



Mercy Medical Center

March 27, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 3076 – Community Benefit

Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Health Care Committee:

At CHI Mercy Health our commitment to our community in the form of community benefit is near the top of our mission, because we believe that by reaching outside our walls to help improve the health of our community, we further contribute to the wellness and well-being of our patients and their families. For that reason, we oppose the inflexible and prescriptive changes to community benefit as envisioned in HB 3076 and urge you to oppose it as well.

In 2018, CHI Mercy Health contributed some **\$7,279,600** via community benefit programs *excluding Medicare*. But the real impact is more than financial, it's in the improvements in health that we are able to drive locally with that funding. Our community benefit activities are centered on programs that respond to the unique needs of the populations that we serve. Our organization conducts community health needs assessments every three years in which we spend a great deal of time identifying health disparities in our community alongside partner organizations and governmental actors. We then develop action plans and funding strategies to address the identified needs.

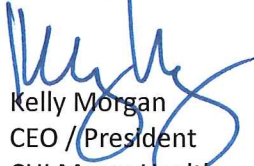
A small sampling of the various CHNA efforts that Mercy has facilitated and partnered with key stakeholders on leading to measurable improvements in the community are attached for consideration.

Our community residents do have access to health care coverage since the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. As a result, the need for charity care across Oregon as was traditionally provided has fallen, and that's something we applaud, as it means people are accessing the coverage they need at the time that it's needed. We have been able to use those dollars in a different way to impact the health of our community members, beyond providing healthcare services. In addition, we are also starting to see that our charity care is starting to creep up again, and we believe that imposing rigid/high thresholds for charity care will lead to unintended consequences and impact meaningful programs locally.

In short, community benefit is a transparent program that is working well in our community. We object to a prescriptive policy that could engender changes which do not serve our unique community needs. We urge you to oppose HB 3076 and instead allow hospitals to engage in a collaborative policy process which centers on driving health outcomes.

Thank you for your service and please reach out with any questions about our programs.

Sincerely,



Kelly Morgan
CEO / President
CHI Mercy Health
Roseburg Oregon

Significant Health Need Identified in Preceding CHNA	Planned Activities to Address Health Needs Identified in Preceding Implementation Strategy	Was Activity Implemented (Yes/No)	Results, Impact & Data Sources
	Partner with Blue Zones and school systems to increase engagement with BEPA, and improve nutritional options in school cafeterias	Yes	<p>HKOP (Health Kids Outreach Program) had originally implemented BEPA (Balanced Energy Physical Activity) trainings and toolkits in 5 schools prior to BZ involvement. We were able to increase the number of schools trained, engaging, and accessing BEPA toolkits by 3 additional schools and refreshed 3 other schools training and supplies.</p> <p>HKOP provided Food waste study to 3 volunteer schools to help inform improvement plans within their cafeterias. Since BZ, an addition of 2 other schools selected cafeteria score cards to improve their delivery and selection of healthful foods that included trying Foodhero recipes, position of foods, signage, and selecting a food of the month.</p> <p>2 schools have been Blue Zone approved and other Roseburg schools are currently working on their plans and approval.</p> <p>Green Elementary, Eastwood, and Hucrest kicked off new/refreshed walk and bike to school days.</p> <p>Currently BZ is only working on 2 school sites for the Walking School Bus but nothing has been accomplished for safe routes to school.</p> <p>Green Elementary has continued theirs once a week.</p>
	Increase access to healthy food options for underserved and geographically marginalized populations	Yes	<p>Veggie RX-kicked off with an 8 week pilot program with collaboration from Evergreen, MMC, Mercy Foundation, Farmer's Market, OSU Ext SNAP Ed, and Blue zones.</p> <p>Mobile Food Pantry-a grant was written and received to our community, but waiting on community partners to hire coordinator and outfit the new mobile pantry.</p>

Violence Prevention	Raise awareness, increase reporting and prevent incidence of violence	Yes	<p>Partnership with community members to host a Resilience Summit focused on the effects of Adverse Childhood experiences (ACE's) attended by over 300 community members and professionals</p> <p>Hosted QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training attended by over 50 local professionals</p> <p>Growth Mindset Training which recognizes and encourages positive behavior changes by shifting self-perception to effect learning achievement, skill acquisition and personal relationships for youth and adults attended by 25 local professionals.</p> <p>Continue to coordinate monthly UP2US NOW Child Abuse Prevention coalition meetings with 30+ agencies.</p> <p>Continue to participate on the Multi-Disciplinary Team to review cases of child abuse.</p> <p>Participate on the resource staffing at the Juvenile Detention Center.</p> <p>Developed and continues to participate on the Family violence Task force as a result of the UP2US NOW coalition.</p> <p>Coordinates the Challenge of the Heroes annual event to promote awareness of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.</p> <p>Coordinates the Annual and Communal Denim day to bring more awareness to Sexual Assault Prevention</p>
Human Trafficking Awareness, Education and Outreach		Yes	<p>The task force being a recognized certified entity by the Oregon Dept. of Justice in 2018</p> <p>Partnerships with over 14 local agencies and community members</p> <p>Create & instituted protocols, screening tools for medical providers & self-sufficiency</p> <p>Developed a directory of services and distributed to partnering agencies where none had previously existed</p> <p>Developed and facilitated 38 trainings and awareness events educating over 875 community members</p>

			<p>Outreach – hotel/motel and truck stop outreach projects across county and distribution of newsletters into medical clinics providing indicators of trafficking as well as local resources</p> <p>2- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants for strengthening the task force and hire an Anti-Trafficking advocate for Battered Persons Advocacy-(BPA).</p> <p>Our training program with our local truck driving school utilizing the Truckers against Trafficking curriculum was highlighted as a premiere prevention and awareness initiative through the CHI/Dignity Health promotional film project in December 2018.</p> <p>Designing initiatives to bring prevention education curricula into our local middle and high schools.</p>
Tobacco Reduction	Promote / Implement Evidence Based Tobacco Cessation Programs	Yes	<p>Forged partnership with Truth Initiatives to offer a no-cost digital, web-based tobacco reduction and cessation support service to hospital employees, and Douglas County Residents. Since the inception of the program we've had 68 community members enroll, 75% establish a quit date and 15 clients report discontinuing a tobacco product.</p>
			<p>Mercy Foundations Healthy Kids Outreach Program offered age appropriate education on the effects tobacco use has on teeth, mouth, throat and appearance in the Counties school system.</p>
			<p>Worked with Education Specialists and Community partners to increase the visibility of tobacco cessation support group opportunities and encourage client enrollment.</p>
			<p>Provided education on the Oregon Tobacco Quit Line through our Respiratory Service group, the general nursing intake assessment engine, and the internal distribution of information leaflets and matriculation cards with the result of 186 community members enrolling in services.</p>

			In collaboration with the Blue Zones Tobacco Sector Committee distributed 75 updated Indoor Clean Air Act stickers to local cigarette retail vendors in Roseburg Oregon.
			CHI Mercy Health, in partnership with the Blue Zones Tobacco Sector Committee sponsored the strategic placement and installation of 20 fireproof cigarette butt receptacles as a tobacco use and waste reduction measure in downtown Roseburg Oregon. We also collaborated with the city to expand the number of smoke free public sites in our municipal by two additional locations.
			Mercy Foundations Dental Learning Lab touches on basic care, impacts of nutrition, tobacco resistance, oral health safety, local resources, impacts of drugs and alcohol, and health careers within the dental field. In 2017-18 9069 students were reached; 2016-17, 7530 students and in, 2015-16, 6959 students.