

## **McLaren Northern Michigan Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy Plan 2023-2025**

In a remarkable partnership, hospitals, health departments, and other community partners in Northern Michigan join together every three years to take a comprehensive look at the health and well-being of residents and communities. Through community engagement and participation across a 31-county region, the MiThrive Community Health Needs Assessment collects and analyzes data from a broad range of social, economic, environmental, and behavioral factors that influence health and well-being and identifies and ranks key strategic issues. MiThrive gathered data from existing statistics, listened to residents, and learned from community partners, including health care providers. Our findings in the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment show our communities face complex interconnected issues and these issues harm some groups more than others.

Many factors combine to determine the health of a community. In addition to disease, community health is affected by education level, economic status, environmental issues, substance use, and the personal choices of all those who live, work, and play in the community. No single individual, community group, agency, governmental body or hospital can address the multitude of issues alone. McLaren Northern Michigan has a long standing history of collaboration with its community partners. The hospital will continue to collaborate on opportunities that arise to improve the health of the communities we serve. Working together, we can understand the issues and create a plan to address them.

Learn more about MiThrive: <https://northernmichiganchir.org/>

See the 2022 MiThrive Community Health Needs Assessment for McLaren Northern Michigan to learn about how strategic issues were identified and priorities determined:

[https://www.mclaren.org/Uploads/Public/Documents/Northern/forms/MNM\\_Community-Health-Needs-Assessment-2022.pdf](https://www.mclaren.org/Uploads/Public/Documents/Northern/forms/MNM_Community-Health-Needs-Assessment-2022.pdf)

### Regional Strategic Priorities

The McLaren Northern Michigan priority identification and implementation plan was developed based on key findings in the Community Health Needs Assessment.

1. Affordable Housing
2. Mental Health and Substance Use
3. Access to Health Care
4. Chronic Disease

Looking at these areas there was some alignment with the hospital's strategic plan and the direction in which the organization was already moving. With advisement from the hospital's leadership, Community Advisory Councils and a review of the hospital's existing community benefit activities, McLaren Northern Michigan developed an implementation plan including community health

improvement goals and strategies to address the four priority areas. The hospital is pursuing these internally as well as in partnership with MiThrive allies to achieve the greatest community impact on our actions.

## Implementation Plan

### 1. Affordable Housing

Goal: Safe, affordable and accessible housing options within the communities we serve.

Strategies:

- Endorse policies and projects around safe and affordable housing with community partners.
- Increase referrals to Community Connections for support accessing basic needs, including housing.
- Work with community partners and legislative representatives to advocate and support affordable housing in our local northern Michigan communities.
- Participate on housing boards and coalitions to be a voice for our community.

### 2. Mental Health and Substance Use

Goal: Improve mental health and substance use through prevention and by ensuring access to appropriate, quality services and support.

Strategies:

- Open the Justin A. Borra Behavioral Health Center on the Cheboygan Campus of McLaren Northern Michigan to serve adult behavioral health inpatients.
- Establish step-down/step up program at the Justin A. Borra Behavioral Health Center for patients.
- Collaborate with the Community Health Innovation Region Behavioral Health Initiative on their work.
- Continuously educate and train primary care and emergency department providers on mental health and substance use screening, intervention, and treatment.
- Participate on Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium for a coordinated response to opioid use disorders.
- Continue collaborations with FQHC's and North Country Community Mental Health for mental health services.
- Host collection drives around the community to properly dispose of sharps/needles and medications.
- Collaborate with community partners to promote community awareness and education to reduce alcohol and tobacco use in adolescence and adults.
- Participate on Children and Youth Behavioral Health Collaborative with efforts to place behavioral health providers in all area schools.
- Participate in suicide prevention and awareness efforts through the local suicide prevention workgroup.
- Participate in substance use prevention and awareness efforts through SAFE in Northern Michigan.
- Identify and collaborate on advocacy opportunities to increase access and payment for behavioral health and substance use disorder services.
- Continue using Telehealth as an option for behavioral health services within the hospital.
- Continue the use of surgical blocks to decrease narcotic use and dependence in post-operative patients.

- Continue the practice for only prescribing limited amounts of narcotics, when prescribed, throughout the whole organization (inpatient, outpatient, emergency dept.), and validating narcotic and mood altering prescriptions through the MAP system.
- Continue to participate in the Community Health Innovation Region, which strives to improve population health.

### 3. Access to Health Care

Goal: Increase access to health care services for all.

Strategies:

- Provide same day access to primary care services through McLaren Medical Group providers.
- Offer evening and weekend access to diagnostic testing such as imaging services.
- Continue to work on decreasing wait times for appointments for all services.
- Continue to recruit and retain top quality providers in all primary care and specialty areas.
- Collaborate with Michigan Health and Hospital Association to advance best practice priorities around diversity, equity and inclusion to reduce barriers to accessing healthcare.
- Educate health care providers and staff to provide culturally competent care.
- Support MNM recruitment and retention strategy by enhancing opportunities for employee well-being.

### 4. Chronic Disease

Goal: Improve prevention and reduce health risks for chronic diseases.

Strategies:

- Connect patients with no medical home to a primary care provider.
- Deliver education programs to the community on proper nutrition, cooking, fitness, and related wellness programs.
- Collaborate with regional partners on community campaigns and events to reduce obesity and improve physical activity.
- Continue to offer free and/or low cost health screenings.
- Continue to offer accessible and low cost fitness and nutrition classes through the Demmer Wellness Pavilion.
- Continue to participate in health fairs and expos giving out free information and education on reducing health risks.
- Inform patients and community how to access health care information and creditable resources including patient portal access and internet access.
- Contribute information on the services and health and wellness offerings we provide to the 211 information database.
- Offer provider-led presentations on prevention of chronic disease throughout the community.
- Continue to participate in the Community Health Innovation Region, which strives to improve population health.
- Continue offering support groups and education for those with chronic disease.
- Advocate for policies, rules and regulations that reduce health risks for the general public.

The implementation plan will be monitored to track outcomes of success and areas for improvement. These strategies and activities will be implemented and tracked in coordination with MiThrive and our other community partners. The plan and program metrics will be monitored and updated annually. The hospital reserves the right to amend this implementation strategy as circumstances warrant. For example, certain needs may become more pronounced and require enhancements. During the three year period other organizations in the community may decide to address certain needs, indicating that the Hospital then should refocus its limited resources to best serve the community.

#### Reporting

The hospital will report to the community on the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan. Key findings of the assessment, including the quantitative and qualitative data, and a copy of the assessment, can be found at [mclaren.org/northern](https://mclaren.org/northern). Northern Michigan 2022 Community Health Assessment.

A copy of the hospital's Community Health Improvement Plan will be posted on the website.

Information on the assessment and plan are reported to various boards, advisory groups, community, media, and other community stakeholders.

This implementation strategy was reviewed and recommended for approval by the McLaren Northern Michigan Patient and Family Advisory Council.