

**Divine Providence Hospital**  
**Community Health Needs Assessment**  
**2013 – 2015 Implementation Plan**

## Overall Goal and Approach to Implementation Plan:

Divine Providence Hospital (DPH); located in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, is one of four hospitals that comprise the Susquehanna Health System (the System) based in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. DPH is a community resource that is committed to the core values of the System: To CAREfully place patients and their families first, collaboratively share ownership among all caregivers and to gratefully lead with a servant's heart. DPH seeks to provide patient centered care through its commitment to the System Mission, "To extend God's healing love by improving the health of those we serve".

DPH, along with the Williamsport Regional Medical Center (WRMC), also located in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and Muncy Valley Hospital (MVH), located in Muncy, Pennsylvania, primarily serve the Lycoming County community. Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital (S+SMH), located in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, primarily serves the Tioga County community. The System's approach to providing community benefit is to leverage the assets and expertise of all four hospitals to meet the needs and improve the health status of those who reside in the communities located in Lycoming and Tioga counties.

## Community Partners:

Divine Providence Hospital believes in the value of working with other agencies, organizations, and institutions to maximize the value provided to the community, as well as leveraging limited resources in the most effective manner. Listed below are some of the partners that DPH intends to collaborate with to accomplish desired outcomes for the health needs selected for this implementation plan.

- Public health agencies
- Health care providers
- Local school districts
- Local colleges and universities
- State, county and municipal governments
- Social service organizations
- Faith based organizations

## Results of Needs Assessment:

The 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment identified a number of unmet or partially met health needs in the community. Analysis of the community needs assessment data provided a

means to evaluate and prioritize areas of greatest need. Health needs were ranked based on five factors:

- The ability of Divine Providence Hospital to evaluate and measure outcomes.
- How many people are affected by the issue?
- What are the consequences of not addressing the problem?
- Prevalence of common themes.
- The ability of Divine Providence Hospital to impact change.

The graphical representation on the following page aided in identifying the health priorities for Divine Providence Hospital. By addressing the needs in the upper right quadrant, community health will likely improve as these needs have the greatest impact on overall health and the hospital is more likely to have a positive impact on these needs. In this representation, the largest spheres represent the most significant health needs of the community.

## Focus Areas:

As a result of the analysis, **Cancers, Shortage of Physicians/Access to Specialists, and Mental Health** were identified as priority areas on which we will focus.

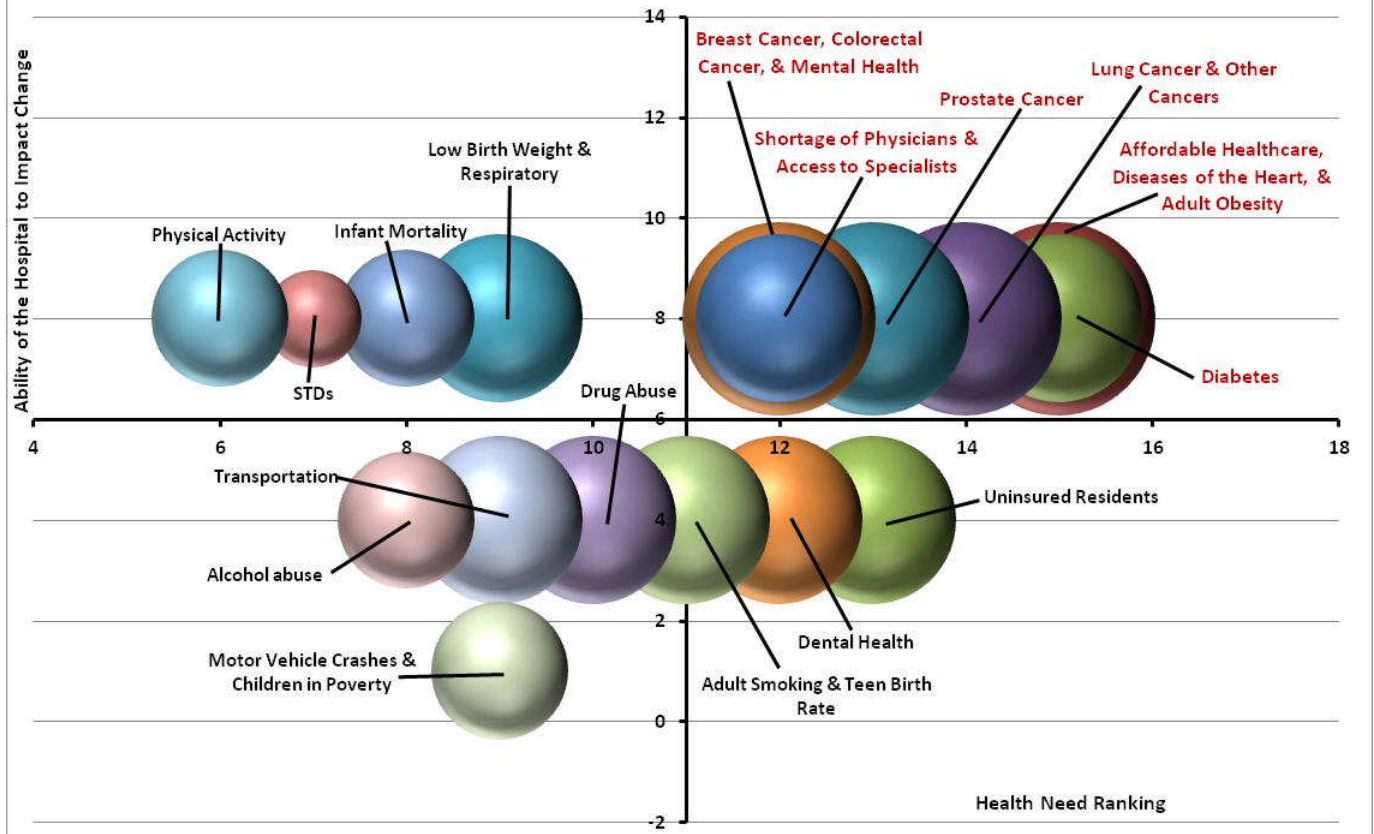
## Health Needs Not Addressed:

There were other areas of need located in the upper right quadrant of the sphere chart that are clearly important to improving the health of the community. However, they are deemed to have less immediate impact and will be considered for future initiatives, or if the opportunity arises, integrated into this plan as a sub-objective activity.

Most notable of the health needs not addressed at this time are diseases of the heart, adult obesity, and diabetes. Divine Providence Hospital, along with its affiliated partners, does not have the resources and specialty staff that would be required to adequately address all identified health needs. In addition, other agencies and healthcare providers are already working to effect change in many of these areas by providing related community resources and services.

Despite not being formally selected as an area of need to be addressed, it should be noted that recent resource allocation decisions of affiliated partners have bolstered the physician complement, technology and facilities related to diseases of the heart. We will continue to explore potential partnerships and strategies that will assist in providing essential services to all of our patients. In addition, we will make every effort to assist our community partners in maintaining and/or expanding the services that they currently provide.

**Exhibit 23**  
**Susquehanna Health - Divine Providence Hospital**  
**Prioritization of Identified Health Needs**



## **PRIORITY 1: Cancers**

### **Objective 1: Increase access to cancer services in Tioga County.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Develop outpatient facility plan for Medical Oncology services in Wellsboro, PA to include infusion, laboratory services, and physician offices.
  - B. Collaborate with the Susquehanna Health Cancer Center at the Divine Providence Hospital campus to improve the coordination of care for Radiation Oncology patients.

### **Objective 2: Identify and remedy Transportation barriers.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Conduct focus group studies to identify and analyze transportation barriers to receiving diagnostic and treatment services.
  - B. Identify existing transportation options available to the Community and analyze the need and logistical challenges of expanding transportation opportunities directly or in collaboration with other community organizations.

### **Objective 3: Increase early detection and enhance patient awareness of resources available for treatment.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Increase availability and access to screenings and preventive services.
  - B. Coordinate and offer free education programs that target high priority areas with greater incidence in Lycoming and Tioga Counties.
  - C. Make resources available that raise awareness of treatment options, counseling and prevention.

## **PRIORITY 2: Shortage of Physicians/Access to Specialists**

### **Objective 1: Assess and document Community need for physicians.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Assess Community needs based upon total number of physicians providing medical services to the area, not only those physicians on staff at the hospital.

B. Prepare a Medical Staff Development Plan.

## **Objective 2: Recruit high priority physician specialties.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Develop a physician recruitment strategy.
  - B. Collaborate with and assist Federally Qualified Health Clinics in the Community with physician recruitment efforts.

## **Objective 3: Increase capacity of existing physician resources.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Evaluate the potential of utilizing Advanced Practice Professionals to partner with existing physician compliment and to extend provider capacity and shorten wait times.
  - B. Evaluate the potential of extending physician office hours to provide evening and weekend access.

## **Objective 4: Increase the number of physicians and advanced practice professionals being developed locally.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Collaborate with local medical school and colleges to facilitate the development of programs and rotations that showcase our practice and community opportunities.
  - B. Collaborate with local Family Practice Residency program to develop “Rural Track Students” program and provide additional rotations in Tioga County.

## **PRIORITY 3: Mental Health**

### **Objective 1: Increase the number of mental health providers.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Recruit additional physicians and mid-level providers to the community in the specialty of Psychiatry.

B. Evaluate the use of Tele-psychiatry to expand the availability of diagnostic and treatment services.

## **Objective 2: Increase access to mental health services.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Identify inpatient and outpatient facility plan to meet the future needs of the Community, including increasing the number of inpatient beds to meet patient type and acuity demands.
  - B. Evaluate the expanded use of group therapies to provide greater access to treatment.
  - C. Develop an evidence-based collaborative model to include the emergency department, primary care physicians and community providers.

## **Objective 3: Increase early detection and improve evaluation of conditions affecting mental health and emotional well-being.**

- Strategies:**
- A. Coordinate and offer education to primary care physicians for the early detection and treatment of mental health conditions.
  - B. Collaborate with other organizations and agencies in the Community to offer screenings and events that will facilitate early detection of conditions and promote awareness of the availability of Community resources.