a Durham Community Health Assessment, which will be published in 2024.

The Durham Community Health Needs Assessment identified five health priorities for 2021-2023:

1. Affordable housing
2. Access to healthcare and insurance
3. Poverty
4. Mental health
5. Obesity, diabetes and food access

Duke Regional Hospital considers the DRH Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan document to be a “working plan” that continues to evolve to ensure the efficacy of strategies intended to meet expressed community health needs. This implementation plan does not contain descriptions of the community health improvement work carried out specifically by other components of Duke Health or Duke University. This implementation plan represents only Duke Regional Hospital’s continually evolving variety of programs and activities in priority areas to improve health with the Durham community.

### **1) POVERTY/AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

#### **Duke**

In 2017, Duke implemented a plan to gradually increase the minimum wage for all employees to \$15 per hour, more than twice the minimum federal or state hourly wage. These efforts continued over several years, culminating in 2019 with a minimum wage increase to \$15 for all employees. On July

1, 2022, Duke University, including Duke University Health System, increased the minimum wage to \$17 for all employees working at least 20 hours week/ 36 weeks per year.

### **Education**

Duke Regional has identified Education as a priority part of its community strategy to help address poverty. Duke Regional is committed to helping train the healthcare workers of the future. In fiscal years 2017-2020, DRH provided opportunities for 70 pre-health undergraduate students from local colleges and universities to volunteer alongside team members in the Emergency Department as well as an eight-week volunteer program for area high school students to gain experiences in a health care setting each summer. Due to COVID, in-person volunteer opportunities were halted in March 2020, but the hospital continued to find creative ways to engage students virtually and welcomed them back to campus using a slow and measured re-entry of students as safety requirements evolved. Since that time, clinical students and volunteers have returned to the hospital setting.

In FY 2021, Duke Regional invested \$4.7 million in teaching and training healthcare professionals through Medical Residency. In FY 2022, Duke Regional invested \$6.6 million.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2023.

2023 Progress: Duke Regional invested \$5.9 million to train and teach tomorrow's healthcare professionals.

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2024.

### **City of Medicine Academy**

Duke Regional has been a partner with City of Medicine Academy (CMA) and Durham Public Schools since the program's inception at Southern High School in the 1990s. In August 2011, CMA moved to a new facility located on the Duke Regional campus. As part of our partnership, Duke Regional hosts students for clinical rotations and internships, provides CPR training and hosts the annual Senior Awards Night. Duke Regional continues to partner with CMA, hosting students throughout the year.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue its partnership with CMA in FY 2023.

2023 Progress: Duke Regional continued its partnership with CMA in FY 2023.

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue its partnership with CMA in FY 2024.

### **Project SEARCH**

Duke Regional was the first host hospital in the state for Project SEARCH, a partnership with Durham Public Schools, OE Enterprises, North Carolina Vocational Rehab and Alliance Health that provides career development experiences to senior high school students with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue to serve as a host site for Project SEARCH in FY 2023.

2023 Progress: Six students graduated in May 2023, for a total of 95 graduates to date.

Approximately half are still employed in the community, with four graduates working at Duke Regional Hospital.

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue to serve as a host site for Project SEARCH in FY 2024.

### **Fill That Bus and Salvation Army Angel Tree**

Employees have donated bins of school supplies to Crayons2Calculators Fill The Bus! Campaign each year since 2015 to support Durham Public Schools. Teachers from the schools with the highest poverty levels were invited to pick out supplies needed in their classrooms. Each December, employees “adopt” 100 children from Duke Regional’s Salvation Army Angel Tree. Children in Durham have received clothing, books and toys thanks to the generous donations. Extra gifts are also donated to the Salvation Army for other needy families in the area.

- 2023 Goal: Duke Regional will host at least one drive to benefit underserved children or families in our community.
- 2023 Progress: Duke Regional supported Crayons2Calculator Fill the Bus! Campaign, the Salvation Army Tree gift drive and a food drive for the North Carolina Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC.
- 2024 Goal: Duke Regional will a host at least one drive to benefit underserved children or families in our community.

## **2) ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE**

### **Community Health Improvement Services**

In 2023, Duke Regional provided \$.5 million in patient sponsorship services, which includes expenses such as payment for post-acute care, durable medical equipment, parking passes, lodging, and meals based on specific indigent funding guidelines.

- 2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support.

### **Durham County Emergency Medical Services**

Durham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) serves as the primary provider of emergency ambulance services and alternative medical transportation in Durham County. In FY 2022, Duke Regional contributed more than \$2.6 million to support Durham County EMS and Durham Recovery Response Center.

- 2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2023.
- 2023 Progress: Duke Regional \$2.8 million to support Durham County EMS and Durham Recovery Response Center.
- 2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2024.

### **Financial Assistance**

Each year Duke Regional provides no-cost or discounted urgent or emergent health care services to patients who are unable to pay. In FY 2022, Duke Regional provided \$30.2 million in financial assistance.

- 2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2023.
- 2023 Progress: Duke Regional provided \$31.9 million in financial assistance in FY 2023.
- 2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2024.

### **Lincoln Community Health Center**

Lincoln Community Health Center (LCHC) is a federally qualified community health center that provides primary care services for about 40,000 patients each year. Approximately 50 percent of LCHC patients are uninsured and 52% are living at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

In addition to generous financial support, Duke Regional provides engineering, environmental, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology services. The total Duke Regional Hospital contribution to LCHC in fiscal year 2022, including monetary and in-kind services, was \$8.2 million.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2023.

2023 Progress: Duke Regional provided \$8.8 million in financial assistance in FY 2023.

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support in FY 2024.

### **Project Access Durham County**

Project Access of Durham County (PADC) coordinates specialty care at no charge to uninsured and underinsured Durham residents living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. These residents have access to primary health care through Lincoln Community Health Center.

Duke Regional has provided office space and technological support for PADC as well as episodes of care for PADC patients. Duke Regional continued to provide office space, technological support and episodes of care in fiscal year 2021 until Project Access relocated to a non-hospital building. In FY 2021, Duke Regional provided financial support (\$11,667) in lieu of providing space and \$15,000 in 2022.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support.

2023 Progress: Duke Regional provided \$20,000 to PADC in FY 2023.

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support.

## **3) MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Duke Behavioral Health Center North Durham**

In 2021, Duke Regional opened the new Duke Behavioral Health Center North Durham and Expanded Emergency Department to more comprehensive care for our behavioral health patients. This \$102.4 million project expanded the hospital's emergency room and consolidated inpatient, outpatient and emergency behavioral health services on Duke Regional's campus, with the goal of providing better coordination of care for behavioral health patients in Durham and regionally. The Center incorporates meeting space specially designed to be used by community-based organizations providing services for behavioral health patients and their families.

## **4) CHRONIC ILLNESS**

### **Look Good Feel Better.**

The Look Good Feel Better program is a non-medical, brand-neutral program that provides support for female cancer treatment patients who have experience hair loss or other physical appearance changes due to chemotherapy or radiation treatments. For more than a decade, DRH has supported this program as a host site. Due to COVID 19, the workshops were offered virtually beginning May 2020 and have continued in this virtual format through our present time.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue to sponsor the workshops in FY 2023.

2023 Progress: Duke Regional sponsored the monthly workshops in a virtual format.

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue to sponsor the workshops in FY 2024.

### **Stroke Support**

Duke Regional offers a monthly stroke support group that offers education, support and resources for individuals who have been affected by stroke. The support group started in 2006, and typically

hosted 20 to 25 participants a month (with a combination of survivors and care givers). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the stroke group was virtual in February 2020 through June 2022.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue a similar level of support with monthly virtual meetings until it is safe to provide in person community meetings.

2023 Progress: Duke Regional's Stroke Support Group continued to meet monthly, and moved to hybrid meetings (participants chose to attend in person or virtually).

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue to offer monthly support groups in a hybrid format.

#### **HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections:**

Duke Regional does not have a specific goal to address the rate of HIV and sexually transmitted infections because considerable work is already being done through organizations within the community. Through the Partnership for a Healthy Durham, the HIV/STI Advisory Council brings together community members and agencies to focus on strategies to prevent the spread of syphilis and HIV/AIDS. In addition, Lincoln Community Health Center, which Duke Regional supports, operates an Early Intervention Clinic for patients with HIV/AIDS at the Durham County Health Department.

#### **5) FUNDRAISING AND OUTREACH**

Duke Regional conducts a number of fundraising and outreach activities in the Durham Community and beyond. Duke Regional employees raise funds each year for charitable organizations, including:

- Duke Community Giving (including United Way of the Greater Triangle)
- American Heart Association Heart Walk

In 2022, Duke Regional raised approximately \$37,099 for local charities.

2023 Goal: Duke Regional will continue to raise funds at a similar level to support local charities.

2023 Progress: Duke Regional raised \$29,857 to support local charities.

2024 Goal: Duke Regional will continue to raise funds at a similar level to support local charities.

The hospital continues to partner with local nonprofits on endeavors that educate our community about health initiatives and disparities and provides office space for the Durham Community Health Coalition. In FY 2023, DRH partnered with the American Red Cross to host five blood drives—an increase from the previous year to support a critical blood shortage. These drives resulted in 103 units of blood collected.