

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Process

DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur conducted a community health needs assessment (CHNA) and has developed an implementation plan with strategies to address identified needs. The development of the Implementation Plan was accomplished by a team of DeKalb Regional Health System staff and public health professionals who spearheaded the development of the assessment.

Public health professionals from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University agreed to take the lead in conducting a community health assessment on behalf of DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur ("Decatur Hospital"). In order to obtain the community priorities, in-depth interviews were conducted with various stakeholders. Stakeholders were defined as individuals, or groups of individuals who were active participants in the transition of the patient to the LTAC. These included the discharge planners, current patients, and patients' families. Discharge planners from two of LTAC's major referrals- DeKalb Medical Center and Emory Healthcare were interviewed. Individuals representing discharge planners were:

Isha Boudroum
DeKalb Medical Center

Kathy Baskerville
Emory Healthcare

The interview questions were designed to glean information regarding the transition process, the quality of care the patients received during their stay at LTAC, and transition out of LTAC.

Based on the patient and discharge planner interviews, priorities were identified. Those priorities were analyzed and an implementation plan with strategies identified for selected priorities. This was approved by the Decatur Health Resources Board of Directors in June 2013. The final approved version of the CHNA and Implementation Plan is available to the public on the www.dekalbmedical.org website.

Prioritized Needs

Based on the patient, family and discharge planner interviews the following priorities were identified:

- Need for education tools for patient transition from LTAC to home care, and use of available health care resources in the community including LTAC.
- Need for professional education and communication to improve quality of care and patient awareness.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan was developed based on the findings from CHNA and the priorities as determined from that assessment. The accompanying plan outlines those strategies. In addressing the selected priorities, special priority will be placed upon building existing programs.

PRIORITY: Serve as Resource for Patients/Families/Community

Objective: Education about resources in the community and the appropriate use of those resources are critical to improving the health of the community. Serving as a resource to patients, their families and the community, DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur can improve the community's access to healthcare resources and services.

- Strategies:**
- A. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will serve as resource for other healthcare care providers in the Atlanta metro area.
 - B. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will produce and provide an updated resource guide for patients and their families as they transition from the hospital to home.
 - C. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will review patients and family education on post discharge care as they transition from LTAC to other care facilities or to home care and make changes as appropriate.
 - D. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will educate patients on the mode of care in the LTAC hospital and address patient expectations with regards to medication, rehabilitation and level of care from nurses at the time of admission.

PRIORITY: Provide resources to promote communication among the healthcare providers.

Objective: Professional education and communication are keys to raising awareness and promoting knowledge of health care in the community. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will serve as a resource to health professionals to foster better communication between providers and patients, thereby raising health quality and awareness in the community.

- Strategies:**
- A. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will serve as a training site for licensed vocational nurses, registered nurses, respiratory therapists, speech language pathologists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists.
 - B. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will provide training for students in advanced respiratory care, treatment, ventilator management and severe wound care.
 - C. DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur will provide continued medical education for doctors and nurses to promote communication between providers and raise awareness on patient healthcare literacy rates.

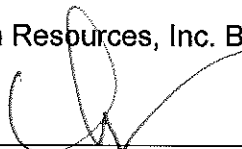
Conclusion

DeKalb Medical at Downtown Decatur's Implementation Plan will help guide efforts towards community health needs that have been identified during this CHNA. All the strategies outlined are to enhance and improve the health of the people the hospital serves. For the purposes of this CHNA and the Implementation Plan, we have chosen to place our primary focus on the priorities identified above. However, we will continue to address other health issues identified by assisting, where possible, other community providers with their endeavors related to these issues.

Approval

The Decatur Health Resources Board of Directors includes representatives of DeKalb County. The Board of Directors approves the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and the Implementation Strategy for addressing priorities identified in the most recent CHNA. This report was prepared for the June 2013 Decatur Health Resources Board of Directors meeting.

Decatur Health Resources, Inc. Board of Directors Approval:



Chair, Decatur Health Resources, Inc. Decatur Board of Directors

Date

June 10, 2013