

# Community Health Needs Assessment Briefing

## Westfields Hospital

### Introduction:

HealthPartners engaged the resources of Community Hospital Consulting (CHC Consulting) to conduct a comprehensive, six-step Community Health Needs Assessment, on behalf of Regions Hospital, Lakeview Health, Hudson Hospital & Clinics, and Westfields Hospital. The *HealthPartners Community Health Needs Assessment* utilized relevant health data, findings from the *St. Croix County Community Health Needs Assessment*, and stakeholder input (in depth interviews, electronic survey results, a focus group, and a town hall meeting) to identify the main community health priorities that HealthPartners and its respective hospitals should seek to address.

### Key Findings

1. Many leading causes of death can be linked to unhealthy lifestyles. Poor eating habits, lack of exercise, tobacco use and alcohol and drug use are large contributors to unhealthy lifestyles. Some of these conditions include Cancer, Heart Disease, Stroke, Diabetes, and Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease.
2. Obesity, poor nutrition and lack of physical exercise are growing concerns in the communities served by HealthPartners' hospitals.
3. Access to primary and preventive health care is limited for special populations, such as the un-insured or under-insured, ethnically diverse, elderly, and chemically dependent.
4. Access to specific health services is also limited. Barriers to accessing mental health care include little availability, long wait times, and a shortage of providers. Barriers to accessing dental care include lack of insurance, particularly because many people, even those with medical insurance, either can't afford it or opt out of dental insurance.
5. There are significant issues with "service integration" in the community. There is a lack of communication and coordination among providers in the community, as well as a disconnect within the continuum of care.

### Outcomes

The Community Health Needs Assessment team, consisting of leadership from HealthPartners, all four hospitals, and consulting staff from CHC Consulting met on May 16th, 2012 to review the research findings and prioritize the community health needs which had been identified. After a facilitated discussion regarding these findings, five top priorities were identified to address these community health needs. The *St. Croix County Community Health Needs Assessment* also prioritized 5 needs for the county.

#### HealthPartners CHNA:

- Priority 1:** Increase Access to Mental Health
- Priority 2:** Promote Positive Behaviors to Reduce Obesity (Nutrition/Physical Activity)
- Priority 3:** Increase Access to Primary and Preventive Care
- Priority 4:** Improve Service Integration
- Priority 5:** Promote Change in Unhealthy Lifestyles (Tobacco/Alcohol/Substance Abuse)

#### St. Croix County CHNA:

- Priority 1:** Access to Primary and Preventive Health Services
- Priority 2:** Overweight, Obesity, and Lack of Physical Activity
- Priority 3:** Adequate and Appropriate Nutrition
- Priority 4:** Alcohol and Other Substance Use and Addiction
- Priority 5:** Tobacco Use and Exposure

## **Actions**

Westfields Hospital is dedicated to improving the health of the community and has used the above findings and health priorities to create a hospital specific Implementation Plan. Westfields' Implementation Plan identifies objectives, rationales and implementation tactics that correspond with each priority. Each objective identifies one way that the Hospital will positively impact the health of the community in the future. The rationale describes why these objectives are so vital to the health of the community and the implementation activities list specific programs, initiatives, and or methods of support corresponding to each objective.

The *St. Croix County Community Health Needs Assessment* is currently available online. The full *HealthPartners Community Health Needs Assessment* and Westfields Hospital's Implementation Plan will be available on the hospital's website.