Mass General Brigham
Newton-Wellesley Hospital

2025

Community Health Implementation Plan

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Priorities

Health

- Cardiometabolic Disease
- Cancer - Colorectal
- Substance Use and Misuse Disorders
- Maternal Health

Social Risk

- Housing
- Economic Growth and Opportunities
- Access to Healthy Food/Food Security
- Access to Care and Services
- Mental Health/Chronic Stress/Isolation

Emerging Needs

- Immigrant Health
- Access to Health Insurance and Social Supports
- Extreme Heat and Climate Vulnerability

Strategic

- Policy, Advocacy and Community Engagement (across all areas)

Health
Priorities

Cardiometabolic Disease

Overall Goal: Improve health outcomes and address inequities in cardiometabolic disease.

Objectives

1. Develop broader hypertension (HTN) support to achieve population-level impact.
2. Achieve sustained blood pressure control in MGB served communities.
3. Engage community members through outreach and health education.
4. Provide blood pressure screenings and education on HTN management and prevention.
5. Strengthen connections between community members, primary care, and preventive services within the NWH/MGB system.
6. Collect data and feedback to inform community health strategies and measure impact over time.
7. Integrate MGB Clinical Community Programs to embed community care and provide an interdisciplinary approach to improve cardiometabolic health outcomes, addressing both health and social risk factors.

Cancer - Colorectal

Overall Goal: Improve colorectal cancer screening and eliminate inequities in colorectal cancer (CRC) mortality through expanded access to prevention, screening, and coordinated care, prioritizing those communities with the highest disease burden and lowest screening rates.

Objectives

1. Integrate MGB Clinical Community Programs to embed community care that provide an interdisciplinary approach to improve colon cancer screening and address related social risk factors.
2. Address barriers to colon cancer screening and prevention.

Cancer - Colorectal (continued)

3. Educate community members about the risk of colon cancer and the opportunities for screening and treatment.

Substance Use and Misuse Disorders

Overall Goal: Reduce overdose mortality rates, expand access to care and treatment, and close equity gaps to improve health and quality of life.

Objectives

1. Expand access to high-quality, effective, and accessible SUD care, leading to measurable improvements in treatment initiation.
2. Enhance and align cross-sector and cross-community collaborations by forming relationships and partnerships.

Maternal Health

Overall Goal: Ensure better and more equitable maternal health outcomes and birth equity by eliminating disparities in access, care quality, and culturally relevant services.

Objectives

1. Implement evidence-based strategies through an interdisciplinary approach to improve maternal health, addressing both health and social risk through the continuum of pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, and early parenting.
2. Provide consistent and comprehensive health education, coaching, and social risk mitigation during pregnancy and postpartum period for patients at increased risk of adverse pregnancy-related outcomes.

Social
Risk

Housing

Overall Goal: Ensure that every resident has a home that provides security, comfort, and the foundation to thrive.

Objectives

1. Strengthen pathways to support housing stability, economic mobility, and prevent displacement.
2. Increase the number of people accessing existing programs and services that support housing stability and safety.
3. Enhance and align cross-sector collaborations by building relationships and integrating housing partners into health-care related programs.

Economic Growth and Opportunities

Overall Goal: Ensure access to resources and opportunities to build generational wealth and succeed in their chosen path to economic stability and mobility.

Objectives

1. Increase access to and enrollment in workforce development programs that address employment shortages in the healthcare sector.
2. Increase post-secondary education enrollment and access to networking supports that facilitate entry, navigation, and transitions from education to employment for young adults.
3. Increase the number of residents accessing programs and policies that support economic mobility, financial resilience, and community wealth building.

Access to Healthy Food/Food Security

Overall Goal: Ensure everyone has convenient, dignified access to enough affordable, and nutritious food and resources to achieve and support optimal health and well-being.

Access to Healthy Food/Food Security (continued)

Objectives

1. Protect and increase dignified access to nutrition assistance programs to reach more populations in need.
2. Increase the capacity of places and times people can obtain nutritious food with the expansion of the co-located MGB Community Care van and mobile market in collaboration with community-based partners.
3. Strengthen cross-sector community partnerships to bolster a sustainable and nutritious food system.
4. Enhance the collection, use and coordination of food security data and metrics to inform equitable and community-driven solutions.
5. Enhance and align cross-sector collaborations by building relationships and integrating food and nutrition partners to health care programs.
6. Provide nutrition education and awareness at food access locations.

Access to Care and Services

Overall Goal: Everyone has access to welcoming, supportive, connected, and affordable health care when and where they need it.

Objectives

1. Increase supports that make it easier for residents to access and navigate healthcare.
2. Grow and diversify the healthcare workforce to reduce inequities to access to care.
3. Expand mobile and "in-community" healthcare delivery among at-risk populations.
4. Convene community-based organizations in distinct sectors to expand access to service and enhance navigation.
5. Reduce barriers to care related to language and transportation.

Mental Health/Chronic Stress/Isolation

Overall Goal: Everyone has access to welcoming, supportive, connected, affordable health and mental health care when and where they need it.

Objectives

1. Build an equitable, integrated network of community-led mental health resources, ensuring support is available to everyone who needs it.
2. Enhance and align cross-sector collaborations to promote mental wellness, reduce isolation, and expand access to care.
3. Incorporate all populations in the mental health focus, i.e. all-age youth, maternal, seniors, etc.

Emerging
Needs

Immigrant Health

Overall Goal: Optimize immigrants' ability to access healthcare and maintain physical and emotional wellbeing through care delivery, education, advocacy, and research.

Objectives

1. Provide mental health services to help close the mental health gap within immigrant communities through low-barrier, community-based mental health programs.
2. Deliver health services that is provided by clinicians and staff who perform with best practices in caring for immigrant patients, with a focus on cultural responsiveness, trauma-informed care, and reducing language and access barriers.
3. Advance immigrant health through advocacy, research, and program evaluation to inform evidence-based care models and dissemination of best practices across MGB and beyond.

Access to Health Insurance and Social Supports

Overall Goal: Improve awareness, enrollment, and utilization of health insurance and social service resources through coordinated financial counseling, education, and care management—reducing the negative health impacts associated with limited coverage.

Objectives

1. Strengthen family and community partnerships to better serve Waltham students and families through coordinated support systems and enhanced engagement (Community Health Impact Fund).
2. Strengthen Partnerships and Advocacy to Support Coverage and Social Service Access.
3. Increase Awareness, Utilization, and Coordination of Social Services.
4. Reduce Preventable Use of Urgent and Emergency Care Through Health Improvement Interventions.

Extreme Heat and Climate Vulnerability

Overall Goal: Investigate and develop approaches that support all individuals in maintaining health and safety during extreme weather and environmental challenges.

Objectives

1. Provide patients with education and resources for managing extreme weather and environmental events.
2. Engage with organizations addressing climate change and environmental sustainability in vulnerable communities.
3. Educate staff on the health impacts of climate change and sustainability, assess patient needs, and connect them to appropriate supports.
4. Advance research, innovation, and system-wide sustainability efforts to reduce the health impacts of climate change.
5. Collaborate with MGB Climate Committee and Climate & Sustain Council.

Strategic Policy, Advocacy & Community Engagement

Overall Goal: Influence policies, legislation, and community initiatives to improve health outcomes and address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) through strategic advocacy, partnerships, and community engagement.

Objectives

1. **Policy and Legislative Advocacy:** Advance health priorities and SDOH initiatives by shaping governmental decisions and fostering cross-sector collaboration.
2. **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Strengthen community involvement in health advocacy and decision-making to ensure equitable access and representation.
3. **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Enhance impact by aligning healthcare, public health, and social services stakeholders around shared goals.
4. Collaborate with MGB Community Health Equity & Community Health Policy, Office of Government Affairs.