



**CHRISTUS<sup>®</sup> DUBUIS**  
Hospital of Alexandria

# **Community Health Implementation Plan**

**2017-2019**

# 2017-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan for CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria

## MISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria, LA is a long term acute care hospital located within CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital. CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria is part of CHRISTUS Dubuis Health System, a non-profit long term acute care hospital (LTACH) system sponsored by CHRISTUS Health to provide care to patients who require acute care over an extended period of time. CHRISTUS Health was 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 Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria. 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 Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria sees patients from the following five parishes in the Central Louisiana region. 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 Alexandria will serve as the target population for most of the implementation strategies discussed in this report.

CHRISTUS Health Central Louisiana Parishes	
Avoyelles	Rapides
Bienville	Red River
Grant	

## PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS

Leadership for CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria 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 Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria are:

1. Chronic Conditions
2. Access to Care
3. Cost of Medications
4. Health Education/ Health Literacy

**SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

The following implementation strategies outline actions Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria will take over the next three years to address the four priority health needs listed above.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS PRIORTY STRATEGY

Reduce/ mitigate poor health outcomes associated with chronic conditions within the Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria community by providing, when possible, disease management & prevention education and thorough follow-up care.

Major Action(s)	Sub-actions
<b>Maximize opportunities to provide disease management &amp; prevention education</b>	<p>1. Explore ways to provide disease management &amp; prevention education where diagnosis-related group or co-morbidity with chronic conditions is occurring</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Providing this type of education offers the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent some chronic conditions or, at least, mitigate poorer health outcomes that can occur as a result of these conditions.</p>
	<p>2. Continue to ensure that all follow-up protocols as part of patient discharge procedures are conducted (e.g. any subsequent appointments are scheduled prior to discharge and check-in phone calls are made after patient is released)</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Ensuring that follow-up is provided could reduce other preventable diseases, improve the odds of a fuller, quicker recovery post-release, and reduce need for further hospitalization.</p>

ACCESS TO CARE & COST OF MEDICATIONS PRIORITY STRATEGY

Improve access to care and, particularly, access to high cost or unaffordable medications by establishing innovative ways to connect low-income community members with organizations and/or resources that provide health services and medications at a free or reduced cost

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p><b>Explore establishing a referral 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine a list of agencies and organizations that may be able to provide other health services at a reduced cost</li> <li>2. Continue to provide referrals to already known organizations such as Community HealthWorx whenever possible</li> </ol> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> List will serve as a resource when providing referrals to community members. Linking patients with these resources may improve opportunities for them to access care they may not be able to afford otherwise.</p>
<p><b>Maximize ways to provide affordable medication options</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to pay annual fee for Dispensary of Hope for Community HealthWorx                     <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Subsidizing Dispensary of Hope improves the odds that medication assistance is made available to as many people as possible who qualify. Dispensary of Hope provides much needed medications at a reduced/ reasonable cost, which can increase access to such medications.</p> </li> <li>2. Obtain drug company involvement for the indigent when possible                     <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Drug companies can assist with providing some medications at a reduced/ reasonable cost, which can increase access to such medications.</p> </li> <li>3. Arrange for samples from physician offices when available                     <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Many area physicians receive complimentary drug samples from pharmaceutical companies that could be given to those who may not be able to pay for these medications otherwise.</p> </li> </ol>

HEALTH EDUCATION & HEALTH LITERACY PRIORITY STRATEGY

Improve the accessibility of health education resources provided to patients by ensuring that community members are aware of what is available to them and that materials are relevant and at a literacy level most will be able to understand.

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p><b>Easily connect community members with the resources or tools they need to make good decisions regarding their health and prevention</b></p>	<p>1. Ensure that any education materials developed are available at a reading level most can understand</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Materials that are provided at the appropriate literacy level are more likely to be understood and utilized.</p>
	<p>2. Provide patient discharge education online and encourage staff to access and routinely provide</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> This ensures that all patients are systematically provided the discharge information and education they need to continue to maintain good/ optimum health once released and reduce the risk of further hospitalization</p>
	<p>3. When possible, engage other disciplines in any education materials developed</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> This ensures that any health education materials developed reflect the expertise of the many disciplines that work together to address health needs and improve outcomes.</p>

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

In an effort to maximize any resources available for the priority areas listed above, leaders and staff at CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria determined that the following issues would not be explicitly included in their community health improvement plan (CHIP):

- Mental health/ behavioral issues
- Transportation
- Nutrition

Mental health was acknowledged as a critical community issue. However, current hospital policy / procedures disallow admission to CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria for those with diagnosed mental health issues.

The issue of transportation was not selected as patients admitted to CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria are already hospitalized prior to arriving.

While CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Alexandria occasionally works on nutritional issues with patients and behavioral issues are sometimes addressed in scope of care for some patients, neither issue is considered to be a pressing issue that falls within the usual scope of what a long term acute care facility should provide.