Advocate Aurora Health is one of the 12 largest not-for-profit, integrated health systems in the United States and a leading employer in the Midwest with more than 75,000 employees, including more than 22,000 nurses and the region’s largest employed medical staff and home health organization. A national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care, the system serves nearly 3 million patients annually in Illinois and Wisconsin across more than 500 sites of care. As an Advocate Aurora Health hospital, we recognize our role in addressing concerns about the accessibility and affordability of health care in Central Racine County. Further, we acknowledge that we are accountable to our patients and communities, and that our initiatives to support our communities must fit our role as a not-for-profit community hospital.

The implementation strategies presented here are the result of our process for assessing community health needs, obtaining input from community members and public health representatives, prioritizing needs and consulting with our hospital staff and physician partners.

Our full Racine County Community Health Needs Assessment Report is available here: www.aurora.org/commbenefits.
Our implementation strategies are organized into three main priorities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Community Benefit Core Principle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority #1</td>
<td><strong>Access and Coverage</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>Increase access for persons in our community with disproportionate unmet health needs. In this section we outline our approach to link our community’s most vulnerable residents with medical care.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority #2</td>
<td><strong>Access to Behavioral Health Services</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>In this priority we outline our approach to addressing behavioral health needs, a top finding in our needs assessments.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority #3</td>
<td><strong>Social Determinants of Health</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>In alignment with the Advocate Aurora Health Community Strategy, this section describes our approach to addressing social determinants of health, the structural elements and conditions of our communities that influence the health of residents.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to alignment with community benefit principles, our implementation strategies illustrate the coordination between population health activities within our hospital or clinic walls and outreach activities designed to target the broader community.

**Principal community health improvement tool: Community Partnerships**

For any community health concern, it is widely recognized that a diverse team of engaged community partners is essential for implementing strategic community health improvement initiatives that make a difference. Therefore, we acknowledge the need to be a good community partner. Our implementation strategies strongly reinforce our role as a partner for community capacity-building to address unmet community health needs.

These implementation strategies do not constitute the entirety of the community benefits our hospital provides each year. An annual account of our community benefits can be found by visiting [http://www.aurora.org/commbenefits](http://www.aurora.org/commbenefits).
Priority No. 1:
Access, a signature community benefit focus for Advocate Aurora Health

Current findings
In 2020, 8% of Central Racine County respondents had an unmet medical need in the past 12 months and 13% delayed filling a prescription due to cost (Source #1).

Our strategy
For our patients
- Actively screen patients for coverage through the Marketplace or financial assistance programs and assist with application processes
- Refer uninsured and self-pay patients using our ED for primary care to Health Care Network (HCN)

MEASURES:
- Number of patients referred to HCN

For our community
- Accept vouchers for eligible services for HCN patients
- NEW: Designate a leader to serve on the board of HCN

MEASURES:
- Number of vouchers accepted, by type
- Progress milestones of HCN Board

2024 Update: Follow-up with non-emergent patients using our emergency department for primary care will no longer be tracked, but the work is continuing
Priority No. 2:  
Behavioral health, a signature community benefit focus for Advocate Aurora Health

Target population  
Residents of Central Racine County

Principal partners  
• Aurora Medical Group (AMG)  
• Aurora Behavioral Health Services (ABHS)

Community partners  
Law enforcement agencies

Impact goal  
Increase linkages to appropriate care for behavioral health

Current findings
Mental health and substance use and abuse (behavioral health) ranked among the top five health issues for Racine County. In 2020, 21% of Central Racine County adults reported a mental health condition (such as depression, anxiety disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder). Additionally, 25% of Central Racine County residents reported binge drinking in the past month (Source #1). The rate of opioid-related hospital discharges was 431.5 per 10,000 population in 2019, higher than the Wisconsin rate of 365.9 per 10,000 population (Source #2).

Our strategy

For our patients
• Screen for behavioral health issues including mental health, depression, alcohol abuse and drug use, and provide follow-up care and referrals as appropriate
• NEW: Provide intensive outpatient (IOP) care for adults with alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) disorders

MEASURES:
• Number of patients treated for AODA through IOP

For our community
• Support and actively engage in local drug Take-Back initiatives and promote availability of prescription drug collection sites throughout the county
• Provide Chronic Pain Self-Management program on demand, as requested by community organizations

MEASURES:
• Number of Take-Back initiatives supported; pound of drugs collected
• Number of classes provided; attendees
Priority No. 3: Alignment with Community Strategy focus on social determinants of health – community safety

Current findings
Threats to an individual’s safety can take many forms. In 2019, the injury hospitalization rate among Racine County adults aged 65 years and older was 1,790.4 per 100,000, higher than the state rate of 1,490.8 per 100,000 (Source #2).

Sexual violence is defined as sexual activity when consent is not obtained or not given freely. The rate of rape for Racine County was 23.41 reports per 100,000 persons, lower than Wisconsin’s overall rate of 27.91 per 100,000 in 2019 (Source #2). However, sexual assault and rape are underreported and the definition of rape varies across different agencies; therefore, the number and rate may vary depending on the source.

Our strategy
For our patients
- NEW: Administer the Identification of Seniors at Risk (ISAR) screening tool for detecting severe functional impairment, depression and increased utilization of health services to all patients 65 and older
- Assure that persons referred to our Senior Resource Nurses are assessed for:
  - Behavioral health needs
  - Cognitive impairment (using MoCA -- Montreal Cognitive Assessment)
  - Family and social support
  - Home visits
  - Nutrition needs
  - Pharmaceutical assistance program
  - Safe-At-Home or appropriate supportive placements
  - Transportation needs for follow-up care
- Provide patient education and support for:
  - Advance Directives (Power of Attorney)
  - Family guidance and support services
  - Medication management/safety

Consistent with Aurora’s system-wide Forensic Nursing and AHAS programs, provide:
- 24/7 trauma-informed and victim-sensitive services by our specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs), including examination, STI and HIV prophylactic medications, forensic evidence collection and SDFI™-TeleMedicine forensic photodocumentation system based on the Federal Rules of Evidence
- Referrals as appropriate to medical, clinical, counseling and advocacy services
- Provide training for ED nurses, EMS, police, and firefighters on the signs of strangulation and human trafficking, increasing their ability to identify victims

Target population
Residents of Central Racine County

Principal partner
- Aurora Medical Group (AMG)
- Aurora Senior Resource Nurses (SRN)
Aurora SRN program is a non-billable NICHE-designated (www.nicheprogram.org) geriatric nurse-driven program to help our hospital improve the care of older adults treated within our facilities, as well as elderly persons referred from within our community.
- Aurora Healing and Advocacy Services (AHAS)

Community partners
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Racine Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Local law enforcement
- Sexual Assault Services of Racine
- Family Advocacy Center

Impact goal
Increased safety and enhanced injury and violence prevention and response
MEASURES:
• Number of patients screened
• Number of patients assessed
• Number of referrals and services provided, by type
• Number of outreach and education provided, by type
• Number of patients completing Advance Directives
• Number of individuals served
• Number of referrals provided
• Number of ED nurses educated

For our community
• Provide Stepping On, a high-level, evidence-based program proven to reduce falls and build confidence in older people
• NEW: Provide Stand Up & Move More program, an evidence-based program designed to help older adults reduce sitting time by standing up and moving more
• Provide community education/prevention/outreach trainings (sexual assault)

MEASURES:
• Number of sessions held; attendees and evaluation data
• Trainings provided; attendees

Priority No. 3:
Alignment with Community Strategy focus on social determinants of health - infant mortality

Target population
Residents of Central Racine County

Principal partner
Aurora Medical Group (AMG)

Impact goal
Increased knowledge about birth and childcare

Current findings
In 2018, the rate of infants dying before their first birthday in Racine County was 8.3 deaths per 1,000 live births, higher than the statewide rate of 6.1 deaths per 1,000 live births (Source #2).

Our strategy

For our patients
• Provide childbirth and breastfeeding classes to expecting parents

MEASURE:
• Number of classes provided

For our community
• Provide two reduced-cost babysitting classes annually to area teens, with education on babysitting as a business, baby development, baby safety with CPR and choking, baby care, Safe Sleep, and Shaken Baby Syndrome

MEASURE:
• Number of attendees and evaluation data
Priority No. 3:  
Alignment with Community Strategy focus on social determinants of health – workforce development

Target population
- Local EMS providers
- Students in Racine County

Principal partner
Aurora Medical Group (AMG)

Community partners
- Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies
- Area technical colleges and universities

Impact goal
- Increased access to educational opportunities for EMS providers
- Increased opportunity for stable employment

Current findings
A steady job in favorable working conditions means more than just a paycheck. Employment can also mean a link to health insurance benefits for a family, the ability to pay for childcare services or education, and the opportunity to purchase healthy, nutritious food. Unemployment, on the other hand, can lead to negative health outcomes such as a decline in one’s ability to access care for themselves or their family members, development of depression or other behavioral health issues, or an inability to pay for basic living expenses. Employment can also affect health if one’s working conditions are unsafe or if wages are not at a level that sustains one’s living expenses. In 2019, the average unemployment rate in Racine County was 2.7%, higher than the Wisconsin average of 2.1% (Source #2).

Our strategy
For our community
- Provide training to EMS agencies and quarterly continuing education based upon needs identified by EMS agencies, run report trends and state requirements, including care for opioid overdoses
- NEW: Provide scholarships on behalf of the Medical Staff Leadership Council of Aurora Medical Center – Burlington to local high school students seeking advanced studies in health care
- NEW: Serve as a clinical experience site for healthcare students (including physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, surgical tech, and nursing) from area technical colleges and universities
- NEW: Through the NAVIGATE program, provide current team members in entry-level or middle-skilled positions (CNAs, food services, transporters, environmental services, etc.) with soft-skills workshops, mentorship, and career coaching and development designed to help them advance into higher-level positions.

MEASURES, number of:
- Number of trainings provided; attendees
- Number of scholarships provided; dollar amount
- Number of students; hours
- Number of team members participating in NAVIGATE; advancement outcomes

---