

Improving Behavioral Health Through Community Partnerships: A Self-Assessment Checklist

1

Is your hospital or health system's leadership team engaged and supportive of the idea of creating a community partnership to improve behavioral health outcomes?

- YES:** An engaged leadership team is a key component of a successful community partnership initiative. Continue to involve your hospital or health system's leadership team and board as your community partnership initiative continues to develop and grow.
- NO:** Gaining buy-in from c-suite and behavioral health leaders, as well as your organization's board, is critical to developing and implementing a successful community partnership initiative. Engage key leaders in your hospital or health system to form, develop and implement your community partnership. For more information about engaging leadership, visit the "engaged leadership" section of the Regional Networks: Improving access to behavioral health services executive summary.

2

Does your community partnership initiative have support and endorsement from community partners?

- YES:** Continue to collaborate with partner organizations to create a network structure that leverages their individual strengths and services. Working together to develop and implement your network will ensure continued buy-in and a sense of ownership over the network's success.
- NO:** Collaboration with external organizations is key to the success of your community partnership initiative. Work together with your partners to first identify and then develop a network to meet the unique needs of your local population. Read the "community endorsement and support" section in the community partnerships executive summary to learn more.

3

Have you considered how you will fund your behavioral health network?

- YES:** Even if you have already secured funding to start your behavioral health network, continue to look for new avenues for funding so that your network can continue to grow and thrive.
- NO:** Explore both internal and external opportunities for funding your behavioral health network, including philanthropic gifts, grant opportunities and reallocating internal funds. Review the "build on existing strengths and solidify funding" section of the executive summary to learn more about how other hospitals and health systems have funded their regional behavioral health networks.

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Does your hospital or health system coordinate with other medical, social service and community organizations to standardize care and improve outcomes in your community?

- YES:** Successful behavioral health community partnerships coordinate at all levels of care across their networks to ensure that patients are receiving high-quality behavioral health care, no matter where it is accessed. Continue to collaborate with organizations in home, community and hospital-based care settings to ensure the best possible outcomes for your patients.
- NO:** Coordinating across all levels of follow-up care within your behavioral health network can help in achieving patient-centered care and improve behavioral health outcomes. Work together with the organizations in your community, such as primary care providers, social service and crisis intervention organizations, and law enforcement, to ensure that patients are receiving the same standardized screening and standard of care across all organizations. For more information, review the “optimize care delivery through standard processes and handoffs” section of the executive summary.

5

Does your hospital or health system use technology to improve access to behavioral health care and collaborate across your behavioral health network?

- YES:** Hospitals and health systems with successful community partnership networks use technology to improve access to care. Continue to use technology to collaborate with partner organizations and connect patients to appropriate care, offer services and coordinate patient care.
- NO:** Technology can be a powerful tool for enhancing the outcomes of your behavioral health network. Consider using a common electronic platform across your network to refer patients to the appropriate providers and coordinate patient care, offer services via telehealth to expand access and address social determinants of health that might prohibit a patient from seeking in-person care, and connect patients to immediate help support lines. For more information, see the “leverage technology” section of the executive summary.

6

Does your hospital or health system collect and monitor data to understand the outcomes of your behavioral health network?

- YES:** Collecting, monitoring and reporting data is essential to the success of your behavioral health network. Continue to use data to drive your decision-making and illustrate the value of your behavioral health network to stakeholders.
- NO:** A successful behavioral health network collects, monitors and reports data to better understand the effectiveness of its interventions. Successful networks select measures based on their identified goals and desired outcomes; utilize standardized screening tools, assessments and quality and outcome measures to ensure data integrity and produce measurable results; and collaborate with partners to monitor and report data in a transparent manner. For more information, visit the “actionable data and metrics” section of the executive summary.