

# Community Health Improvement Plan

2023-2025



 **Deborah<sup>®</sup>**  
Heart and Lung Center

## Our Commitment to Community Health

Compassion is at the heart of Deborah’s Mission, reflected in its founders’ motto: “There is no price on life.” For 100 years, Deborah has cared for those in need, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, sex, familiar status, marital/civil union status, religion, domestic partnership status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, atypical hereditary, cellular or blood trait, genetic information, liability for military service, and mental or physical disability (including perceived disability, and AIDS and HIV status). We believe that no one should have to make a medical decision based on their personal financial situation. Deborah is the only hospital in the nation that treats both adults and children and that has never balance billed a patient for care provided in the hospital. Deborah is also active in our local communities and service areas, providing community-based health and wellness programs. Deborah represents the best of the traditional nonprofit hospital and serves as a regional safety net for exceptional cardiovascular and pulmonary services and care.

### Our Mission and Vision

To provide the necessary facilities, equipment, medical staff and financial resources required to deliver the highest quality inpatient and outpatient services for the diagnosis and treatment of heart, lung and vascular disease within the Center’s service area. The Center realizes its obligation to provide the highest degree of patient safety and privacy and, to that end, will embrace and advocate all initiatives that enable us to attain these goals. The Center will provide these medical and surgical treatments to patients without distinction as to race, gender, sexual preference, creed, color, religion, age, national origin, handicap, or ability to pay. Inpatient and outpatient services are to be provided on a timely basis and consistent with cost-effectiveness and financial responsibility.

Deborah Heart and Lung Center will lead the Region as the premier provider of high quality innovative, compassionate and patient-focused heart, lung and vascular care, as a respected educator of the next generation of specialists, and as a thought leader in advanced clinical research.

## **Our Story**

Deborah Heart and Lung Center is New Jersey's premier provider of high-quality heart, lung and vascular care that is innovative, compassionate, and patient-focused. The Deborah Story traces its history back to 1922 when the hospital was founded as a tuberculosis sanatorium and pulmonary center. Thousands of TB patients were medically treated and successfully cured by a heroic team of Deborah physicians driven by compassion.

With the development of antibiotic treatments like streptomycin and the eradication of TB, Deborah began expanding its focus to other chest diseases. Dr. Charles Bailey, a pioneer in heart surgery, performed the hospital's first open-heart surgeries in 1958 (one on an adult and one on a child), which were also the first procedures of their kind in New Jersey. The specialization in cardiac diseases was immediately embraced, transforming Deborah into New Jersey's only cardiac and pulmonary specialty hospital.

Today, Deborah offers leading-edge surgical techniques and non-surgical procedures for diagnosing and treating all forms of cardiac, vascular and pulmonary diseases in adults, as well as congenital and acquired heart defects in adults and children.

Deborah Heart and Lung Center is proud of its alliance with the Cleveland Clinic Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute. Cleveland Clinic is ranked #1 in the nation for heart care since 1995 by U.S. News and World Report. This affiliation allows for the sharing of best practices, enhancing opportunities to provide new treatments and therapies to patients, as well as exploring cutting-edge technologies and techniques in cardiac care that accelerate advances in heart and vascular treatments for patients in the Delaware Valley.

We believe in partnerships and collaborations with organizations that share the same commitment of improving the health of the community. This strengthens the entire continuum of care for patients from enhancing access to important services to providing patient-centered care.

Partnering with additional organizations like [Capital Health](#), [Cooper University Health Care](#), [Ivy Rehab](#), [Serena Group](#) and [Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University](#) allows our campus to be a health and wellness

resource for the South Jersey community. We serve together to bring high-quality compassionate care close to home.

### **CHNA Partnership**

To guide our community benefit and health improvement efforts, Deborah conducted a community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The 2022 CHNA builds upon the 2016 and 2019 studies to monitor current health status in our primary service areas in Burlington and Ocean counties. The 2022 CHNA includes qualitative research and community conversations to determine health trends and disparities affecting residents. Community engagement was an integral part of the 2022 CHNA. In assessing community health needs, input was solicited and received from persons who represent the broad interests of the community, as well as underserved, low-income, and minority populations. These individuals provided wide perspectives on health trends, expertise about existing community resources available to meet those needs, and insights in to service delivery gaps that contribute to health disparities and inequities. This mix of statistical research and stakeholder input was designed to allow us to best collect and analyze health trends that impact the health of our community.

Deborah's CHNA Executive Committee reviewed findings from the CHNA and feedback form community partners to prioritize addressing, within our capability, the health gaps for our service area and to focus our community health improvement efforts. Leadership representatives considered the 2022 CHNA research findings, as well as existing community and hospital services, programs, and areas of expertise.

### **CHNA Partner Organizations**

[American Heart Association](#)

[Aspen Hills Healthcare Center](#)

[Burlington County Community Action Partnership](#)

[Burlington County Eye Physicians](#)

[Burlington County Health Department](#)

[Burlington County Military Affairs Committee](#)

[Burlington County Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Burlington Township Health and Wellness Campaign](#)

[Burlington County Human Services](#)

[Browns Mills Improvement Association](#)

[Burlington County Veterans Services](#)

[Capital Health Emergency Department](#)

[Center for Family Services](#)

[Center for Family Success](#)

[Complete Care Burlington Woods](#)

[Coalition of 100 Black Women](#)

Girl Scouts Of Central and Southern NJ

Greater Philadelphia YMCA

Ivy Rehab

Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst

Long Beach Island Health Department

Maryville Inc

New Jersey Hospital Association

Occupational Training Center

Ocean Monmouth Health Alliance

Ocean County Health Department

Pemberton Branch of Burlington County Library

Pemberton Township Schools

Pemberton Township

Pinelands Family Success Center

Rowan College of Burlington County

Samaritan Healthcare and Hospice

Saints Memorial Church

Sisterhood, Inc.

Township of Pemberton Mayor

Virtua Health Emergency Management

## Community Health Improvement Plan

Deborah's CHNA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees developed this Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to guide community benefit activities across our service area. The CHIP builds upon previous health improvement activities and takes into consideration the impact of our efforts in prior CHIP cycles, while recognizing new health needs and the changing health care delivery environment identified in the 2022 CHNA. For the 2023-2025 CHIP cycle, Deborah intends to devote resources and expertise to address the following Priority Areas:

### Priority Area 1 –Access to Care

**Goal:** Improve Access to healthcare and assist in coordination of care.

#### Objectives:

- > Assist in identifying gaps in access to care and recruit/retain providers in our service area.
- > Assist in addressing management of substance use disorders and mental health issues in our patient population
- > Reduce transportation barriers that impede healthcare access to our services
  - > Foster and deepen partnerships with community organizations and other area providers to reduce inappropriate and/or avoidable Emergency Room usage
  - > Increase early detection and improve access to care and treatment of lung cancer
- >Research and present a plan to be certified as a trusted LBGTO friendly specialty provider.
- > Grow and expand priority specialty appointment and comprehensive navigation services to members of the military, their dependents, Veterans and

retirees.

Expand and educate through outreach opportunities to inform First responders of the increased risk of Heart lung and Vascular diseases. Increase the volume of First Responder assessments at Deborah Heart and Lung Center.

### **Priority Area 2 – Chronic Disease Education and Management**

**Goal:** Increase education and awareness to identify and reduce chronic disease risk, and improve chronic disease management to reduce healthcare reliance and improve quality of life.

#### **Objectives:**

- > Provide the community with complementary screenings for chronic disease within our specialty
- > Improve access to care for chronic conditions, including access to our specialty providers who identify and treat chronic conditions
- > Provide the community with education and resources to identify and manage chronic disease
- > Work with our community partners to identify and triage to resources for social determinates of health that contribute to chronic disease and poor adherence to treatment plans
- > Work to reduce readmissions of our patients with chronic disease

### **Priority Area 3 – Issues of Aging / Wellbeing**

**Goal:** Assist seniors in our immediate service area age successfully, maintain independence and plan for end of life that respects each patient's wishes.

#### **Objectives:**

- > Develop and/or partner with community providers to offer community education programs/education on aging related issues
- > Support the development of a network of community providers to provide in-home, person-centered care for patients with chronic illness or serious health problems
- > Work with community partners to develop and implement geriatric assessment programs
- > Remove transportation barriers for seniors to access needed healthcare services
- > Explore with community partners, implementation of a memory assessment program

To learn more about Deborah Heart and Lung Center's work to improve the health of our community, visit our website or contact Cynthia Kornfeld CAVS, Director of Volunteer Services at Deborah Heart and Lung Center.