UVM Health Network/Porter Medical Center

Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Report 2018

During the past year, Porter has taken the following actions in response to our current Community Health Needs Assessment:

1) Access to primary care

Porter recognizes that access to primary care is at the foundation of any population health strategy and has worked aggressively in recent years to recruit and retain primary care providers in each of the communities we serve. Additionally, through our new Porter ExpressCare service, we have strengthened the connection between our acute care/urgent services and our primary care network through a purposeful practice of referrals or establishing primary care relationships for patients who do not have a medical home. As we continue to transition from fee for service to a population health model of payments, our investments in this primary care network represents a strategic imperative to providing the right care in the least costly setting, as well as offering the types of preventative services and resources needed to keep our patients well or improve their health status.

2) Chronic Health Conditions

Porter has a robust Blueprint for Health department which oversees both our community health educational programs, as well as our Community Health Teams which are incorporated into each of our primary care practices. Porter is a state-wide leader as a critical access hospital in participating in risk-based payment programs and has been a strong advocate of the OneCare ACO model as it supports aligning the needs and desires of our patients with the needs and desires of our organization (better health). We are on the verge of hiring two new Registered Nurses to work within our primary care network on complex care management and will soon begin our work with the Rise Vermont program. We have included specific population health metrics as part of our UVM Health Network set of strategic goals for the current fiscal year and anticipate including additional population health goals for our FY 2019 Network goals.

3) Substance Abuse/Addiction

Our Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) program at our Bristol primary care practice has continued to grow over time to meet the needs of our community, and we are currently in the process of expanding this program into other communities within our service area to meet the growing needs of the people of this region.

By investing in primary care, the Vermont Blueprint for Health (and soon the Rise Vermont program) as well as MAT services for our patients, UVM Health Network/Porter Medical Center is focusing our resources on those areas that were identified by our most recent Community Health Needs Assessment as priority areas.

Porter used a combination of online surveys and face to face meetings during the most recent CHNA update to solicit community feedback so that the voices of our patients could be represented in the final report.