

Population Health and Healthy Communities Work Group

Charter

Purpose & Scope:

The Population Health and Healthy Communities Work Group will explore the opportunity and necessary actions to improve the overall health and well-being of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia (the “Region”) by aligning and mobilizing public and private sector resources – schools, businesses, civic and faith groups, health care providers, government – around a core set of community health improvement goals in the areas of both health care delivery and social determinants of health. Examples of health care delivery goals may include, but not be limited to: increased vaccinations and screenings, improved integration of primary care, dental and mental health services, improved access to services for persons with addictive disorders, and reductions in hospital acquired conditions. Examples of social determinant goals may include, but not be limited to: reduction in teen smoking or pregnancy, improvement of literacy and high school completion, enhanced coordination of services for low-income elderly, or improvements in the variables leading to type 2 diabetes in children.

The findings of the work group will be a source of input into the development of a ten (10) year comprehensive community health improvement plan to be adopted by the new proposed regional health system (“Newco”).

Deliverables:

The work group will produce a document for consideration by Newco that shall consider, but is not limited to, the following:

- Identify top health problems in the region and their root causes – both clinical and social – and the health and economic impact of these problems on various public- and private-sector organizations and on disadvantaged populations;
- Identify priorities for coordination of health services for the elderly, including opportunities to coordinate state and federal programs;
- Inventory past and current efforts in the region to address these problems and their root causes;
- Assess the relative ability of the public and private sector to improve health outcomes by addressing root causes – either individually or collectively – through implementation of evidence-based best practices;
- Prioritize improvement goals according to their relative importance to the community's health, the commonality of impact across sectors or the disparate impact on disadvantaged populations, and the ability of the community to reasonably make an impact on the goals in a sustainable timeframe;

- Identify community governance structures used elsewhere in the U.S. that have successfully implemented a health improvement strategy, and contemplate how those examples might inform a culturally appropriate structure for our region;
- Identify opportunities for the East Tennessee State University Academic Health Sciences Center and other academic, business, government and community partners to collaborate with Newco in the creation of an accountable care community.

Schedule:

The Population Health and Healthy Communities Work Group will meet periodically at the call of the chair and as scheduled. The schedule shall include meetings which may be open to the public and announced in order to ensure public input in the process. The work group may invite presentations from organizations and individuals with expertise, and may also permit public comment. The work group may identify sub-committees which may meet more frequently to produce material for public review.

Reporting:

The Population Health and Healthy Communities Work Group will provide its findings to the Integration Council.