

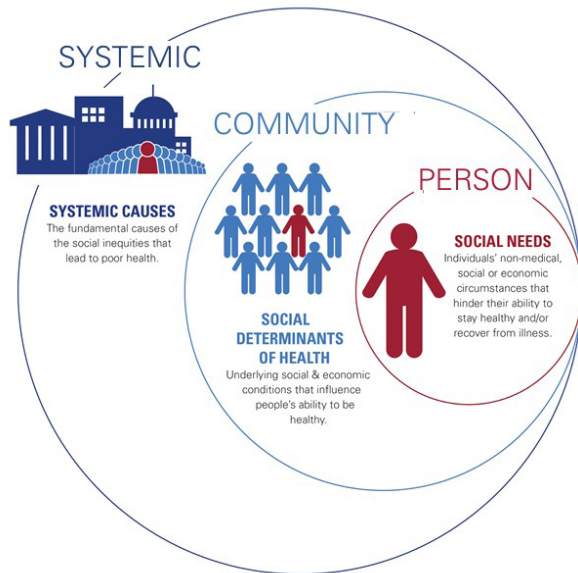
DKH DAY KIMBALL HEALTH

Community Health Improvement Plan 2025



INTRODUCTION

Each tax-exempt hospital is required to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (“CHNA”) every three years and then develop and implement a Community Health Improvement Plan (“CHIP”) to address priority health and wellbeing needs as identified by the CHNA. Day Kimball Healthcare has long known that social factors and inequities impact the health and wellbeing of our communities. These factors that impact health are known as Social Determinants of Health (“SDOH”).



The central purpose of this CHIP is to provide a framework for partnering with community groups in Northeast Connecticut to address policies and practices that improve access, resources and opportunities to reduce inequities, improve health, and positively impact SDOH identified in the CHNA - together. Strategies to improve health can be at the individual level, community level, or systemic level as depicted in this graphic.

Source: [SocietalFactorsFramework_12.2020.pdf \(aha.org\)](#)

The full CHNA/CHIP cycle is guided by the 9-step process created by the American Hospital Association’s Community Health Improvement initiative. The first 6 steps of the cycle relate to the CHNA assessment and development process. The remaining 3 steps reflect the CHIP development and implementation process.

Source: [Community Health Assessment Toolkit | ACHI \(healthycommunities.org\)](#)



COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This CHIP is a one-year plan as Day Kimball Healthcare migrates to the CHNA/CHIP cycle of the major health systems in Connecticut. We will complete another CHNA/CHIP cycle in 2025.

Our local partners include Generations Family Health Center, Danielson Veteran's Coffeehouse, Putnam Police Department, Putnam Fire Department, Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group, Inc., Interfaith Human Services of Putnam, EASTCONN, The ACCESS Agency, the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board, and the Northeast District Department of Health.

While our community partners identified 6 health need priorities for improving the health of our shared constituents, Day Kimball has elected to focus on the 3 most mentioned priorities for this one-year, transitional CHIP: Behavioral Health, Transportation, and Food Insecurity.

This CHIP was presented to and approved by the Day Kimball Health Board of Directors on January 28, 2025.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Day Kimball's service area residents have higher prevalence rates of substance abuse and mental health disorders than the State. The service area is also considered to be a mental health professional shortage area by the federal Health Resource & Services Administration. Community partners identified access to adolescent and adult community-based behavioral resources as lacking. In particular, community partners expressed concern that mental health concerns among school-aged children was taxing public school systems in the region.

Objective #1: Improve public school staff ability to identify children with behavioral health needs and strengthen teaching staff resilience/reduce teacher burnout.

Strategy	DKH Lead/Community Partner	Measurement	Status
Offer professional education sessions regarding identification of children with behavioral health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Neal, Ph.D, LPC DKH Director of Behavioral Health Services EASTCONN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly educational sessions held in the community/ public schools. Attendees for each session. 	
Provide school-based education for teaching staff on stress management and burnout prevention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Neal, Ph.D, LPC DKH Director of Behavioral Health Services EASTCONN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly educational sessions held in the community/ public schools. Attendees for each session. 	
Provide training to school faculty on implementing and maintaining internal peer support teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Neal, Ph.D, LPC DKH Director of Behavioral Health Services EASTCONN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer support training sessions held. Participants 	

Objective #2: Increase the child-adolescent behavioral health workforce in Northeast Connecticut.

Strategy	DKH Lead/Community Partner	Measurement	Status
Offer a clinical internship program to train clinicians in child and adolescent behavioral health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peter Neal, Ph.D, LPC DKH Director of Behavioral Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed internships	

TRANSPORTATION

Access to healthcare is dependent upon reliable transportation to and from services. Lack of access to reliable transportation is a persistent issue in the communities Day Kimball serves and compounds residents' access barriers to good health. Transportation barriers lead to missed medical appointments, difficulty in obtaining prescription medication, and less ability to engage in wellness activities in the community. More than half of the households in Putnam have either no car or only one car for the entire household.

Objective #1: Improve local access to innovative rideshare and other transportation start-ups to address health and wellness transportation.

Strategy	DKH Lead/Community Partner	Measurement	Status
Participate in regional transportation collaborative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Viens, DKH Executive Director, Government Affairs and Director, Pharmacy • John O'Keefe, RN, MSN DKH Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President, Patient Services • EASTCONN • The Access Agency • Generations Family Health Center • Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours of participation 	
Collaborate with the EASTCONN to narrow ride App project scope and quantify funding need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Kramer, DKH CEO • Robert Viens DKH Executive Director, Government Affairs and Director, Pharmacy • John O'Keefe, RN, MSN DKH Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President, Patient Services • EASTCONN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours of participation • Identification of funding sources 	

Objective #2: Identify possible sources of funding for patient medical transportation/wheelchair van services to Day Kimball treatment sites and patient discharge to lower levels of care.

Strategy	DKH Lead/Community Partner	Measurement	Status
Identify potential grant opportunities to support the expansion of patient transport via QC Transport and/or KB Ambulance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants identified and applied for. 	

FOOD INSECURITY

Some 12.7% of area residents are food insecure including 14.8% of area children. It is estimated that 40% of the food insecure children do not qualify for SNAP benefits. Community partners indicate that food insecurity is increasing in the region as income growth fails to keep pace with food costs.

Objective #1: Expand access to affordable, healthy food including fresh fruits and vegetables.			
Strategy	DKH Lead/Community Partner	Measurement	Status
Assist TEEG with finding additional food storage capacity so it can expand services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DKH Nutritional Services • TEEG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional food storage secured • Staff hours involved 	
Raise funds to help local schools eliminate school lunch debt so more students may be served.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day Kimball Healthcare Foundation • TEEG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding secured • Staff hours involved 	
Identify a campus location and begin the planning process for a community garden at DKH, including implementation and food distribution strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DKH Facilities • DKH Nutritional Services • DKH Administration • Interfaith Human Services of Putnam/Daily Bread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location identified • Implementation and distribution plans complete • Staff hours involved 	
Develop a post-discharge food support program, ensuring patients in need have access to nutritious meals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DKH Administration • DKH Staff • DKH Nutritional Services • TEEG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track number of discharged patients identified • Total number of meals provided • Staff hours involved 	

Objective #2: Provide community education and food preparation demonstrations that address healthy eating on a limited budget.

Strategy	DKH Lead/Community Partner	Measurement	Status
Provide community-based nutrition education/food preparation classes for at-risk populations (low-income, chronic disease, infants and children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DKH Nutrition Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of classes conducted Number of unique participants Staff hours involved 	