

SMART MEDICINE  
HEALING GRACE



# Community Health Implementation Plan 2017 - 2019

# 2017-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan for CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana

## MISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital is a non-profit hospital located in Lake Charles, Louisiana and represents CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana. CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana is part of CHRISTUS Health, formed in 1999 to strengthen the Catholic faith-based health care ministries of the Congregations of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston and San Antonio that began in 1866. Founded on the mission “to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ,” CHRISTUS Health’s vision is to be a leader, a partner, and an advocate in creating innovative health and wellness solutions that improve the lives of individuals and communities so that all may experience God’s healing presence and love.

As part of this effort and to meet [federal IRS 990H requirements](#), this document serves as a community health improvement plan (CHIP) report for CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana. This report is the companion piece to the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report that was finalized June 2016 (see separate document), and based, in part, off of several needs identified in that document.

## TARGET AREA/ POPULATION

CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital sees patients from the following five parishes in the Southwestern Louisiana region. The target population for most of the implementation strategies discussed in this report is dependent upon the priority area of focus, and will vary from patient groups to specific neighborhoods or communities within these parishes.

CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana Parishes	
Allen	Cameron
Beauregard	Jefferson Davis
Calcasieu	

## PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS

Leadership for CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana was provided with a draft community health needs assessment report May 2016. A panel of experts comprised of both CHRISTUS staff and external partners representing various members of the community was tasked with reviewing the findings and determining which priority issues would be selected to address over the next three years as part of a community health implementation plan.

The panel took a number of things into consideration when choosing priorities. Some priorities were selected based off of issue prevalence and severity according to parish and regional secondary data. Input provided by key informants, focus group participants, and other community stakeholders was also heavily considered, especially for priority areas where secondary data were less available. The official Community Health Needs Assessment report was finalized June 2016 (see separate document). Based

on the process described above, the priority health needs selected by CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana are:

1. Cancer (specifically colorectal, lung, breast and prostate cancer)
2. Mental Health
3. Access to Care/ Lack of coordination of care
4. Affordable Housing
5. Human Trafficking
6. Immigration
7. Chronic Disease Management (includes heart disease, obesity and diabetes)

**SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

The following implementation strategies outline actions CHRISTUS Health Southwestern Louisiana will take over the next three years to address the seven priority health needs listed above.

CANCER PRIORITY STRATEGY

Assess and enhance existing oncological services and screening activities to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality rates in the Southwestern Louisiana region.

Major Action(s)	Sub-actions
<b>Provide oncological services and supports to improve patient outcomes</b>	<p>1. Review and assess current oncological services provided to determine possible changes required or gaps in service.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Ensuring appropriate and effective oncological services are provided to patients can improve patient outcomes and cancer survival rates. Enhance oncological services (education, screening and support) to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality rates in SWLA.</p>
	<p>2. Provide nurse navigation and support groups to oncological patients.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Through the use of multi-disciplinary weekly huddles, the navigated cancer population will identify barriers to care that will be addressed.</p>
	<p>3. When appropriate, connect oncological patients to appropriate research trials.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Continually offer opportunities to participate in research trials that will be evidenced by scorecard.</p>
<b>Develop partnerships with other organizations to improve access to oncological screening and prevention education</b>	<p>1. Work specifically with the American Cancer Society, clinicians, and programs supported by the Louisiana Smoking Cessation Trust to advance smoking cessation efforts in the community.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Increasing access to smoking cessation services may reduce the risk of cancer incidence for smokers who successfully</p>

	will quit.
	<p>2. Connect with area businesses and local churches to provide cancer screenings and prevention education materials to a larger audiences.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Increased access to screening and prevention materials improves the likelihood that any pre-cancerous symptoms are noted and treated in advance. Will build a stronger partnership with ACS to address Cancer education and screening (participation with Cancer Outreach &amp; Educational events).</p>

**MENTAL HEALTH PRIORITY STRATEGY**

Explore partnerships and strategies to improve the accessibility of mental health services and resources to reduce poor mental health outcomes for populations at risk.

Major Action(s)	Sub-actions
<b>Develop partnerships with other organizations to improve access to mental health services in community</b>	<p>1. Partner with nonprofits to raise awareness/outreach and offer referrals or assistance.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Improved communication among community institutions about the need to better connect families to available mental health services which can facilitate better access for these families.</p>
	<p>2. Explore technology to reach an outpatient population to address inability to access resources.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Interactive technology can assist participants with how to best navigate the mental health system and get the care they need.</p>
	<p>3. Explore ways to bring together a roundtable or task force on mental health.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> In 2013, Mental Health America, a community based non-profit organization on mental health ranked Louisiana 43<sup>rd</sup> (out of 50) in US for high prevalence of mental illness (lower ranking = higher prevalence). Mental health and suicidal thoughts are influenced by biological and environmental factors. Environmental factors such as stress, poverty, homelessness, and exposure to interpersonal and community violence are linked to increased rates of mental health.</p>

<p><b>Continue to provide mental health services within CHRISTUS-sponsored SBHCs</b></p>	<p>1. Offer bullying/peer pressure/suicide prevention education, services, and/or referrals to SBHC patients.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Children who are able to access mental health services at their SBHC will report and experience better overall mental health outcomes.</p>
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ACCESS TO CARE / LACK OF COORDINATION OF CARE PRIORITY STRATEGY

Improve access to care through effective coordination of the providers, resources, and initiatives linking populations in Southwestern Louisiana to critical health services, medications, and prevention education.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p><b>Explore establishing a system of community organizations or agencies that can assist with improving access to care or providing other health services at a reduced cost</b></p>	<p>1. Explore possibility of building a bigger network of primary care providers.</p> <p>2. Explore Dispensary of Hope and Medical Assistant Program.</p> <p>3. Explore relationships with other organizations to provide prevention services.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Establishing a system of local agencies and clinics in the area to partner and provide much needed health care services will improve coordination of care and health care access.</p>
<p><b>Facilitate opportunities to distribute health information/ prevention materials to larger audiences</b></p>	<p>1. Provide health screenings and/or prevention education information at area health fairs.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Participate in 3 health fairs that will provide education and/or screening to citizens of SWLA. At least 2 health fairs will target the disadvantaged.</p>
<p><b>Achieve a 10% reduction in ED visits for the economically disadvantaged by improving access to appropriate care alternatives.</b></p>	<p>Specific actions to be taken will be determined in consultation with Health, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion leadership at the CHRISTUS Health system level.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Document the number of persons who receive appropriate care in the appropriate setting as a percentage that contributes toward the goal of a 10% reduction in the inappropriate visits to the ED by the economically disadvantaged.</p>

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRIORITY STRATEGY

Explore opportunities to contribute to regional strategies to ensure affordable housing options are offered within the growing Southwestern Louisiana region.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p><b>Develop partnerships with government, businesses, and other sectors to determine what role CHRISTUS can play to address housing in the SW LA region</b></p>	<p>1. Participate on coalitions related to this issue 2. Meet with the City and others to explore ways to partner</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Aligning with other sectors who view housing as a priority will help CHRISTUS establish the best means to apply time and/or resources to address the issue of poor or inadequate housing in the larger community</p>
<p><b>When appropriate, serve as an advocate for safe, affordable housing</b></p>	<p>1. Provide information on how unsafe or poor housing is connected to poor health outcomes</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> With its expertise on health, CHRISTUS Southwestern Louisiana can serve as a key partner to housing advocates by providing critical information on how poor housing is connected to poor health outcomes—thus making others and the general public more aware of the importance of this priority area.</p> <p>Note: In 2013, Mental Health America, a community based non-profit organization on mental health ranked Louisiana 43<sup>rd</sup> (out of 50) in US for high prevalence of mental illness (lower ranking = higher prevalence). Mental health and suicidal thoughts are influenced by biological and environmental factors. Environmental factors such as stress, poverty, homelessness, and exposure to interpersonal and community violence are linked to increased rates of mental health.</p>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRIORITY STRATEGY

Educate and inform the larger community on the impact/ threat of human trafficking to regional stability and population health and well-being.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p><b>Increase awareness among clinicians, schools, and others on the issue of human trafficking</b></p>	<p>1. Join a local coalition on human trafficking. 2. Share information with clinicians and others about human trafficking and how it impacts the Southwestern Louisiana region. 3. Possibly develop training for clinicians on how to detect the signs of human trafficking.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> With its expertise on health, CHRISTUS Southwestern Louisiana can serve as a key partner to educating the wider public on the importance of this priority area.</p>

IMMIGRATION PRIORITY STRATEGY

Explore opportunities to contribute to regional strategies to best prepare Southwestern Louisiana for continued influx of immigrants to the region.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p><b>Develop partnerships with government and other sectors to determine what role CHRISTUS can play to address immigration in the SW LA region</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Search out data to fully assess the issue (# of undocumented).</li> <li>2. Meet with the City, the Diocese, and others to explore ways to partner.</li> <li>3. Provide a basic medical terminology in Spanish course to staff &amp; providers.</li> </ol> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Aligning with other sectors who view immigration as a priority will help CHRISTUS establish the best means to apply time and/or resources to establish better services for the increasing immigrant population in the Southwestern Louisiana region.</p>

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT PRIORITY STRATEGY

Improve the accessibility of chronic disease management and prevention tools and resources to reduce poor health outcomes and the burden of disease for populations at risk.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p><b>Explore opportunities to enhance or expand chronic disease management and prevention education and initiatives</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen affiliations with local disease advocacy associations.</li> <li>2. Provide nurse navigators/ care coordinators to patients whenever possible.</li> <li>3. Work with schools to implement chronic disease prevention activities for youth.</li> </ol> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Implementing tactics that help people avoid or manage chronic disease can assist in the reducing poor health outcomes and the burden of disease for populations at risk.</p>
<p><b>Maximize ways to provide affordable medication options to prevent or manage chronic conditions</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educate and encourage practitioners to prescribe affordable meds.</li> </ol> <p><i>Anticipated Outcomes:</i> Providing much needed medications at a reduced/ reasonable cost can increase access for those who may not be able to afford these medicines otherwise - Dispensary of Hope</p>

## **OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS THAT CANNOT NOT BE ADDRESSED**

In an effort to maximize any resources available for the priority areas listed above, the CHNA Advisory Committee determined that the following issues would not be explicitly included in their community health improvement plan (CHIP):

- Environmental Health
- Maternal & Child Health
- Substance Abuse

For all three areas, it was determined that there are other health care facilities and organizations in the region who are already addressing these needs or have more specialized resources at their disposal to address these needs in the near future.

While transportation is not specifically mentioned as a priority area, the Advisory Committee anticipates that any efforts to improve access to care /coordination of care would likely incorporate strategies to address transportation barriers to access.