

For Immediate Release

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Statewide Community Health Needs Assessment Finds Three Key Areas of Concern

Providence, RI – December 12, 2016 – Hospitals will collaborate to address three key health care needs identified during a recent study. Maternal and child health, behavioral health, and chronic disease were found to be important areas impacting the health of Rhode Islanders.

Hospitals gathered in the spring to review the findings of a statewide community health needs assessment (CHNA). Following the session, hospitals agreed to collaborate over the next three years to address maternal and child health, behavioral health, and chronic disease. The CHNA Steering Committee and Rhode Island Department of Health (RI DOH) collaborated to ensure statewide efforts for community health improvements were properly aligned.

In addition to cross-communication between the RI DOH and the CHNA Steering Committee, efforts were made to coordinate local research with the RI DOH Health Equity Zones (HEZ). While hospitals have community-specific implementation plans to address these and other areas, they will continue to meet collectively to address these issues collaboratively and analyze the impact of their activities.

The community health needs assessment provides a comprehensive study of the health care needs of Rhode Islanders. The process was conducted earlier this year by Baker Tilly and included:

- A Secondary Data Profile comprising indicators for each county and hospital service area compared to state and national benchmarks.
- An analysis and comparison of Hospital Discharge Data including emergency room, observation, and inpatient usage.
- Partner Forums with key representatives in each of the three counties served by the CHNA partners.
- Focus Groups with behavioral health consumers and English and Spanish-speaking Latino/a residents.
- An analysis of secondary data provided by the Healthy Communities Institute.

“The 2016 community health needs assessment has provided Rhode Island’s health care community with a comprehensive list of findings,” said HARI President Michael Souza. “The assessment has allowed Rhode Island’s health care system to encompass and address the health needs within each community.”

In accordance with the Affordable Care Act, hospitals recently received approval from their boards of trustees on the assessment and implementation plans they created. The final reports have been released and can be viewed at www.rihealthcarematters.org.

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Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, rising medical liability premiums and decreasing reimbursement. Together we work to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high-quality health care.