



# ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

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Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)  
**Implementation Plan**

November 10, 2016

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***St. Jude: Patient Population and Clinical Focus*** 

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The community served by St. Jude can best be defined by understanding St. Jude's patient population and scope of clinical services. St. Jude is a specialty hospital that treats pediatric cancer and blood disorders, and children and adolescents with HIV infection. It serves as a national referral center for children with cancer as well as a local referral center for children with cancer, blood disorders, and HIV/AIDS. St. Jude only admits children with these diagnoses and does not offer medical services beyond those necessary to care for children with these diseases. St. Jude does not have an emergency room.

St. Jude's primary clinical effort centers on providing ground-breaking, research-driven treatments for childhood cancers and other catastrophic diseases in children. More specifically, about 8,500 active patients are seen at St. Jude yearly, most of who are enrolled on clinical trials for new treatments developed by St. Jude and who are treated on a continuous outpatient basis. The hospital is licensed for 80 inpatient beds for patients requiring hospitalization during treatment. It should be noted that St. Jude has developed unique resources that allow a significant portion of patients to be treated as outpatients who may have been admitted as in-patients at most hospitals. This is accomplished through patient housing dedicated solely to St. Jude patient families designed with infection control measures such as HEPA air filtration, infection-resistant surfaces and other medical safeguards that are not available in hotels or patients' homes.

St. Jude has a network of eight affiliated pediatric hematology/oncology clinics in the U.S., allowing St. Jude to extend care and benefits to more children and increase the number of children able to be treated on St. Jude clinical trials closer to their homes. St. Jude also operates an international outreach program aimed at sharing knowledge and resources to improve the survival rate of children with cancer worldwide. St. Jude has 24 international partner sites in 17 countries.

St. Jude is a research organization, and there are times when basic research discoveries pertain to diseases that are beyond the scope of diseases treated as a primary diagnosis at St. Jude. For the purposes of this report, the focus is solely on those diseases for which children are admitted to St. Jude for treatment.

St. Jude has chosen to address the following health needs identified in the CHNA as part of this Implementation Plan, because they are aligned with our mission and our capabilities and there- by making it possible for us to allocate sufficient resources to the three priority health needs identified below. Through the research and recommendations gleaned from the CHNA, hospital staff, and administration, the following needs were selected as priorities for implementation:

### **AIM #1 Improving access to care**

- Access to affordable health insurance coverage
- Palliative care
- Healthcare of childhood cancer survivors
- Community education
- St. Jude affiliate network

### **AIM #2 Enhancing coordination of care**

- Physician coordination of care
- Transition of patients from pediatric to adult healthcare services

### **AIM #3 Improving child health status through healthy lifestyle education and prevention for children**

- Child knowledge of cancer prevention, nutrition, obesity, and physical activity

**Each of these needs is addressed in further detail on the pages to follow.**

## Aim #1 Improving access to care

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>Access to affordable health insurance coverage</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Managed Care Department
<b>Summary metric</b>	Assist uninsured patients with enrolling in funding for which they qualify
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Renew contract with vendor to provide Certified Application Counselor services to assist patient families applying for health insurance coverage through the Federally-facilitated Marketplace</li> <li>2. Conduct an audit of the screening process to validate compliance. Make process adjustments as needed.</li> </ol>

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>Palliative care</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Department of Oncology, Division of Quality of Life and Palliative Care
<b>Summary metric</b>	Increase the number of clinicians trained in Palliative Care Medicine (PCM) and educational opportunities for PCM
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit and train two physician fellows in the Palliative Care Training Program</li> <li>2. Provide training in Palliative Care for advanced practice healthcare personnel through targeted conferences and other educational opportunities including End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) conference, an institution-developed Quality of Life seminar (QoLA), and a 2 day Pediatric Oncology Palliative Care conference.</li> <li>3. Educate community providers about PCM through community-based bridging programs for home health and hospice care through the Quality of Life for All Kids program via a three hour didactic curriculum.</li> <li>4. Enhance training opportunities with St. Jude affiliates.</li> </ol>

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>Healthcare of childhood cancer survivors</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Oncology Division, Cancer Survivorship Department
<b>Summary metric</b>	Provide cancer survivorship information to both caregivers and survivors via Survivors’ Day Conference and St. Jude Life
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide workshops and speakers that offer information about available resources</li> <li>2. Give survivors and their families the opportunity to learn from other survivors</li> <li>3. Ensure that survivors understand how to approach healthcare post-treatment</li> <li>4. Offer an online resource following the conference for continuous flow of survivorship information</li> <li>5. Assess late effects of cancer therapy on pediatric cancer survivors</li> <li>6. Use information from these studies to define risk groups for various late effects and assess interventions</li> </ol>

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>Community education</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Communications & Public Relations Department
<b>Summary metric</b>	Provide information and education about healthcare resources and healthcare careers
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. St. Jude professionals will provide information and resources about sickle cell disease, HIV, cancer, flu, and other pediatric life-threatening diseases.</li> <li>2. Inventory educational opportunities about healthcare careers already available from St. Jude to determine areas of focus.</li> </ol>

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>St. Jude Affiliate Network</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Affiliate Program Office
<b>Summary metric</b>	The St. Jude affiliate network should be maintained to expand opportunities for services to a larger number of children.
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate opportunities to expand to additional locations.</li> <li>2. Enhance operations and increase patient visits at all clinics.</li> </ol>

## Aim #2 Enhancing coordination of care

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>Physician coordination of care</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	<p>St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital</p> <p>St. Jude Affiliate Institutions</p> <p>All Domestic and International Referring Clinicians and Centers</p>
<b>Summary metric</b>	Improve continuity of care by enhancing communication tools and efforts to provide physicians with unparalleled access to patient information
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to improve the clinician portal to permit referring and affiliated physicians’ convenient access to patient information, in accordance with applicable law. Physicians practicing at one of the St. Jude affiliate clinics have access to the patients’ entire medical record.</li> </ol>

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>Transition of patients from pediatric to adult healthcare services</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Department of Hematology, Clinical Hematology Division <b>Diggs-Kraus</b> Sickle Cell Center at Regional One Health Methodist Healthcare Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center (MCSCC)
<b>Summary metric</b>	Increase the number of patients with sickle cell disease who establish sustained adult care after leaving pediatric care at St. Jude
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to work with adult sickle cell centers in the community in enhancing transition.</li> <li>2. Enhance Adolescent and Young Adults (AYA) transition clinics with co-location of pediatric and adult Hematology providers.</li> <li>3. Augment formal programming and planning processes for adolescents with hematologic and oncologic diseases, through development of disease educational curriculum and training modules to foster increased adolescent autonomy and medical literacy.</li> </ol>

## Aim #3 Improving child health status through behavioral modification

<b>Pediatric health need</b>	<b>Child knowledge of cancer prevention, nutrition, obesity, and physical activity</b>
<b>Health facilities involved</b>	St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Global Pediatric Medicine
<b>Summary metric</b>	<p>Increase the number of students and teachers participating in St. Jude cancer and healthy living education program</p> <p>Increase the knowledge that children have on cancer and healthy living topics (nutrition, exercise, sun protection, avoiding tobacco) with pre and post quizzes</p> <p>Improve attitudes of children toward healthy living practices (avoiding smoking, better nutrition habits, more exercise, avoiding excessive sun) using survey instruments</p>
<b>Action item to meet identified health need</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate the effectiveness of the St. Jude Cancer Education for Children Curriculum at increasing children’s knowledge of cancer and healthy living topics (nutrition, exercise, sun protection, avoiding tobacco)</li> <li>2. Evaluate the effectiveness of the St. Jude Cancer Education for Children Curriculum at improving children’s attitudes towards healthy living practices (avoiding smoking, better nutrition habits, more exercise, avoiding excessive sun)</li> <li>3. Partner with local education agencies to disseminate cancer and healthy living educational programs.</li> </ol>

### ***Health Needs Not Being Addressed***

In order to effectively address the needs identified, St. Jude is focusing on the needs outlined in the tables above. The Community Health Needs Assessment identified the importance of partnerships and collaborations to build to meet the health and medical needs of children. St. Jude does not have the capacity or resources to meet all needs of all children and their families, given its focused mission and model of providing specialized services to children in crisis. Strategic partnerships with other healthcare providers such as Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, along with partnerships with schools and community based organizations allow St. Jude to create a network of resources they can leverage to meet the health and social needs of a wider community of patients and their families.