

DC Health Matters Collaborative

Washington, DC

Background

Founded in 2012, the DC Health Matters Collaborative is a coalition of hospitals, health centers and health care associations working together with community partners to assess and address health needs in the District of Columbia.

The DCHMC seeks to expand the focus of care from individual or patient-level care to systemic issues, policies, and the social determinants of health.

“We envision one healthy and thriving capital city that holds the same promise for all residents regardless of where they live. Our work focuses on improving population health through collaboration and demonstrating success through measurable outcomes. Our roadmap for action for the 2019-2022 Community Health Improvement Plan includes nine policy- and systems-level actions that can make a positive difference in our four community-identified priority areas: mental health, care coordination, health literacy, and place-based care.”

Network Partners in the Integrator Learning Lab

- Bread for the Community
- Children's National Hospital*
- Community of Hope
- DC Behavioral Health Association
- DC Health Matters Collaborative*
- DC Hospital Association
- DC Primary Care Association*
- Howard University Hospital
- HSC Health Care System*
- Mary's Center
- Sibley Memorial Hospital
- Unity Health Care

*Network representatives in the 2020 Integrator Learning Lab

For more information:

Website: DCHealthMatters.org

Twitter: [@DCHMcollab](https://twitter.com/DCHMcollab)

Email: Collab@DCHealthMatters.org - Amber Rieke, MPH, Director of External Affairs

Near-Term, Lab-Related Goals

- Demonstrate the value of DC Health Matters Collaborative to member organizations
- Increase member engagement (outside of Steering Committee)
- Implement a revised structure for community engagement
- Improve functioning of the network
- Establish regular attendance at meetings within network structure
- Bring an equity & inclusion frame into work projects
- Align the efforts of DC Health Matters and the DC Department of Health related to community health needs assessments

Achievements Supported by Technical Assistance from the Learning Lab

- Conducted a member survey and strategic planning retreat to help prioritize key activities and core functions, and communicate value to stakeholders
- Increased commitment and attendance at steering committee and board meetings
- Updated network one-pager to emphasize value for members based on survey and retreat work
- Participated in training on use of a health equity impact assessment tool, to be embedded in future workflows as the networks considers strategies for system and policy change
- Launched two Community Health Improvement Plan system change “sprints” using principles and resources around equity and inclusion gained from technical assistance
- Developed plan for revising our Community Advisory Board and engaging the community
- Agreed to collaborate with DC Department of Health on joint community health needs assessment (vs separately)



Integrative Areas of Future Focus

Though the 2020 Integrator Learning Lab has drawn to a close, the DC Health Matters Collaborative will continue to be deliberate and strategic about deploying integrative activities in support of the goals of the network. This will include a focus on health equity and community engagement, with actions such as:

- Identifying tools and metrics to show momentum on health equity, on par with policy advocacy outcomes
- Determining how to best evaluate policy- and system-level actions and show impact
- Creating and executing strategies to increase community engagement with, and leadership in, the DC Health Matters Collaborative
- Gathering current equity, diversity and inclusion hiring policies and organizational resources from network members and pull together best practices

The 2020 Integrator Learning Lab was made possible through the support of The Kresge Foundation. To learn more about the Learning Lab, please email MHCUC@Nemours.org or visit the project web pages at www.movinghealthcareupstream.org/2020-integrator-learning-lab/