



**CHRISTUS[®]
DUBUIS**

Hospital of Beaumont / Port Arthur

Community Health Improvement Plan

2017-2019

About Texas Health Institute:

Texas Health Institute (THI) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the health of Texans and their communities. Based in Austin, Texas, THI has operated at the forefront of public health and health policy in the state for over 50 years, serving as a trusted, leading voice on issues of health care access, health equity, workforce development, planning, and evaluation. Core and central to THI's approach is engaging communities in participatory, collaborative approaches to improving population health, bringing together the wisdom embedded within communities with insights, innovations, and guidance from leaders across the state and nation.



Developed by:

Texas Health Institute

8501 North Mopac Expressway, Suite 170

Austin, Texas 78759

(512) 279-3910

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MISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur is a part of the CHRISTUS Dubuis Health System, a non-profit long term acute care hospital (LTACH) system operated by CHRISTUS Health, providing care to patients who require acute hospitalization over an extended period of time. CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur's dedicated staff provide specialty care that is tailored to the individual needs of every patient, aiming to deliver high-quality services with excellent clinical outcomes. CHRISTUS Health is a Catholic health system formed in 1999 to strengthen the faith-based health care ministries of the Congregations of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word of Houston and San Antonio that began in 1866. Today, CHRISTUS Health operates 25 acute care hospitals and 92 clinics across Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico, and 12 international hospitals in Mexico and Chile. In addition, the CHRISTUS Dubuis Health System owns or manages eight long term acute care hospitals across the southern and midwestern United States.

As part of its mission 'to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ,' CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur strives to be "a leader, a partner, and an advocate in the creation of innovative health and wellness solutions that improve the lives of individuals and communities so that all may experience God's healing presence and love." In alignment with these values, all CHRISTUS Health hospitals work closely with the local community to ensure regional health needs are identified and incorporated into system-wide planning and strategy. To this end, CHRISTUS Health commissioned Texas Health Institute (THI) to produce the 2017-2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur.

To produce the CHNA, CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur and THI analyzed data for over 40 different health indicators, spanning demographics, socioeconomic factors, health behaviors, clinical care, and health outcomes. The needs assessment process culminated in the 2017-2019 CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Report, finalized in July 2016 (see separate document). Report findings synthesize data from publicly available sources, internal hospital data, and input from those with close knowledge of the local public health and health care landscape to present a comprehensive overview of unmet health needs in the region. Through an iterative process of analysis, stakeholder debriefing, and refinement, the collection of indicators presented for initial review was distilled into a final list of five priority health needs requiring a targeted community response in the coming triennium.

The CHIP presented in this document fulfills [federal IRS 990H requirements](#) for 501(c)(3) non-profit hospitals' community benefit requirements and will be made available to the public. The CHIP builds

upon the CHNA findings by detailing how CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur intends to engage partner organizations and other local resources to respond to the priority health needs identified in the CHNA. It identifies a clear set of goals, actions, and interim benchmarks to monitor progress. Specific community assets are identified and linked to needs they can address, a step toward fostering the collaboration and accountability necessary to ensure goals enumerated within the CHIP are pursued with the community’s full available capacity.

TARGET AREA/POPULATION

Due to the nature of the long term acute care industry, the regulatory bodies that oversee and govern the types of services that are provided, and the limited resources available to address the needs highlighted within the CHNA, patients admitted to CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will serve as the target population for most of the implementation strategies discussed in this report.

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur primarily receives patients from six counties in southeast Texas: Jefferson, Orange, Newton, Tyler, Jasper, and Hardin. The service region centers on the Beaumont-Port Arthur metropolitan statistical area, approximately 85 miles east of Houston and 25

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur Service Area Counties (TX)	
Jefferson	Tyler
Orange	Hardin
Newton	Jasper

miles west of the Texas-Louisiana state line. The service area is home to a total population of 462,119 residents. Over 50% of the region’s population resides in Jefferson County, which contains Beaumont and Port Arthur, the service area’s largest cities. Seven in 10 residents of the report area live in an urban environment, while the remaining 3 in 10 are rural. While 60% of persons living in the report area are working-age adults (age 18-64), the share of adults older than age

65 in the region (14.5%) has increased in recent years and represents the region’s fastest growing demographic segment. The unique health challenges associated with the aging population were repeatedly explored during community stakeholder discussions and may be embedded in many of the planned responses to health needs outlined in this CHIP.

The CHIRSTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur service area is home to a culturally, ethnically, and economically diverse population. Hispanic/Latino individuals comprise about 13% of the area’s population, while Black/African-American individuals represent about 23% of the population. Nearly 4 in 10 service area residents lives on an income at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level, and just under 7% of residents are unemployed. Twenty-three percent of area residents have experienced food insecurity within the last year, and nearly two-thirds have limited or no access to healthy food outlets.

With a lengthy history of serving poor and at-risk populations in the region, CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur remains committed to planning proactively for the needs of those who may be medically vulnerable. Race/ethnicity, income, employment, and education are known to predict health risk and health outcomes, ultimately contributing to disparities in well-being across lines of social and economic opportunity. In addition, persons experiencing homelessness, veterans, people living with HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ population, and other hard-to-reach individuals experience unique medical challenges and vulnerabilities to which the health systems that receive them should be prepared to respond. CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur's CHIP for the upcoming triennium reflects the organization's ongoing pursuit of regional health equity, promoting conditions that allow every person to attain the highest possible standard of health.

While health equity and opportunity is not an explicit health need presented in this CHIP, actions aligned with driving health equity improvements are embedded throughout the plan. These may include diversity in recruitment and hiring of personnel, monitoring of cultural and linguistic competence across different aspects of the clinical experience, pursuit of cross-sector partnerships with trusted community groups serving diverse populations, and outreach efforts targeted at harder-to-reach groups that may be chronically disengaged from health care resources.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORTIES

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur reviewed a draft CHNA report in June 2016. A committee of experts comprised of both hospital staff and external community health partners who participated in the CHNA formulation was tasked with reviewing the findings and distilling a broad list of ten indicators into a list of five priority health needs for targeted, near-term action.

Priorities were evaluated based off of issue prevalence and severity according to county 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 are less available. The committee considered a number of criteria in distilling top priorities, including magnitude and severity of each problem, the hospital's organizational capacity to address the problem, the impact of the problem on vulnerable populations, existing resources already addressing the problem, and potential risk associated with delaying intervention on the problem. The committee's final list of five priority needs is presented in rank order in the table below. This priority list of health needs lays the foundation for CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur to remain an active, informed partner in population health in the region for years to come.

Rank	Health Need
1	Access to primary care services
2	Unhealthy behaviors
3	Preventable hospital stays
4	Access to mental health providers and services
5	Food Insecurity

SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Presented in this section are a series of implementation strategies containing the detailed goals and actions CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will undertake in the coming three year period to respond to each priority health need listed above. A priority strategy statement describes each objective and introduces major actions that will be pursued to deliver improvements. Major actions are presented with sub-actions identifying specific partners and resources to be engaged in the improvement effort. Actions and sub-actions are linked with anticipated outcomes, which present a vision of how the status of each health need will change when the actions are completed.

ACCESS TO CARE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will enhance access to primary care in the Southeast Texas region by supporting initiatives that strengthen and expand the existing workforce.

Major Action(s)	Sub-actions
Develop and sustain new professionals joining the healthcare workforce in Southeast Texas.	<p>1. CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will continue to sponsor educational opportunities through partnerships with area colleges and universities.</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> An influx of new professionals into the local health workforce will narrow gaps in provider shortages in the region, enhancing the system’s capacity to care for a larger volume of local residents with primary care needs.</p>

UNHEALTHY BEHAVIOR IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will support the development and distribution of healthy living resources in the Southeast Texas region, with targeted outreach to vulnerable, hard-to-reach, or medically indigent populations.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p>Pursue further collaborations in community-based efforts to improve access to healthy living resources.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the inventory of community agencies and organizations that may be able to provide healthy living resources to populations who stand to benefit from ongoing support in making healthy lifestyle changes. 2. Conduct a scan of existing programs or efforts to disseminate healthy living resources and behavior change support in the community. Mutually identify and explore a potential role for CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur in efforts already being conducted by leading, trusted community partners. <p><i>Anticipated Outcome/s:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An updated community agency inventory will provide a sense of available capacity, current niche occupation, and collaborative potential. CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will have the information it needs to pursue collective engagement of community partners providing similar services. - Collaborations with trusted community resources who are already conducting healthy lifestyle promotion initiatives will maximize visibility and capacity, ensuring that CHRISTUS can play a meaningful role without duplicating efforts.
<p>Sustain existing community-based health promotion and education initiatives/efforts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain the primary sponsor of a major health fair in the Port Arthur community. <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> By offering healthy lifestyle education and basic health screenings at a highly visible local health fair, CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur can continue to engage its potential patient population in preventive efforts, providing residents with the tools and resources they need to prevent manageable or treatable conditions from becoming worse.</p>

PREVENTABLE HOSPITAL STAYS REDUCTION STRATEGY

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will improve accessibility of health education and screening resources to reduce the rate of preventable hospitalizations in Southeast Texas.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p>Develop and disseminate educational resources and provide chronic disease screening opportunities for high-risk populations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer, through various venues, health risk assessments for those citizens at high risk for preventable conditions. Screening for diabetes and blood pressure will be offered, as well as development and dissemination of educational resources detailing risk factors and warning signs. 2. For individuals with a chronic disease diagnosis, offer referrals and/or navigation to organizations offering assistance for managing chronic disease in non-acute settings. <p>Anticipated Outcome: Heightened awareness of risk for common chronic diseases, accessible screening opportunities, and disease self-management support will reduce downstream incidence of preventable hospitalizations among at-risk groups.</p>

INCREASING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES STRATEGY

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will expand and support the provision of counseling and mental/behavioral health services for at-risk populations in Southeast Texas.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p>Create and highlight access points for counseling and mental/behavioral health services in Southeast Texas.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide financial support for community-based mental/behavioral health counseling services equipped to serve persons experiencing mental health crisis, chronic mental illness, and/or substance use disorders. 2. Launch a media/public relations effort to increase public awareness of mental/behavioral health resources available to them. <p>Anticipated Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A financial investment in enhancing mental/behavioral health care capacity in the area will bridge wide gaps in mental

	<p>health provider access and broaden a previously limited scope of services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing visibility of existing and new mental health resources will heighten awareness of available options, encouraging people to pursue mental health counseling before crisis situations arise.
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FOOD INSECURITY REDUCTION STRATEGY

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur will strengthen ongoing community efforts to ensure all families Southeast Texas have consistent access to healthy, balanced meals.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p>Support community efforts in collection and distribution of nutritious food to food insecure families in the area.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue collaborations with community organizations (e.g., Southeast Texas Food Bank) to help combat unhealthy behaviors by purchasing nutritious food items and offering support (e.g., in-kind, volunteer) for collection and distribution of food to local residents with need. <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Efforts to improve food security in the region will result in fewer individuals experiencing hunger or relying on non-nutritious food items for a major portion of their diets, reducing risk for chronic disease linked to poor nutrition.</p>

COMMUNITY NEEDS THAT CANNOT BE ADDRESSED

In an effort to maximize any resources available for the priority areas listed above, leaders and staff at CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur determined that the following issues would not be explicitly included in their CHIP:

- Aging population
- Unemployment and economic instability
- Lack of social or emotional support
- Cancer
- Infant mortality

Unemployment, cancer, infant mortality, lack of social/emotional support, and the aging population received the fewest high-priority votes from the data-based priority list. While the needs prioritization

committee stressed that these needs remain pressing, they were not ranked high enough for inclusion in the final priority list because committee members either (a) did not feel CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Beaumont/Port Arthur was optimally positioned to address the need in an impactful way, (b) perceived a relative abundance of capacity and resources already being directed at the need, or (c) favored the comparative value of pursuing prevention-focused efforts aimed at risky behaviors or systemic barriers, rather than intervening on particular health outcomes.