

•Ascension Saint Francis•

Implementation Strategy for the TY2021 CHNA Cook County, Illinois



Ascension

The purpose of this implementation strategy is to describe how the hospital plans to address prioritized health needs from its current Community Health Needs Assessment. The significant health needs that the hospital does not intend to address are identified and a rationale is provided. Special attention has been given to the needs of individuals and communities who are more vulnerable, unmet health needs or gaps in services, and input gathered from the community.

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The TY21 Implementation Strategy was approved by the Ascension Chicago Metro Hospitals Board of Directors on October 26, 2022 (2021 tax year), and applies to the following three-year cycle: July 2022 to June 2025. This report, as well as the previous report, can be found at our public website.

We value the community's voice and welcome feedback on this report. Please visit our public website (<https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>) to submit your comments.

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Introduction

As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the United States, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable.

Ascension Saint Francis

As a Ministry of the Catholic Church, Ascension Saint Francis is a non-profit hospital that provides medical care to Evanston and the surrounding communities. Ascension Saint Francis is part of Ascension Illinois which operates 15 hospital campuses and 230 sites of care. The organization includes more than 600 providers as part of Ascension Medical Group, as well as 17,000 associates.

Serving Illinois since 1901, Ascension Saint Francis is continuing the long and valued tradition of addressing the health of the people in our community, following in the footsteps of the legacy of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. Saint Francis is a 215-bed, full service medical facility that provides high-quality, compassionate and family-centered medical care to residents of Edgewater (60626), Forest Glen (60646), Rogers Park (60626, 60645), West Ridge (60645, 60659), Lincolnwood, Skokie, and Evanston.

For more information about Ascension Saint Francis, visit healthcare.ascension.org.

Overview of the Implementation Strategy

Purpose

This implementation strategy (IS) is the hospital's response to the health needs prioritized from its current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). It describes the actions the hospital will take to address prioritized needs, allocate resources, and mobilize hospital programs and community partners to work together. This approach aligns with Ascension Saint Francis commitment to offer programs designed to address the health needs of a community, with special attention to persons who are underserved and vulnerable.






IRS 501(r)(3) and Form 990, Schedule H Compliance

The CHNA and IS satisfy certain requirements of tax reporting, pursuant to provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, more commonly known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As part of the ACA, all not-for-profit hospitals are required to conduct a CHNA and adopt an implementation strategy every three years. Requirements for 501(c)(3) Hospitals Under the Affordable Care Act are described in Code Section 501(r)(3), and include making the CHNA report (current and previous) widely available to the public. In accordance with this requirement, electronic reports of both the CHNA and the current implementation strategy can be found at <https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA> and paper versions can be requested at Ascension Saint Francis' Administration office.

Process to Prioritize Needs

Included in Code Section 501(r)(3) is the requirement that hospitals must provide a description of the process and criteria used to determine the most significant health needs of the community identified through the CHNA, along with a description of the process and criteria used to determine the prioritized needs to be addressed by the hospital. Accordingly, Ascension Saint Francis used a phased prioritization approach to identify the needs with the hospital community. The first step was to determine the broader set of identified needs. Through the CHNA assessment, identified needs were then narrowed to a set of significant needs which were determined most crucial for community stakeholders to address.

Following the completion of the CHNA assessment, significant needs were further narrowed down to a set of prioritized needs that the hospital will address within the implementation strategy. To arrive at the prioritized needs, Ascension Saint Francis used the following process and criteria: review of additional primary and secondary data collected during the CHNA assessments for the hospital's primary service area, followed by the use of the five criteria below to prioritize the significant needs:

	<p>Scope of Problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How severe or prevalent is this issue in the community? • How many are impacted?
	<p>Disparities & Equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there health disparities that exist? • Can we address those in an impactful way?
	<p>Feasibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is our capacity to make progress (staffing resources, financial resources, other support, etc.)? • Are there known interventions that exist?
	<p>Momentum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there community readiness and/or political will to address this issue?
	<p>Alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have community partners that we can align with on this issue? • Do we need to build new relationships?

Preliminary community need prioritization recommendations were presented to a group of internal and external stakeholders for their review at meetings held in June 2022-August 2022. Recommendations were discussed and voted upon to determine the prioritized needs for the hospital community.

Needs That Will Be Addressed

Following the completion of the current CHNA, Ascension Saint Francis has selected the prioritized needs outlined below for its TY21 implementation strategy. Ascension has defined “prioritized needs” as the significant needs which have been prioritized by the hospital to address through the three-year CHNA cycle:

- **Social and Structural Determinants of Health -**
 - **Food Access and Food Security (SDoH - Food Security):** This need was selected

because hunger was identified with 8% of the respondents as the most important need on the community survey. This need was searched the most in the Community Resource Directory for Ascension Saint Francis' zip codes with the number one most searched is for food pantry, number three most searched for is food assistance, and number four most searched for is food delivery.

- **Economic Vitality and Workforce Development (SDoH - Education):** This need was selected as education is an important determinant of health because poverty, unemployment, and underemployment are highest among those with lower levels of educational attainment. Higher levels of poverty are primarily concentrated in the far Northwest, West, and South sides of the city and county. Additionally, workforce needs and challenges, specifically for healthcare, were listed as high priority in the CHNA stakeholder listening sessions.
- **Access to Care and Community Resources -**
 - **Resources, Referrals, Coordination, and Connection to Community-Based Services (Access to Care):** This need was selected because in the CHNAs focus groups, access to needed healthcare and community resources are named as critical components to achieving the best health outcomes. This need was voted the number one need in this category in the Ascension Saint Francis prioritization process.
 - **Timely Linkage to Quality Care, including Behavioral Health and Social Services (Access to Care):** This need was selected because Health insurance is the primary way that individuals access the healthcare system in the United States with 56% of Cook County residents receiving coverage through employer-based plans. Eleven percent of the population under age 65 are without health insurance in Cook County compared to 9% in Illinois. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents to the community survey reported a loss of employment because of the pandemic, 6% reported a loss or reduction in insurance coverage, and 7% reported a lack of access to basic medical care. From the Community Input Survey, the most important needed improvements identified: access to mental health services (46%), access to health care (40%), and access to community services (40%). This need was voted the number two need in this category in the Ascension Saint Francis prioritization process.
- **Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders -**
 - **Mental Health (Mental & Behavioral Health):** This need was selected because 39% of community survey respondents identified mental health as one of the most important health needs in their communities. Forty percent of community survey respondents identified access to mental health services as being needed to support improvements in community health. The self-reported adult depression rates in Cook County are higher (17.3%) than national averages (10%). Similarly, youth depression has been on the rise. From the Community Input Survey, forty-two percent (42%) of respondents in the Saint Francis Hospital service area identified mental health as the top health needs in the

community. Mental health and substance use (behavioral health) were two of the most discussed topics within the community focus groups. This need was voted top need of this category for the Ascension Saint Francis prioritization process.

- **Substance Use Disorders (*Mental & Behavioral Health*):** This need was selected because mental health and substance use (behavioral health) were two of the most discussed topics within the CHNAs focus groups. There were 4,467 drug induced overdose deaths in Cook County between 2018-2020. From the Community Input Survey, 15% of the respondents in Saint Francis Hospital service area identified substance use as an important health need. Mental health and substance use (behavioral health) were two of the most discussed topics within the community focus groups.

Ascension Saint Francis understands the importance of all the health needs of the community and is committed to playing an active role in improving the health of the people in the communities it serves. For the purposes of this implementation strategy, Ascension Resurrection has chosen to focus its efforts on the priorities listed above.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Based on the prioritization criteria, the health needs identified through the CHNA that Saint Francis does not plan to address at this time include:

- **COVID-19-**This need will not be addressed in the Implementation Strategy, but we will continue to support through advocacy and community partnerships.
- **Injury including Violence-related Injury-**This need will not be addressed in the Implementation Strategy, but we will continue to support through advocacy and community partnerships.
- **Maternal and Child Health-**This need will not be addressed in the Implementation Strategy, but we will continue to support through advocacy and community partnerships.
- **Chronic Conditions-**This need will not be addressed in the Implementation Strategy, but we will continue to support through advocacy and community partnerships. Additionally, focusing on access to care services for the community will improve overall health including the prevention and management of chronic conditions.

While these needs are not the focus of this implementation strategy, Ascension Saint Francis may consider investing resources in these areas as appropriate, depending on opportunities to leverage organizational assets in partnership with local communities and organizations. Also, this report does not encompass a complete inventory of everything Ascension Saint Francis does to support health within the community.

To find a list of resources for each need not being addressed, please refer to Saint Francis' TY2021 CHNA: <https://healthcare.ascension.org/CHNA>.

Acute Community Concern Acknowledgement

A CHNA and Implementation Strategies (IS) offer a construct for identifying and addressing needs within the community(s) it serves. However, unforeseen events or situations, which may be severe and sudden, may affect a community. At Ascension, this is referred to as an acute community concern. This could describe anything from a health crisis (e.g., COVID-19), water poisoning, environmental events (e.g., hurricane, flood) or other event that suddenly impacts a community. In which case, if adjustments to an IS are necessary, the hospital will develop documentation, in the form of a SBAR (Situation-Background-Assessment-Response) evaluation summary, to notify key internal and external stakeholders of those possible adjustments.

Written Comments

This IS has been made available to the public and is open for public comment. Questions or comments about this implementation strategy can be submitted via the website:

<https://healthcare.ascension.org/chna>.

Approval and Adoption by

To ensure the Ascension Saint Francis's efforts meet the needs of the community and have a lasting and meaningful impact, the TY21 implementation strategy was presented and adopted by the Ascension Chicago Metro Hospitals Board of Directors on October 26, 2022. Although an authorized body of the hospital must adopt the IS to be compliant with the provisions in the Affordable Care Act, adoption of the IS also demonstrates that the board is aware of the IS, endorses the priorities identified, and supports the action plans that have been developed to address prioritized needs.

Action Plans

The IS below is based on prioritized needs from the hospital’s most recent CHNA. These strategies and action plans represent where the hospital will focus its community efforts over the next three years. While these remain a priority, the hospital will continue to offer additional programs and services to meet the needs of the community, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable.

STRATEGY #1: Food Access Assistance	
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Francis (ASF)	
Prioritized Health Need Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH-Food Security</i>)	
Strategy Increase food access assistance for food insecure individuals for ASF community residents.	
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meals on Wheels ● Produce Mobile 	
Objective By June 30, 2025, increase the number of individuals served by the Meals on Wheels and Produce Mobile.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASF community residents, including ASF associates and patients ● Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing food insecurity in ASF community 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospitals: Ascension Mercy, Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet ● Joint Venture: “N/A” ● Collaborators: Ascension Illinois Food Access & Nutrition Workgroup ● Consultants: Meals on Wheels; Greater Chicago Food Depository ● Other non-profit hospital - “N/A” 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, funding/cash donations, education collateral, marketing resources, and others ● Joint Venture: “N/A” ● Collaborators: Staff/volunteer time donated ● Consultants: Meals on Wheels; Greater Chicago Food Depository - program consultant ● Other non-profit hospital: “N/A” 	
ACTION STEPS: Meals on Wheels	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis

Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access & Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Saint Francis, Community Health, Meals on Wheels, Produce Mobile
Identify internal resources for supporting food donations, food distribution, and food access program delivery	Ascension Saint Francis
Identify potential partners to deliver the meals	Ascension Saint Francis, Community Health
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Saint Francis Community Support Review Committee; Ascension Illinois Community Benefit
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup, Community Health
ACTION STEPS: Produce Mobile	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis
Participate in Ascension Illinois Food Access & Nutrition Workgroup	Ascension Saint Francis, Community Health, Meals on Wheels, Produce Mobile
Provide funding support for local community food access programs and initiatives	Ascension Saint Francis Community Support Review Committee; Ascension Illinois Community Benefit
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup, Community Health
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data ● Target: Increase from baseline the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of meals/persons served/delivered ○ Total Food Access Community Partner Cash Donations Provided ● Data Source; Data Owner: Meals on Wheels 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to healthy food and reduced food insecurity.	

STRATEGY #2: Workforce Development
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Francis (ASF)
Prioritized Health Need Social and Structural Determinants of Health (<i>SDoH-Education</i>)
Strategy Provide opportunities for students to engage with health care professionals.
Strategy Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High School Student Practicums/Internships ● College Student Workforce Pipelines
Objective

By June 30, 2025, increase the number of students who participate in workforce development programs through ASF.	
Target Population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASF community residents, teen and college age students 	
Collaborators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospitals: Ascension Resurrection, Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago, Ascension Saint Mary & Elizabeth ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: Local area high schools, colleges, and universities. ● Consultants: "N/A" ● Other non-profit hospital - "N/A" 	
Resources	
Resources the collaborators plan to commit:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, funding/cash donations, education collateral, marketing resources, and others ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: Volunteer Services - Staff/volunteer time donated ● Consultants: "N/A" ● Other non-profit hospital: "N/A" 	
ACTION STEPS: Workforce Development	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis Nursing; Volunteer Services
Identify community partners for workforce development	Ascension Saint Francis Community Health
Mentor high school students interested in healthcare careers	Ascension Saint Francis, Community Health, Nursing, Volunteer Services
Support student clinicals who are entering healthcare careers	Ascension Saint Francis, Community Health, Nursing, Volunteer Services
Partner with a local college or university to offer a career accelerated program	Ascension Saint Francis, Nursing, Radiology
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup, Community Service
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 data ● Target: Increase number of students participating in workforce development programs or partnerships from baseline. ● Data Source; Data Owner: Local area high schools, colleges, and universities 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased workforce opportunities for youth in the hospital community.	

ACCESS TO CARE AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

STRATEGY #3: Access to Community Resources	
Hospital Name Ascension Saint Francis (ASF)	
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>Access to Care</i>)	
Strategy Increase access to community resources and community based services for ASF community.	
Strategy Source Neighborhood Resource Directory; Findhelp	
Objective By June 30, 2025, the number of searches in the directory will increase.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASF community residents, including ASF patients. ● Medically Underserved Population: ASF community residents who are underinsured/uninsured. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saints Mary-Kankakee, and Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Food Pantries ● Consultants: Neighborhood Resources; Findhelp.org; United Way 2-1-1 ● Other non-profit hospital: N/A 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): Strategy sources and funding ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Food Pantries - program collaborator ● Consultants: Neighborhood Resources; Findhelp.org; United Way 2-1-1 - directory source ● Other non-profit hospital: "N/A" 	
ACTION STEPS: Resource Directory	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis Case Management
Promote awareness of the Community Resource Directory via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community Partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Francis, Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify internal staff that need Community Resource Directory training	Ascension Illinois: Population Health, Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify external partners that need Community Resource Directory	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit, Community Service

Establish calendar of Community Resource Directory trainings for virtual and/or hybrid offerings	Ascension Illinois, Population Health
Promote availability of training within target audiences	Ascension Illinois, Community Benefit, Community Health, Population Health, Marketing/Communications
Host Community Resource Directory training for internal and external partners	Ascension Illinois, Population Health, Community Benefit, Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase the number of searches within the directory from baseline. ○ Increase the number of persons trained on directory from baseline. ● Data Source; Data Owner: Neighborhood Resource; Findhelp.org 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to community resources, services and referrals for individuals in need.	

STRATEGY #4: Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services (PHICES)
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Francis (ASF)
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>Access to Care</i>)
Strategy Provide Public Health Insurance Coverage Enrollment Services (PHICES)
Strategy Source Advocatia
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be an increase of enrollment services from FY22 baseline.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Adults, children, and immigrants ● Medically Underserved Population: Uninsured and underinsured individuals

Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saints Mary-Kankakee, and Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Food Pantries ● Consultants: ADVOCATIA ● Other non-profit hospital - "N/A" 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated, funding/cash donations to community organizations, education collateral, marketing resources, and others ● Joint Venture: "NA" ● Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Food Pantries - program collaborators ● Consultants: program consultant - staffing and resources ● Other non-profit hospital: "N/A" 	
ACTION STEPS: PHICES	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis
Promote awareness of public health insurance coverage enrollment services (PHICES) via flyers, social media, Ascension and Community partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Francis, Community Health
Identify external partners that need public health insurance coverage enrollment services (PHICES) information	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit, Community Health
Establish calendar of potential PHICES events in the community	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit, Community Health
Promote availability of PHICES services within target audiences	Ascension Illinois Community Benefit, Community Health; Marketing/ Communications
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase persons enrolled in health care coverage from baseline ○ Increase persons educated on enrollment coverage from baseline ● Data Source; Data Owner: Advocatia 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is to increase access to healthcare services for individuals who are underinsured or uninsured.	

STRATEGY #5: Patient Navigator in the Emergency Department (ED)
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Francis (ASF)
Prioritized Health Need Access to Care and Community Resources (<i>Access to Care</i>)
Strategy Provide free navigation services for patients in need of follow up care, a medical provider, or other health related social needs
Strategy Source Healthful Care; Care Continuity; Vituity
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be an increase of health services navigation from FY22 baseline.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASF patients ● Medically Underserved Population: Uninsured and underinsured individuals
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saints Mary-Kankakee, and Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth-Chicago ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: "N/A" ● Consultants: Healthful Care; Care Continuity; Vituity ● Other non-profit hospital - "N/A"
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): staff time donated ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: "N/A" ● Consultants: Healthful Care; Care Continuity; Vituity ● Other non-profit hospital: "N/A"

ACTION STEPS: Patient Navigator in the ED	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department
Promote awareness of free navigation services available	Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department
Train internal staff on the workflow and service coordination process	Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department

Provide navigation services for patients in need of follow up care, a medical provider, or other health related social needs	Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department
Monitor work, evaluate progress, report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 Data ● Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase from baseline the # of Medicaid & Self Pay/Uninsured patients offered assistance ○ Increase from baseline the # or % Medicaid & Self Pay/Uninsured patients accepted assistance ● Data Source; Data Owner: Healthful Care; Care Continuity; Vituity 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions will provide access to health services to people who otherwise might not be delaying or stopping care due to lack of an appropriate provider.	

STRATEGY #6: Mental Health Education and Awareness
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Francis (ASF)
Prioritized Health Need Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Mental Health (<i>Mental & Behavioral Health</i>)
Strategy Provide Mental Health Education and Awareness
Strategy Source Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Trainings
Objective By June 30, 2025, there will be an increase in the MHFA training participants.
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: ASF community residents, including ASF associates and patients, teen students in junior high and high school. ● Medically Underserved Population: Teen and Adult individuals experiencing mental health issues.
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Mercy, Ascension Resurrection, Ascension Alexian Brothers, Ascension Saint Alexius, Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, Ascension Saints Mary-Kankakee, and Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries ● Consultants: Americorps

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other non-profit hospital - "N/A" 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Ascension hospital(s): Trainings and mental health education; funding for consultants • Joint Venture: "N/A" • Collaborators: Community-based organizations, Faith-based Institutions, Schools, Food Pantries - program collaborators • Consultants: Americorps - staff to provide the trainings • Other non-profit hospital: "N/A" 	
ACTION STEPS: Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Trainings	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis
Promote awareness of the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings via flyers, social media, Ascension Community Benefit and Community Partner newsletters	Ascension Saint Francis; Community Benefits; Community Health
Identify internal staff that need MHFA training	Ascension Illinois, Community Benefit, Community Health
Identify external partners that need MHFA training	Ascension Illinois, Community Benefit, Community Health
Establish calendar of MHFA trainings for virtual and/or hybrid offerings including dates, times, and locations	Ascension Illinois, Community Benefit, Community Health
Promote availability of MHFA training within target audiences	Ascension Illinois, Community Benefit, Community Health, Marketing/Communications
Host MHFA training for internal and external partners	Ascension Illinois, Community Benefit, Community Health
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: FY22 Data • Target: Increase the total number of individuals that received MHFA training from baseline. • Data Source; Data Owner: Mental Health First Aid; Americorps 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to Mental Health education and resources.	

STRATEGY #7: Access to Substance Use Disorder Resources and Services
Hospital(s) Name(s) Ascension Saint Francis (ASF)
Prioritized Health Need Prevention and Treatment of Priority Health Conditions: Substance Use Disorders (<i>Mental & Behavioral Health</i>)

Strategy Provide a warm hand-off program for patients in need of access to SUD treatment.	
Strategy Source Warm Hand-off Program Living Room for Mental Health SBIRT Model (Screening, Brief Intervention, Refer to Treatment)	
Objective By June 30, 2025, provide warm hand-off services for SUD patients that present in the ED and medical floors.	
Target Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target Population: Patients that present to emergency department or medical floors with a substance use disorder in need of substance use disorder services and resources. ● Medically Underserved Population: Individuals experiencing mental health issues. 	
Collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital: Ascension Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, Ascension Holy Family, Ascension Saint Joseph Elgin, Ascension Saint Joseph Joliet, Ascension Saint Joseph-Chicago, Ascension Saint Joseph-Joliet, and Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: PEER Services; Trilogy ● Consultants: PEER Services; Trilogy ● Other non-profit hospital - "N/A" 	
Resources Resources the collaborators plan to commit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Ascension hospital(s): Funding for the consultants ● Joint Venture: "N/A" ● Collaborators: PEER Services; Trilogy - program collaborators (assessments, evaluations, referrals to treatment and data dashboards on outcomes of referrals and completion of treatment) ● Consultants: PEER Services; Trilogy - Mental Health Resources and Services ● Other non-profit hospital: "N/A" 	
ACTION STEPS: Warm Hand-off Program	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department and Nursing
Participate in Ascension Illinois Warm-Handoff workgroup	Ascension Illinois, Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department, Nursing, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Identify internal resources for supporting substance use disorder services and care coordination	Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Identify community partners and health care providers to engage in substance use disorder care coordination	Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line

Review implementation workflows that allow for warm-handoffs	Ascension Saint Francis, Emergency Department, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Train internal team members on warm-handoff program and workflow	Ascension Saint Francis, Emergency Department, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Educate patients, families, and the community of warm handoffs	Ascension Saint Francis, Emergency Department, Community Health, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Monitor work, evaluate progress, and report outcomes	Ascension Saint Francis Implementation Strategy Workgroup
ACTION STEPS: Living Room Program	ROLE/OWNER
Appoint an Associate Lead for this strategy	Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department and Nursing
Identify community partners and health care providers to engage in the Living Room coordination	Ascension Saint Francis, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Review implementation workflows that allow for the Living Room	Ascension Saint Francis, Emergency Department, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Train internal team members on the Living Room program and workflow	Ascension Saint Francis, Emergency Department, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Educate patients, families, and the community of the Living Room model	Ascension Saint Francis, Emergency Department, Community Health, Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health Service Line
Output(s) and/or Outcome(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseline: FY22 Baseline ● Target: Increase from baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of patients screened for Substance Use Disorders; # of patients referred for treatment; # of Naloxone kits distributed/prescribed, # of patients utilizing the Living Room ● Data Source; Data Owner: Ascension Saint Francis Emergency Department; Behavioral Health Service Line 	
ANTICIPATED IMPACT	
The anticipated impact of these actions is increased access to substance use disorder services and community resources for individuals in need.	

Evaluation

Ascension Saint Francis will develop a comprehensive measurement and evaluation process for the implementation strategy. The Ministry will monitor and evaluate the action plans outlined in this plan for the purpose of reporting and documenting the impact these action plans have on the community. Ascension Saint Francis uses a tracking system to capture community benefit activities and implementation. To ensure accountability, data will be aggregated into an annual Community Benefit report that will be made available to the community.