Aurora St. Luke's South Shore®
of Aurora Health Care Metro, Inc.

# Well Community

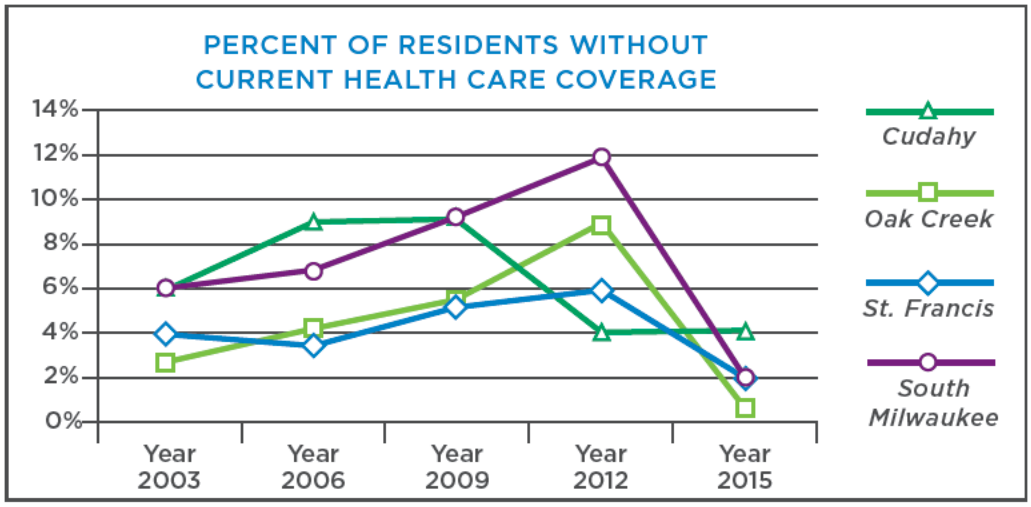
## Cudahy

## Community Benefit Report | 2015

Our community benefit plan is guided by our community health needs assessment (CHNA). To see our CHNA report, please visit **www.aurora.org/commbenefits.** This annual report provides updates on our community benefits implementation strategy in 2015.

## Priority #1:

**Increase access** for persons in our community with disproportionate unmet health needs.




Despite a decrease in the number of residents without health care coverage, people who have little or no insurance often arrive to hospital emergency departments (ED) seeking nonemergency care for common illnesses such as earaches or chronic disease management. In 2015, to help individuals find a "health home" and receive the care they need:

- 43 appointments were scheduled in our ED for Federally Qualified Health Centers (36) or other safety net clinics (7) through our hospital's participation in the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership ED Care Coordination Initiative
- 2,069 patients who arrived in our ED with an acute mental health or AODA crisis received expedited admissions or referrals for mental or behavioral health services
- 281 prescriptions were provided upon discharge free of cost to uninsured patients who had no resources through our Essential Medication Fund

The ***Aurora Better Together Fund*** aims to increase access to primary care and behavioral health services and sexual assault and domestic violence prevention and treatment programs across eastern Wisconsin. Many of our community partners in Milwaukee County received Aurora Better Together funding in 2015.

Visit **www.aurorahealthcare.org/better-together** to learn more about our partners and Aurora's *Better Together Fund.*

## Priority #2:

**Build links** between our clinical services and local health departments' community health improvement plans.

### Blood Pressure

Monitoring blood pressure can help a healthcare provider determine whether treatments are working while managing one's chronic disease. Because home monitoring may be difficult for some, our hospital continues to help community members keep accurate blood pressure records by hosting a free blood pressure clinic at our facility every second and fourth Monday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. In 2015, 150 screenings were provided to community members.

### Physical Activity

As a dedicated partner in the community for the past 57 years, our hospital consults with area partners such as the Healthiest Cudahy Coalition, the Oak Creek Health Department (including the Mayor's Fitness Challenge) and the health departments in our south shore community to ensure we are addressing community health issues for our neighbors. To expand fitness opportunities in the south shore area, we made a commitment in 2015 to build a state-of-the-art fitness station at Warnimont Park, located directly across from our hospital on Lake Drive, which will be capable of delivering a full-body workout. We are continuing to work with the City of Cudahy and Milwaukee County to install the new equipment in 2016.

### Cancer Care

Our cancer care team includes certified nurse navigators who are specially trained to guide individuals and their families from diagnosis through cancer treatment and into post-treatment or, if needed, end-of-life care. Each year, our cancer care team also provides many outreach services. In 2015, our cancer nurse navigators:

- Provided services to 195 families and referred 169 individuals in need of additional support to our principal and community partners for services including complementary medicine
- Referred 43 people, including their family and friends, to community partners who provided additional support
- Addressed body, mind and spirit in our free Reiki program for 83 cancer survivors

### Behavioral Health

During our hospital's most recent CHNA process, our key informant interviews revealed behavioral health as a top five health issue for Milwaukee County. To address concerns and increase awareness of mental health services available in the south shore area, we:

- Accommodated an average of 3.6 daily behavioral health visits through our mental health partial-hospitalization program. We also served an average of 15 people per day through inpatient behavioral health services.
- Supplied publicly accessible information on our website about behavioral health services, including self-screening instruments for alcohol, anxiety, depression and stress.
- Provided outreach at Aurora St. Luke's South Shore through our Aurora Parish Nurse who hosts a grief support group attended by 10-14 community members each month and conducts individual depression screening as needed for community members who seek access to medical care. The nurse's holistic approach to care promotes health and wellness among the individuals, families, congregations and faith communities she supports.
- Donated space each Saturday and Sunday to conduct Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to support people through the recovery process. Ongoing support groups are critical for preventing relapse among persons overcoming addiction issues.

### Geriatric Mental Health and Well-Being

Older patients discharged to home from the Emergency Department (ED) are at high risk of adverse outcomes including functional decline, returning to the ED, institutionalization, and death. In 2015, we implemented the Geriatric Emergency Medicine "Bootcamp" pilot program at our hospital. Through the development of this program we now administer the Identification of Seniors at Risk (ISAR) screening tool for detecting severe functional impairment, depression and increased utilization of health services. Based on the screening results, we connect the patient and the patient's family to community and social service resources that are best equipped to provide the tools required to properly care for the individual after discharge from the hospital.

### Hospital Blood Drives

Four times per year our hospital partners with the Blood Center of Wisconsin to host community blood drives making it easy for our caregivers to donate during work hours and for eligible donors in the surrounding communities to access a blood drive that is convenient for them. In 2015, 70 donors presented at our hospital to donate blood leading to 64 blood donations, which impacted 192 lives.

## Priority #3:

**Address the underlying causes** of persistent health problems.

## Every gift can change a life.

Donate to a cause you care about today.

### Aurora Partnership Campaign

During 2015, as part of a patient service area in Milwaukee County, a total of **186 ASLSS caregivers pledged $22,660 to the Aurora Partnership Campaign,** their show of support to the not-for-profit agencies, organizations and causes in our community that are most important to them. The campaign offers more than **1,600 funds that include more than 300 Aurora funds,** local United Way agencies, and other not-for-profit organizations responding to important community needs.

To learn how you can make a gift to support programs featured in this report, please visit **Aurora.org/Foundation**

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