Implementation Report for the 2015 "Community Health Needs Assessment" for Porter Hospital, Middlebury, Vermont

As outlined in the Affordable Care Act of 2010, Porter Hospital conducted a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment update during the summer and fall of 2015, and published this report on our website in November of 2015. In addition to creating and publishing the CHNA report, Porter Hospital is required to prepare the following CHNA Implementation Report.

<div align="center">******</div>

Porter Hospital's Process for completing the 2015 "Community Health Needs Assessment" update report;

At the outset of this project, a number of resources were read, reviewed and/or reevaluated in order to better prepare for our interviews and position ourselves to assess and draw meaningful conclusions from our findings. Included in this review were: *Porter Medical Center's 2014 Act 53 Community Needs Assessment, Healthy Vermonters 2012, The Health Disparities of Vermonters, 2012, AHEC's 2011 Snapshot of the Vermont Primary Care Workforce, and Vermont's 2014 Blueprint for Health.*

Another document that was thoroughly reviewed, and is included in its entirety in our completed CHNA, is the 2014 Addison County Community Needs Assessment, entitled, *The Health of Our Community*, completed by our local Middlebury District Office of the Vermont Department of Health.

Finally, between January and October of 2014, interviews were conducted primarily with professionals and individuals who represent a wide variety of community organizations and/or constituents that cut across all socio-economic strata including those individuals who are marginalized within our communities. Included in this group were health care providers, legislators, Middlebury's town planner, and a variety of administrators. We did not conduct any focus groups, and admittedly are shy on the consumer perspective, at least from "face-to-face" encounters, but feel confident that through the lens and perspective of many individuals interviewed, we certainly captured consumers' concerns.

How the CHNA Report was made available to the public;

The Porter Hospital 2015 CHNA was made available to the public via the following methods:

- A Press Release published at the time of the report;
- Posting on the Porter Web Site;
- Focus Groups/Forums conducted by the CNHA Project Coordinator;
- Dissemination of the final report throughout community via partner agencies;

What does the Porter Hospital CHNA Describe?

The Porter Hospital 2015 CHNA includes the following information:

- Definition of the community served by Porter Hospital
- Demographics of our community
- Existing community resources available to respond to needs
- Information about how data was obtained
- Summary of Health Needs of our community
- Health needs and issues of uninsured persons and/or low-income persons as follows:

    1. Access – to primary care providers, to insurance, to comprehensive services (including long-term care)

    2. Substance Abuse/Addiction - Opiate addiction, abuse and addiction of/to prescription drugs and narcotics

    3. Mental Health

    4. Dental Health

    5. Obesity – Nutrition – Exercise

    6. Homelessness

How Porter Hospital is Meeting Identified Needs through the Community Health Needs Assessment (strategy for prioritizing and addressing needs overall; and prioritizing needs that Porter will address, including budget for implementation);

- Access – to primary care providers, to insurance, to comprehensive services

Porter Hospital operates a comprehensive network of provider practices throughout Addison County and the town of Brandon, and is now the community leader in terms of ensuring access to primary care services to our community. Additionally, via our specialty practices and the comprehensive services offered via Porter Hospital, our organization makes available a range of health care services to meet the needs of our community. As a not-for-profit Critical Access Hospital, Porter provides services to our patients regardless of their insurance or financial circumstances, and has a staff of financial counselors who work with our community to connect them with programs offered either through Porter or Green Mountain Care.

Ensuring access to primary and comprehensive specialized services appropriate for a community hospital remains a core priority for our organization and represents a significant investment in both staff time and via our annual operating budget.

Contained in our FY 2015 Budget submission to the Green Mountain Care Board is the integration of an existing Podiatry Practice into the Porter Medical Center network of primary and specialty practices in order to ensure continued community access to this specialty service (as this is the only Podiatry Practice located in Addison County). Among the many acute and surgical services provided by this practice to our patients, the management of diabetic foot care is a critical community need and will become even more important as we continue to transition from the fee-for-service world to global budgets and population health management (as addressing this problem early is much better for the patient—and significantly less expensive to the system—than waiting until the disease has progressed).

Additionally, via our Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, our organization also addresses a comprehensive range of needed services for long-term care, short-term rehabilitation care, and memory loss/dementia care services. Recently, we have added additional capacity and services to address the special needs of our community members facing end-of-life issues via new "home-like rooms" in collaboration with Addison Respite Care Home (ARCH).

- Obesity – Nutrition – Exercise

Through the Blueprint for Health and our efforts to introduce Community Health Team members throughout our primary care network, Porter Hospital is now taking a more formal and active role in promoting wellness and health maintenance programs for our patients and community.

We now have Community Health Teams throughout our Addison County and Brandon facilities, and are coordinating our efforts via the state-wide Blueprint for Health initiative.

Our FY 2015 budget continues to make a significant investment in the Vermont Blueprint for Health and the work of our Community Health Teams, which are now in operation at each of our primary care practices.

- Substance Abuse/Addiction - Opiate addiction, abuse and addiction of/to prescription drugs and narcotics

Our FY 2015 budget contains an expansion of a very successful opiate addition program offered via our Bristol Internal Medicine practice. This new Suboxone Program will make a significant impact on the current waiting list for this treatment, and we anticipate that the ongoing/demonstrated success of this effort will facilitate additional treatment capacity in other Porter practices over time; making a meaningful contribution to addressing this epidemic level problem facing Addison County and all Vermont communities.

Needs Identified in the CHNA that are not directly addressed by Porter Hospital and why (including how "partners" in the community, i.e. VDH, Counseling Service, ODC and local Dental Group are working to identify specific needs);

Addison County is fortunate to have a large number of not-for-profit health and human service organizations which are independent of Porter Hospital, but which address some of the specific needs outlined in our 2015 CHNA report. Rather than try to compete with these agencies and extend our services outside of our core mission of providing primary, acute and long-term care services to the people of Addison County, Porter supports and collaborates with these agencies whenever possible.

The list of needs contained in our 2012 CHNA that are not being directly addressed by Porter Hospital, but are being worked on by other local organizations listed in our CHNA report include:

- Mental Health

- Dental Health

- Homelessness

A summary of these needs and how they are being addressed by agencies in our community is outlined in Porter Hospital's full 2015 CHNA report found on our website www.portermedical.org.