



Dignity Health.
Dominican Hospital



Dignity Health Dominican Hospital

**Community Benefit Report 2014
Community Benefit Implementation Plan 2015**

A message from Nanette Mickiewicz, M.D., President and CEO of Dignity Health Dominican Hospital, and Janet Capone, O.P., Chair of the Dignity Health Dominican Hospital Community Board:

The Hello humankindness campaign launched by Dignity Health is a movement ignited and based on the proven idea that human connection, be it physical, verbal, or otherwise, leads us to better health. At Dignity Health the comprehensive approach to community health improvement recognizes the multi-pronged effort needed to meet immediate and pressing needs, to partner with and support others in the community, and to invest in efforts that address the social determinants of health.

At Dignity Health Dominican Hospital, we share a commitment to improve the health of our community and have offered programs and services to achieve that goal. The 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Plan for Community Benefit fulfills section 501(r) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, where each hospital must complete a community health needs assessment every three years and develop a community health implementation plan to document how it will address the significant health needs of the community. We are proud to provide this report of the work we have done over the past year to better the health of the communities we serve.

In addition, California State Senate Bill 697 requires not-for-profit hospitals to annually report community benefit efforts and measurable objectives as well as plans for the coming year. Encouraged and mandated by its governing body, Dignity Health hospitals comply with both mandates at each of its facilities, including those in Nevada and Arizona, and is proud of the outstanding programs and services that have been offered to improve the health of the communities it serves.

In fiscal year 2014, Dignity Health Dominican Hospital provided \$43 million in financial assistance, community benefit, and unreimbursed patient care. Including the unreimbursed cost of caring for patients covered by Medicare, the total expense was \$73 million.

Dignity Health's Dominican Hospital Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the annual Community Benefit Report and Implementation Plan at the November 19, 2014 meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to review our report and plan. If you have any questions, please contact us at 831/462-7501.



Nanette Mickiewicz, M.D.
DSC President



Janet Capone, O.P.
DSC Community Board Chair

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families touched by cancer to better navigate the health care system and the special needs of the cancer patient in both English and Spanish. A navigator nurse also accompanies the mobile unit to educate patients regarding services available at the KCRC.

RotaCare - A free health clinic in partnership with local Rotary Clubs and Rotary International Inc. The clinic operates for 3 hours once a week and is open to all. Staffing consists of volunteer Physicians, Allied Health Professionals, Registered Nurses, interpreters, Rotarians, and the broader community. This past year over 800 (individual count) patients received care at the clinic and visits exceeded 1,000. Care is designed to be episodic, but due to lack of access to healthcare, patients return to the clinic.

This year, many of Dominican Hospital's Community Benefit Programs transitioned to local partners. The Dominican Pediatric Clinic was transitioned to a local FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) known as Santa Cruz Family Health Center. The SC Family Health Center is located in the Live Oak district of the county. The majority of the 1600 pediatric patients transferred to the new clinic, while some chose other health homes. Another transition this year was the Dominican Tattoo Removal Program. It became part of the Catholic Charities Tattoo Removal Program, which was already in existence. The program is located on the Dominican Hospital Rehabilitation Services Campus and provides the same services, with the same medical staff.

The Dignity Health Dominican Hospital Interdisciplinary Child Development Program was a partnership with 1) First Five of Santa Cruz; 2) Santa Cruz County Children and Family Services; 3) Children's Mental Health; and 4) Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. This multi-disciplinary program, designed to address a vast array of needs of children entering the foster care system, was transitioned to the Stanford partner and is located in Capitola. This transition also provides an opportunity for other Stanford disciplines, such as Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, Gastroenterology, Pulmonology, and others to provide services for pediatric patients locally versus traveling to Stanford for these services.

The Dignity Health Dominican Prenatal Program transitioned to a local OB-GYN practice earlier in the year.

This year the Dignity Health Community Investment Program has made several investments in the form of loans and financial support to Dientes Community Dental Care, the Homeless Services Center for its Recuperative Care Unit and the East Cliff Family Health Center. These investments have allowed our partners to expand services to the most vulnerable populations in the Santa Cruz community.

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program - Based on the Stanford Chronic Disease Self- Management Model, in Spanish and English, a series of classes have been taught in both languages to patients with respiratory and cardiac illnesses. This program provides tools to those with chronic disease to be able to help them manage their own health conditions. Classes are scheduled this fall with Latino populations working in agriculture.

The Dignity Health Dominican Hospital Community Benefit Report 2014 and Community Benefit Implementation Plan 2015 documents ongoing processes to reaffirm the hospital's Mission, to incorporate the community assessment results and shared community goals into the strategic planning process, to focus and prioritize development of programs/services based on needs identified by the broader community, and to establish the community benefit budget. The total value of Community Benefit for FY 2014 is \$73,172,182, which includes the unpaid costs of Medicare \$30,262,828.

Mission Statement

Dignity Health Dominican Hospital Mission

We are committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus. We dedicate our resources to:

- Delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services
- Serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor and disenfranchised
- Partnering with others in the community to improve the quality of life

The commitment of the organization to improve the health of the community and address unmet health needs, particularly those of the poor, disadvantaged and underserved, ensures that the hospital's decisions and processes are guided by the Mission and the Vision and Values of the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Dignity Health Dominican Hospital has provided leadership in community improvement through the sponsorship of the Santa Cruz County Community Assessment Project (CAP), now in its 21st year. This collaborative project is designed to measure and improve the quality of life in Santa Cruz County. Community benefit programs addressing unmet community needs are targeted in Dignity Health Dominican Hospital's Strategic, Operational, and Financial Plan.

Organizational Commitment

Dignity Health Dominican Hospital has a local Board of Directors accountable to the Dignity Health System Board. The President of Dominican Hospital heads its leadership team, comprised of the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer, Chief Quality Officer, Vice President-Human Resources, Vice President-Sponsorship, Vice President-Philanthropic Foundation, Director for Community Engagement, and Senior Director of Strategy and Business Development. Dominican's President and the Executive Team take an active role in managing the Community Benefit Process. The Board of Directors of the Hospital has appointed several members of the Board to serve on the Dominican Community Advisory Committee, known as the Dominican Community Advisors. These Board members and other appointed community members comprise the full complement of the Dominican Community Advisors which directly oversees the Community Benefit programs.

Dominican's leadership system is driven by the core values of Dignity Health: Justice, Collaboration, Dignity, Stewardship and Excellence. Dominican Hospital's Strategic Planning process establishes strategic initiatives that are aligned with the Corporate Vision for a growing, diversified health care ministry distinguished by excellent quality and committed to furthering efforts in community wellness and engagement. Dominican's Community Benefit Programs and initiatives align with the Dignity Health's Strategic Focus on Growth: Partnering in the community to increase public/private collaboration to address disproportionate unmet health needs.

The annual Hospital budget is created by Hospital staff and approved by the Hospital President and Executive Management Team. The Board of Directors of Dominican Hospital then approves the annual Community Benefit budget. Several of the Community Benefit programs are departments of the Hospital and those budgets have been thus examined in detail. New Community Benefit programs must be accepted as part of the Strategic Plan of the Hospital before they can be included in the Community Benefit process.

Responsibilities of the Dominican Community Advisors

A gap analysis of the health needs in the community is done in the fall to determine needs that the Advisors see arising because of their close contacts and involvement in the community. The Dominican Community Advisors are thereby able to suggest gaps in services identified in the County and recommend new programs that Dominican may consider developing as a Community Benefit program.

Annually Dominican Hospital participates in the Dignity Health Community Grants program. Priorities for annual grant funding are determined based on specific needs that the Dominican Community Advisors have identified as they fall within the broader Dignity Health objectives. The focus for the grants has evolved into partnership models which support optimum use of a medical home, as well as maximizing preventive care for at-risk families. In an effort to reach more people in need, collaboration between family resource centers, community clinics and preventive service providers has demonstrated successful outcomes. Requests for applications are solicited and then reviewed and awards determined by a sub group of the Advisors. Dominican awarded \$155,271 to local non-profits in 2013. The Dignity Health Community Grant Award Luncheon afforded each of the recipients an opportunity to highlight their collaborative work with the hospital and the community.

Dominican Community Advisors (DCA) reviews the progress of former grantees through presentations at their quarterly meetings. The DCA recommends that a program continue or transition, based on information they gather and feedback from Dominican staff or the community. Members of the DCA also visit several of the Hospital's larger Community Benefit projects on location annually to see Community Benefit work in action.

Non-Quantifiable Benefits

Dominican works collaboratively with many community partners, such as United Way, Santa Cruz County, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Homeless Services Center and Central California Alliance for Health in spearheading and developing innovative ways to serve the health needs of the Community. The hospital provides leadership and advocacy by providing resources to assist with local capacity building, and participates in community-wide health planning through sponsorship of community surveys to improve the well-being of the community.

The Dignity Health Dominican Hospital Ecology Program continues to be active in the following areas:

- Partner for Change Award – In May 2014, Dignity Health Dominican Hospital was awarded the Greenhealth Partner for Change Award for 2014. This award recognizes health facilities who have implemented a significant number of environmental programs, with broad sustainability, when evaluated across all topic categories.
- Recycling – Stericycle reports that 68% of the items the hospital disposes of are recycled. National average being 35%.
- Eco-cuffs – Piloted by Dominican Hospital and several other Dignity Health facilities, these blood pressure cuffs are made of 60% less plastic and follow the patient throughout the hospital stay.
- Flame Retardant Free Furniture – A combined effort by Dignity Health hospitals and the Center for Environmental Health, Supply, and Services Resource Management to ensure that future purchases of furniture do not include flame retardant as approved by TB117-2013.
- Earth Day Celebration - A big success with tomato plants, grown from seed, given away for free to our employees. Stericycle joined in the event, which promises to be even more memorable next year.
- Certified Organic Garden - The hospital's Organic Garden achieved organic certification this year with California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF). Each year the garden grows more beautiful and the residents of Dominican Oaks and employees of the hospital enjoy the produce. A high resolution photo of the Dominican Organic Garden has been chosen to decorate a wall in the Phoenix facility. Dignity Health's system-wide sustainability fund is funding this project through the generosity of our employees.
- Healing Orchard - Created as a mini-healing orchard, it consists of 10 fruit trees of various varieties – apple, pear, pluot, avocado, lemon, lime, and peach. In addition to providing fresh fruit, it will be a healing and relaxing place for people from the wider community to rest during the day.
- Blu wrap Recycling - Paper recycler (Shred-It) picks up blue wrap from the O.R., L&D, and Sterile Processing and delivers it to local processors who melt the wrap into pellets which is then turned into products in the United States.
- Reprocessing - Dignity Health continues to contract with Stryker Sustainability Solutions, Inc., an independent third party processor of single-use medical devices (SUDS). From July 2013-June 2014, Dominican Hospital has logged over 6,000 pounds of medical waste diversion through this reprocessing program.

Dominican Hospital sets an example for the community in many ways. Among them are having a smoke-free campus, holding a weekly Farmers' Market and providing space for a community garden. The Hospital provides recycling bins, purchases fair trade coffee and sponsors workshops on growing your own food. Many employees voluntarily participate in fundraising events for non-profits in the community, especially health-related events.

Community

Definition of Community

The primary service area of Dignity Health Dominican Hospital is Santa Cruz County. The Santa Cruz County community is further defined within the hospital's mission, which is to meet the health care needs of the people of Santa Cruz County with high quality, high value health care services, without distinguishing by race, creed, religion, or source of payment.

Description of the Community

Santa Cruz County has a population of approximately 269,419 and covers 445 square miles. The two major cities are Santa Cruz, located on the northern side of the Monterey Bay, and Watsonville, situated in the southern part of the county. The city of Santa Cruz, which is the county seat, has an estimated population of 63,440 as of January 2014. Santa Cruz is one of California's most popular seaside resorts with its historic Boardwalk, spectacular coastline, and accessible beaches. The City of Watsonville is the center of the county's agricultural activity, with major industries including food harvesting, canning, and freezing. As of January 2014, the City of Watsonville has an estimated population of 52,508. Other incorporated areas in the county include the cities of Scotts Valley and Capitola. Approximately 49% of the population lives in the unincorporated parts of the county, including the towns of Aptos, Davenport, Freedom, Soquel, Felton, Ben Lomond and Boulder Creek, and districts including the San Lorenzo Valley, Live Oak, and Pajaro.

Community Demographics

The county is 58% White and 33% Latino with the remainder of the population comprised of Asian, African American and other ethnic backgrounds. The county has a relatively mature population with 52% of the residents' ages 35 or older. The senior population, those aged 60 and older, represent 19% of the population. While the county's largest ethnic group is White, the fastest growing ethnic group is Latino. Most Santa Cruz County residents have a high school degree (87%) in 2012.

Median family income was \$82,904 in Santa Cruz County in 2013, higher than in California (\$68,222) and the nation overall (\$64,030). The unemployment rate in Santa Cruz County and throughout the country has steadily declined since 2010, following a ten-year high. The unemployment rate was 9.5% for the county during 2013, higher than the state overall (10.5%). The City of Watsonville had the highest unemployment rate at 20.0% for 2013. The median sales price of homes in Santa Cruz-Watsonville metro area has increased 5% since 2008; rent has decreased in the county since 2011. Average rent for a one bedroom apartment was \$1,424 in 2011 compared to \$1,271 in 2014, a decrease of over 10%.

There was a statistically significant difference between the percent of White (92%) and Latino (59%) Community Assessment Project (CAP) survey respondents who currently had health insurance in 2013. Overall, the county has seen an increase in health coverage since 2009. Individuals without a dependable source of health care reported more difficulties obtaining needed care and receiving fewer preventative health services. Many seniors are reporting they are utilizing Medicaid as a dependable source of care.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) defines Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas as having a need for medical services based on demographic data, including the ratio of providers to the population, the number of people living in poverty, uninsured births, low birth weight babies, access to prenatal care, infant mortality rates, and unemployment rates.

According to the DHHS definition, there are two areas within Santa Cruz County that have been designated as Medically Underserved Area/Populations. The Felton/West Santa Cruz Area was identified

as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP), while the Monterey Service Area (within Santa Cruz County) was designated as a Medically Underserved Area (MAU).

- Population: 63,440 (City of Santa Cruz); 52,508 (City of Watsonville) (Jan 2014)
- Diversity: Caucasian 58%| Hispanic 33%| Asian | African American | American Indian/Alaska Native 9% (2013)
- Median Family Income: \$82,904 (2013)
- Percent of Uninsured Residents of Santa Cruz County : Overall 16.2 % (2013)
- Unemployment: 9.5% in Santa Cruz (2013)
- No HS Diploma: 13% (2013 statistic)
- Renters: 43% (2011)
- CNI Score 3.5: (2014)
- Other Area Hospitals: 2
Sutter Maternity and Surgery Center
Watsonville Community Hospital

Ethnic Distribution, Santa Cruz County

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	07-13 NET CHANGE
Asian	3.8%	3.5%	3.5%	4.4%	4.4%	4.0%	4.4%	0.6
Black	0.7%	0.9%	1.1%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	0.1
Hispanic/Latino	28.8%	29.3%	30.2%	32.2%	32.7%	32.7%	32.9%	4.1
White	62.5%	62.7%	61.9%	59.7%	58.8%	58.7%	58.3%	-4.2
Other	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.1%	-0.4
Multi-Race	3.0%	3.1%	3.0%	2.3%	2.6%	2.9%	3.4%	0.4

Community Benefit Planning Process

Community Health Needs and Assessment Process

Over the past twenty years, a consortium of public and private health, education, human service, and civic organizations, convened by the United Way of Santa Cruz County, have sponsored the Community Assessment Project (CAP), a collaborative project to measure and improve the quality of life in Santa Cruz County by:

- raising public awareness of human needs, changing trends, emerging issues, community assets and challenges;
- providing accurate, credible and valid information on an ongoing basis to guide decision-making;
- setting community goals that will lead to positive healthy development for individuals, families, and communities; and
- supporting and assisting collaborative action plans to achieve the community goals.

Applied Survey Research (ASR), a not-for-profit social research firm, was originally contracted by the United Way to incorporate best practices from other assessment efforts across the nation into a community assessment model that would provide public and private interests with clear information about past trends and current realities. Under the guidance of the CAP Steering Committee, ASR continues to manage the project, collecting secondary (pre-existing) data and conducting a bi-annual community survey for primary data.

In the beginning, Dominican Hospital was a key partner in the establishment of the Community Assessment Project process, both with leadership involvement and financial support. Dominican continues to support with representation on the CAP Boards. Dominican has provided grant funding to the *Go for Health Initiative* and has partnered with the program at both the Pediatric and Prenatal Clinics. Dominican Hospital annually publishes *Focus on Health* which includes the Community Assessment Project report with circulation to more than 90,000 households in Santa Cruz County.

Model Summary

The CAP community assessment model, now implemented for its nineteenth year, provides a comprehensive view of the quality of life in Santa Cruz County. Measures of community progress depend upon consistent, reliable, and scientifically accurate sources of data. One of the types of data gathered for this project is primary data. The only primary data are from a telephone survey of a sample of Santa Cruz County residents. There is much to be learned from people's perceptions of their community, especially when those perceptions contradict the empirical evidence about conditions.

In order to capture and understand the diverse perspectives of community members, Applied Survey Research conducts a telephone survey, in both English and Spanish, with over 700 randomly selected County residents. The intent of the survey is to measure the opinions, attitudes, desires, and needs of a demographically representative sample of the County's residents. Respondents are primarily asked questions with confined opinions in addition to open-ended questions. The survey was conducted annually between 1995 and 2005, and biennially since 2005.

In 2013, 722 surveys were completed with County residents. Telephone contacts were attempted with a random sample of residents 18 years or older in Santa Cruz County. Potential respondents were selected based on phone number prefixes, and quota sampling was employed to obtain the desired geographic distribution of respondents across North County, South County, and the San Lorenzo Valley. In order to address the increasing number of households without land-line telephone service, the sample included wireless/land-line random dial prefixes in Santa Cruz County. All cell phone lines were dialed manually (by hand) to comply with Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) rules. Respondents were screened for geography, as cell phones are not necessarily located where the number came from originally.

As previously mentioned, quotas were used with respect to respondents' location of residence. Sufficient samples were taken to allow generalization to the overall population within the three designated geographic regions.

Data from the CAP 18 survey were weighted along several demographic dimensions to data analysis. Data weighing is a procedure that adjusts discrepancies between demographic dimensions prior to data analysis within a sample and the population from which the sample was drawn.

The survey data for CAP 18 were simultaneously weighted along the following demographic characteristics: gender, ethnicity, and geographic location.

A sample size of 722 residents provides a 95% confidence rate that the opinions of survey respondents do not differ from those of the general population of Santa Cruz County by more than $\pm 3\frac{1}{4}\%$. The confidence intervals can be applied when examining the results of the geographic comparisons. Demographic breakdowns and comparisons on key indicator results (ethnicity, region, age, gender, and income) of this survey are available on the web at: www.appliedsurveyresearch.org or www.santacruzcountycap.org.

The County of Santa Cruz participates in the "County Health Rankings and Roadmaps," a collaboration between The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health

Institute. In the 2013 measures, focusing on a healthier nation, county by county, Santa Cruz County ranked 13th out of 58 counties in California in health outcomes (which represents the health of the county) and 10th out of 58 counties in health factors (which represents what influences the health of the county).

Annually Dominican Hospital publishes the report on the Community Assessment Project (CAP) and circulates it to greater than 93,000 households throughout Santa Cruz County. This publication also highlights stories included in the report, with a photo of the community heroes.

Assets Assessment

Resource Directories are available that identify the following community assets:

- Community Center
- Education/Recreation
- Equipment/Rentals
- Food/M meal Programs
- Health Support Services
- Information/Referral
- Legal/Consumer Services
- Medical Care
- Senior centers
- Support Services
- Transportation Services
- Volunteer Services

All of the services listed above have linkages to the outcomes of the Community Assessment Project.

Developing the Hospital's Implementation Plan (Community Benefit Report and Plan)

One of the primary purposes of CAP is to encourage collaborative community action that will positively impact the Community Goals. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Committee is pleased to note that community action has occurred at the individual organizational level as well as the community group level over a 20 year period.

The CAP has nurtured and encouraged a community focus by establishing Community Goals for improvement. There are several goals for each of the six areas - Economy, Education, Health, Public Safety, Social Environment, and Natural Environment. The Community Goals for the year 2010-2015 were created with more than 1,000 community members, advocates, stakeholder groups, community volunteers, and organizations – all of whom are experts in the respective areas under review. Groups and organizations are asked to become champions to help achieve the Community Goals. The following groups led the community goal-setting process: The Workforce Investment Board, The Volunteer Center, Ecology Action, The Health Improvement Partnership Council, the County Probation Department, and representatives of Cabrillo College.

Annually the Hospital receives a copy of the most current CAP report. The report is reviewed by several groups and links to existing programs which are evaluated as to how they may/may not meet the needs of the identified areas in the CAP report. Based on information received and availability of resources, Dominican Hospital determines what actions it might take to improve or enhance existing programs, add new services, or partner with existing community organizations with similar missions to meet the needs identified in the CAP report. This report is generally made available in early November.

This year the Dominican Community Benefit priorities, as listed in the Program Digests, focus on Access to Health, Preventing/Managing Chronic Health Conditions, Improving Physical Activity and Nutritional Health, which are linked to the Health goal in the CAP.

All new programs must be pre-approved prior to implementation and are designed to meet the needs of the CAP target population, hospital needs, or simply an opportunity to partner. New programs are presented to the Community Advisory Committee and also the Hospital Board for approval.

Current year healthcare goals are identified in Section VI, Plan, Report and Update.

The Community Needs Index (CNI) is another indicator that is used. It rates the likely need of a zip code by identifying socio-economic barriers, including employment, education, insurance, housing and culture/language barriers. The CNI attempts to isolate the neediest areas of the County by zip code. The findings confirm what has been demonstrated by the CAP report in locating the neediest areas of our county. Please see the CNI map in Appendix B.

Planning for the Uninsured/Underinsured Patient Population

The Hospital's Financial Assistance and Charity Care Policy follow the Dignity Health Corporate policy. Please see Appendix C.

Dominican Hospital is committed to making all patients and visitors to the hospital aware of the financial assistance available to them and has worked hard to implement this practice. To meet our patient's needs, Dominican Hospital has six Financial Counseling and Insurance Verification Specialists. They are available to help uninsured patients apply for Medi-Cal and its related healthcare programs (Healthy Families, California Children's Services, etc.), County Programs (Central California Alliance for Health, Medi-Cruz, etc.), State and other Federal disability programs, and Dignity Health's Charity Care program. Also available to patients, at no cost to them, is a contracted specialist to assist them with the process and completion of applications for health care coverage. We have established the following techniques to make all patients aware of financial assistance and help available to them:

- Our uninsured and collection vendors have been trained with our policy and offer payment assistance.
- We are actively seeking out people who have been patients but have not sought assistance. For people who don't respond to our initial requests, we are doing an automated screening that identifies people who qualify for 100% charity (PARO). We have expanded our payment to the underinsured in the community.

Posters in both English and Spanish are placed in registration areas, the Emergency Department and in other high profile areas. Brochures are available in English and Spanish at all registration and patient accounting areas. The visibility of our Patient Assistance representatives has increased. The business cards of the Financial Counseling Specialists, stating "Payment Assistance" are distributed to any patient requesting assistance. In addition, information about payment assistance available to all Dignity Health hospitals is available on each facility website.

Plan Report and Update including Measurable Objectives and Timeframes

Summary of Key Programs and Initiatives – FY 2014

The Dominican Hospital Strategic Plan indicates that Access to Care initiatives is strong and partnerships continue to be explored throughout the Santa Cruz service area.

Healthcare goals identified by the 2010 CAP Report indicates what Dominican will continue to work on over the next 5 years:

Goal 1: By the year 2015, access to primary care will improve as measured by:

- 95% of Santa Cruz County residents will report having a regular source of health care;
- Less than 10% will report the Emergency Department as one of their regular sources of health care;
- No significant difference between the percent of Caucasian and Latino residents reporting a regular source of health care.

Goal 2: By the year 2015, 98% of Santa Cruz County children 0 to 17 will have comprehensive health care coverage as measured by the CAP Survey.

Goal 3: By the year 2015, the prevalence of childhood obesity in Santa Cruz County will decrease as measured by:

- % of children under 5 years who are overweight or obese will decrease from 15% to 12%;
- % of children 5 to 19 years who are overweight or obese will decrease from 26% to 21%.

The following are the five core guiding principles of the Dignity Health community benefit program objectives:

- **Disproportionate Unmet Health-Related Needs**
Seek to accommodate the needs of communities with disproportionate unmet health-related needs.
- **Primary Prevention**
Address the underlying causes of persistent health problems.
- **Provide a Seamless Continuum of Care**
Emphasize evidence-based approaches by establishing operational connections between clinical services and community health improvement activities.
- **Build Community Capacity**
Target charitable resources to mobilize and build the capacity of existing community assets.
- **Collaborative Governance**
Engage diverse community stakeholders in the selection, design, implementation, and evaluation of program activities.

Our Community Benefit program efforts continue to reflect the Hospital's Strategic Goals, the CAP Community Goals and the Dignity Health Objectives. Many of these programs were developed several years ago in response to earlier CAP surveys and are still relevant and needed today. Several are new this year as we respond to the needs of the community.

Below are the major initiatives and key community-based programs operated or substantially supported by Dominican Hospital in 2014. Programs transitioned Jan-June 2014 are noted with a year. Programs to be continued are noted with an asterisk.

Initiative I Improving Access to Healthcare

- Dominican Pediatric Clinic - Primary Health and Dental Care; Mental Health Assessment* (4/2014)
- Dominican Subspecialty Program for Pediatrics- Early Infant Development, GI, Pulmonary* (12/2013)
- Wellness Health Clinic – Mobile Unit *
- RotaCare evening clinic sponsored with Rotary *
- Community Social Service Consultation and Referral *
- Community Grant – Healthy Kids*
- Community Grant – RotaCare *
- SANE/SART in cooperation with the County for victims of domestic violence*

Initiative II Preventing and/or Managing Chronic Health Conditions

- Lifestyle Management – Physical, Neuro, Diabetes, Cardio *
- Annual Crisis Intervention Symposium *
- *Community Grant – Hospice of Santa Cruz County**
- *Well Checks at Community Health Fairs (several community sponsors)**
- Cardiac Stroke Program*
- Diabetes –Self Management Program*
- Chronic Disease Self-Management Program*
- PEP classes to prevent Healthcare Problems for people with disabilities
- PEP classes –Freedom from Smoking
- PEP Smoking Cessation
- Living Well with Health Challenges

Initiative III Improving Physical Activity and Nutritional Health

- First Aid at Community Events*
- Athletic Training Program with high schools
- Second Harvest – Food distribution and Nutritional Education (2/2014)
- Sweet Success (Lifestyle Management for Children) (2013)
- Community Grant – Second Harvest Food Bank*
- Community Grant – United Way of Santa Cruz County *
- Community Grant – Community Bridges*
- Community Grant – Nourishing Generations*

Initiative IV Improving Women’s Health and Birth Outcomes

- Dominican Prenatal Program (2013)
- Sweet Success (Diabetic Education for Pregnant Women) (2013)
- Centering Pregnancy Program (2013)
- Lactation Consultation (2014)
- Every Woman Counts Program *
- Katz Cancer Program *
- Low Cost Mammograms *
- Early Infant Development Program collaborative with Stanford (12/2013)

Initiative V Improving Life in the Community

- Community Garden and Farmers’ Market*
- Tattoo Removal (2013)
- Low-cost apartments *

- Educational Opportunities through internships and partnership with local institutions*
- Personal Assistance Programs to patients *
- Community Grant – Homeless Services Center *
- Bus Fares/Taxi Fares by Social Services in Behavioral Health and Emergency Department*

This implementation strategy specifies community health needs that the Hospital has determined to meet in whole or in part and that are consistent with its mission. The Hospital reserves the right to amend this implementation strategy as circumstances warrant. For example, certain needs may become more pronounced and require enhancements to the described strategic initiatives. During the three years ending December 31, 2015, other organizations in the community may decide to address certain needs, indicating that the Hospital then should refocus its limited resources to best serve the community.

These key programs are monitored for performance and quality with ongoing improvements to facilitate their success. The Dominican Community Advisors, Executive Leadership, Dominican Board of Directors and Dignity Health receive quarterly updates on program performance.

The following pages include Program Digests for several key programs that address one or more of the Initiatives listed above.

PROGRAM DIGEST

Dominican Pediatric Clinic	
Hospital CB Priority Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Improving Access to Healthcare X Preventing and/or Managing Chronic Health Conditions X Improving Physical Activity and Nutritional Health <input type="checkbox"/> Improving Women's Health and Birth Outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> Improving Life in the Community
Program Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Disproportionate Unmet Health-Related Needs X Primary Prevention X Seamless Continuum of Care X Build Community Capacity X Collaborative Governance
Link to Community Needs Assessment	This program is targeted primarily to the poor and underserved but also reaches the broader community. It serves foster children and children of incarcerated parents as well as children of single parent and dual parent families. High risk children with multiple diagnoses are often identified in this population.
Program Description	The program provides primary health services on a routine basis for low-income children living in Santa Cruz County. Services include those of pediatricians, mid-level providers, a registered dietician and a social worker.
FY 2014	
Goal FY 2014	Continue to support the Dominican Pediatric Clinic and determine methods to decrease the number of children with a diagnosis of obesity. Develop an interdisciplinary Child Development Clinic for foster children < 5 years old and services of a mental health liaison worker to assess children in our Pediatric Clinic to be able to access services within the County.
2014 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	To increase access to primary care to the poor and underserved pediatric patients. To develop the interdisciplinary child development program.
Baseline	This clinic is the only one in the county that addresses the health needs of the low income with multiple medical diagnoses as well as social issues, .i.e. foster care, parent incarceration, on drugs, etc.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Through collaboration with Santa Cruz County Mental Health, First Five, Childrens' Mental Health, and Lucile Salter Packard Hospital for children, the Neuro Development Program will ensure assessment, treatment and follow up care for children ages 6 months – 5 years identified with potential neuro developmental conditions. Children identified with obesity in the Dominican Pediatric Clinic receive nutritional education at clinic visits.
Result FY 2014	56 patients received services in the Neuro development clinic. 1650 individual patients were seen in the Dominican Pediatric Clinic.
Hospital's Contribution / Program Expense	Pediatric Clinic-Expenses of \$751,838 partially covered by Revenues of \$231,176, with a net Community Benefit of \$520,662. Supported by 5.0 FTE's. Pediatric Neuro Program- Expenses of \$30,995 were realized.
FY 2015	
Goal 2015	-Transition the Dominican Pediatric Clinic to a local FQHC and annually support the clinic for the next five years.
2015 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	To increase access to primary care to the poor and underserved pediatric patients by partnering with a local FQHC-funded organization.
Baseline	5056 children received health services in 2014.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Ensuring access to healthcare for children with multiple diagnoses and associate issues. Dominican's Pediatric Neuro Development Program.was transitioned to Lucile Salter Packard's new site in Capitola.
Community Benefit Category	C5. Women and Children's Services

RotaCare Free Health Clinic	
Hospital CB Priority Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving Access to Healthcare X Preventing and/or Managing Chronic Health Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Improving Physical Activity and Nutritional Health <input type="checkbox"/> Improving Women's Health and Birth Outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> Improving Life for the Community
Program Emphasis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disproportionate Unmet Health-Related Needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seamless Continuum of Care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Build Community Capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative Governance
Link to Community Needs Assessment	Located in the unincorporated area of the County, this program is targeted primarily to the poor and underserved. It reaches the working poor with no insurance and the Latino population.
Program Description	In collaboration with local Rotary clubs, RotaCare provides access for episodic medical services at no cost and assists patients in establishing a health home.
FY 2014	
Goal FY 2014	To increase the number of persons accessing episodic health care at the clinic in an effort to decrease the number of inappropriate visits to the Emergency Room ,and potential admissions to Dominican Hospital.
2014 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Continue to provide health related services, medications, education for diabetes, eye exams/ glasses, and diagnostic testing to uninsured/underinsured populations at no cost to the patient in the clinic or in the hospital. Dominican Hospital provides pharmaceuticals, other medical supplies and in/outpatient services at no cost to the patient.
Baseline	Need to provide access to primary healthcare for under / uninsured residents residing in poor sections of Santa Cruz County.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Clinic provides healthcare at no cost to the patient. All staff are volunteers.
Result FY 2014	Approximately 235 persons received outpatient services at Dominican Hospital. Estimated 1500 episodic care visits per year. Despite the inception of the Affordable Care Act, visits to Rotacare continue to be steady.
Hospital's Contribution / Program Expense	\$9,217 Hospital Expenses and \$15,000 as part of the Dignity Health Community Grant. Total Benefit is \$24,217.
FY 2015	
Goal 2015	Continue to support the RotaCare Free Health Clinic and provide Flu Shots and self-management information for patients with diabetes.
2015 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Continue to provide health related services, medications, education for diabetes, eye exams/ glasses, and diagnostic testing to uninsured/underinsured populations at no cost to the patient in the clinic or in the hospital. Dominican Hospital provides pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies at reduced costs and in/outpatient services at no cost to the patient.
Baseline	235 patients were seen in the hospital in 2014 for diagnostic health services.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	The RotaCare Free Health Clinic will continue operations weekly at the local senior center.
Community Benefit Category	A2 Community-based Clinical Services

Mobile Wellness Clinic	
Hospital CB Priority Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Improving Access to Healthcare X Preventing and/or Managing Chronic Health Conditions X Improving Physical Activity and Nutritional Health Improving Women's Health and Birth Outcomes X Improving Life of the Community (Reduction in Juvenile Crime)
Program Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Disproportionate Unmet Health-Related Needs <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Prevention X Seamless Continuum of Care X Build Community Capacity X Collaborative Governance
Link to Community Needs Assessment	This program targets primarily the poor, uninsured and underinsured populations, but also reaches the broader community. It serves children, youth, and adults.
Program Description	This program provides episodic health services Monday – Friday throughout Santa Cruz County. Services are provided by Physicians, Allied Health Professionals, Registered Nurses, and Registrars.
FY 2014	
Goal FY 2014	Continue to support the Mobile Wellness Clinic, partner with other agencies to expand services, and determine methods to decrease episodic visits to the Emergency Department at Dominican.
2014 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Number of participants seeking episodic care will increase.
Baseline	This program is the only mobile health care unit providing episodic care in Santa Cruz County. Currently there are seven (7) sites.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Through collaboration with other health care providers in the county, the Mobile Wellness Clinic will evaluate each patient, develop a plan, and refer patients to health homes in close proximity to their site of access. Patients will receive referral documentation at the time of discharge.
Result FY 2014	2,227 people received services. Supported by 3.2 FTE.
Hospital's Contribution / Program Expense	\$627,420
FY 2015	
Goal 2015	Continue to support the Mobile Wellness Clinic and measure the effect on the number of episodic visits to the Emergency Department.
2015 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Increase the number participants receiving episodic care at the Mobile Wellness Clinic.
Baseline	2,227 patients received health care services in FY 2014.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase strategies for marketing Utilize public media for ads Distribute informational brochures and monthly calendars throughout the county.
Community Benefit Category	A2 Community Based Clinical Services

Dignity Health Community Health Grants	
Hospital CB Priority Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Improving Access to Healthcare X Preventing and/or Managing Chronic Health Conditions X Improving Physical Activity and Nutritional Health X Improving Women's Health and Birth Outcomes X Improving Life In the Community
Program Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Disproportionate Unmet Health-Related Needs X Primary Prevention X Seamless Continuum of Care X Build Community Capacity X Collaborative Governance
Link to Community Needs Assessment	By leveraging the expertise of community partners as identified in the Santa Cruz Community Assessment Project (CAP).
Program Description	Provide funding to support community-based organizations that will provide services to improve the quality of life and health status of the communities they serve. The objective of the Community Grants Program is to award grants to organizations whose proposals respond to the priorities identified in the latest CAP and are located within Santa Cruz County.
FY 2014	
Goal FY 2014	To build capacity by identifying organizations and funding programs which are in alignment with the needs identified in the most recent CAP.
2014 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Funding will be awarded to organizations whose programs respond to one or more needs identified in the most recent CAP and align with at least one of the five core principles identified above in Program Emphasis. Grantees will report on their accomplishments two times during the grant period.
Baseline	Santa Cruz County has two federally designated areas- one being identified as Medically Underserved Population and the other as Medically Underserved area (MUA). The county is divided into north and south county with populations being somewhat higher in the northern part of the county. The northern part is a popular seaside resort, while the southern part of the county is agricultural activities, such as food harvesting, canning, and freezing. Access to healthcare services continues to be a challenge and the senior population is using Medical as a dependable source of care.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Letters of Intent are reviewed and select organizations are invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals are reviewed by a sub-committee of the Dominican Community Advisory Committee and determination is made as to which proposals are recommended for funding.
Result FY 2014	Ten Community Grants were awarded, totaling \$155,271 to the following organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Bridges Collaborative • Dientes Community Dental Care • SC Community Counseling Center • Homeless Services Center • Hospice of Santa Cruz County • RotaCare Bay Area, Inc • Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County • Health Improvement Partnership-Healthy Kids • United Way of Santa Cruz County • Mental Health Client Action Network
Hospital's Contribution / Program Expense	\$155,271
FY 2015	
Goal 2015	Provide funding for programs that align with strategies developed by the Dominican Community Advisors Committee and the community wide efforts of local health agencies.
2015 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Partnership grants in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build Health access for uninsured and underinsured • Homeless Recuperative Care Program • Dental program
Baseline	<p>In response to the identified priority need and lack of access to health care, the Community Bridges Collaborative was formed. Priorities include identifying people without access, educating them on the importance of insurance, and assisting them with required documents for qualification of services.</p> <p>Homeless Services Recuperative Care Center accepts admits to their facility of people requiring medical/ nursing care during the period of recuperation from an illness. The patient also receives counseling and oftentimes secures a place to live.</p> <p>Dental needs have been identified as an ongoing need in our service area. Local dental agency offers services to the homeless as well as initial treatment at the local free clinic.</p>
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Prioritize grant applications that address the three target areas.
Community Benefit Category	E2a Financial and In-kind Contributions ,Grants and Grant Programs

PEP Classes for Individuals with Disabilities	
Hospital CB Priority Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Improving Access to Healthcare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preventing and/or Managing Chronic Health Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving Physical Activity and Nutritional Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving Women's Health and Birth Outcomes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving Life in the Community
Program Emphasis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disproportionate Unmet Health-Related Needs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Prevention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seamless Continuum of Care <input type="checkbox"/> Build Community Capacity <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative Governance
Link to Community Needs Assessment	<p>Improving Life in the Community, Preventing and Managing Health Conditions.</p> <p>The number of households with individuals who have been diagnosed with a disability slightly increased from 17 (in 2007) to 22% (in 2013).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of people with disabilities who are able to participate in community life at the levels he or she desires fell from 63% (in 2007) to 52% (in 2013). The largest growth in diagnosed disabilities was in the 35-64 year old group at 42.0% in 2013 up from 40.0% in 2008. <p>Disabilities include impaired mobility & balance; sensory loss; functional skills including self-care & going outside the home.</p>
Program Description	The Personal Enrichment Program (PEP) provides preventative educational services designed to improve the health and welfare of individuals in the Santa Cruz community particularly the elderly and disabled.
FY 2014	
Goal FY 2014	To provide Dominican PEP Programs for seniors addressing priority areas by offering them at little or no cost in an effort to reduce unnecessary visits to the Emergency Room.
2014 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Increase registrations or registrations related to prevention or management of health by 5%
Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programs annually serve approximately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper-Body Functional Recovery for People with Stroke & Traumatic Brain Injury – 90 Strength Building for People with Neurological Impairment – 446 Many of the individuals who register for these classes are on a fixed income and struggle to pay the minimal fees. The sessions normally are 1 hour in length.
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Programs are designed as need indicates.
Result FY 2014	3200 people participated in all of the PEP classes.
Hospital's Contribution / Program Expense	Dominican provided \$1,004,320 in support, offset by \$150,260 in revenue, for Un-sponsored Benefit of \$854,060.
FY 2015	
Goal 2015	Community residents attending education classes will have an enhanced knowledge about matters of health. We envision this as one step toward a Healthier Community
2015 Objective Measure/Indicator of Success	Five percent of class participants will report an increased awareness about the subject matter of being offered.
Baseline	3200 people participated in FY14
Intervention Strategy for Achieving Goal	Additional classes will be added as community needs require, i.e., exercise and fitness, child birth and parenting and lifestyle management.
Community Benefit Category	A1 Community Health Education

Community Benefit and Economic Value

Please see attached a copy of the Classified Summary of Un-sponsored Community Benefit Expense.

Costs for Charity, Medicare, Medi-Cal and Indigent Programs (Medi-Cruz, a Santa Cruz County program for the working poor) were calculated using data from the Dominican Cost Accounting system. Program cost is actual data tracked and recorded through the payroll system and the general ledger system and ultimately entered into CBISA, a database for tracking community benefits by program. Indirect costs are applied based on data obtained through the cost accounting system.

Telling the Story

Annually, Dominican Hospital publishes the Summary of Un-sponsored Community Benefit as part of the Fall issue of *Focus on Health*. Also included in the issue is a summary of the Community Assessment Project (CAP) report to the community for the current year. Santa Cruz County, in keeping with its leadership in community assessment, evaluation and reporting, is the only place in the United States that can be identified wherein a community assessment piece arrives in the mail to over 93,000 households. The entire CAP report may be seen at Santa Cruz County CAP Report 20.

In addition, the annual report and implementation plan are posted on both the Dominican Hospital and the Dignity Health websites.

<http://www.dignityhealth.org/Who We Are/Community Health/STGSS044509>

10/15/2014
 253 Dominican Hospital
 Complete Summary - Classified Including Non Community Benefit (Medicare)
 For period from 7/1/2013 through 6/30/2014

Organization	Persons	Total Expense	Offsetting Revenue	Net Benefit	% of Expenses	Revenues
<u>Benefits for Living In Poverty</u>						
Financial Assistance	4,188	5,156,941	147,586	5,009,355	1.6	1.4
Medicaid	17,185	58,169,532	30,072,433	28,097,099	9.0	7.9
Means-Tested Programs	1,170	6,162,573	2,938,332	3,224,241	1.0	0.9
Community Services						
Community Benefit Operations	0	577,145	0	577,145	0.2	0.2
Community Building Activities	52	2,057,133	1,195,163	861,970	0.3	0.2
Community Health Improvement Services	3,787	834,953	0	834,953	0.3	0.2
Financial and In-Kind Contributions	211	173,071	1,058	172,013	0.1	0.0
Subsidized Health Services	5,056	751,838	231,176	520,662	0.2	0.1
Totals for Community Services	9,106	4,394,140	1,427,397	2,966,743	1.0	0.8
Totals for Living In Poverty	31,649	73,883,186	34,585,748	39,297,438	12.6	11.0
<u>Benefits for Broader Community</u>						
Community Services						
Community Benefit Operations	0	171,109	0	171,109	0.1	0.0
Community Building Activities	0	24,601	1,344	23,257	0.0	0.0
Community Health Improvement Services	8,842	2,195,462	200,260	1,995,202	0.6	0.6
Financial and In-Kind Contributions	2,428	1,258,087	0	1,258,087	0.4	0.4
Health Professions Education	1	10,877	0	10,877	0.0	0.0
Subsidized Health Services	339	153,384	0	153,384	0.0	0.0
Totals for Community Services	11,610	3,813,520	201,604	3,611,916	1.2	1.0
Totals for Broader Community	11,610	3,813,520	201,604	3,611,916	1.2	1.0
Totals - Community Benefit	43,259	77,696,706	34,787,352	42,909,354	13.8	12.0
Medicare	24,540	120,735,351	90,472,523	30,262,828	9.7	8.5
Totals with Medicare	67,799	198,432,057	125,259,875	73,172,182	23.5	20.5
Totals Including Medicare	67,799	198,432,057	125,259,875	73,172,182	23.5	20.5

Note: The uncompensated costs of providing services through financial assistance/charity care, Medicaid, Medicare and other means-tested programs are calculated utilizing a clinical cost accounting system.

Dominican Hospital Community Board of Directors

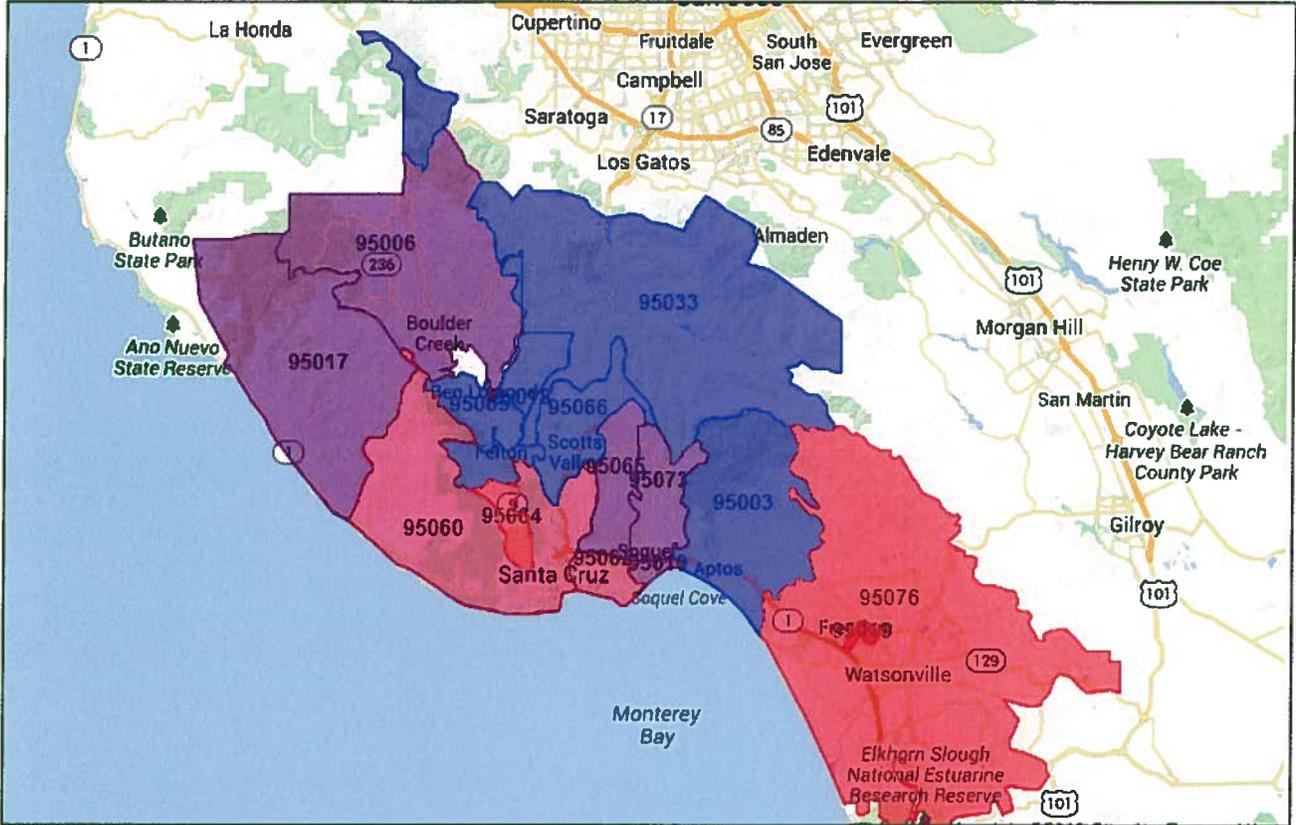
Carlos Arcangeli, MD	Community Member
Nancy Austin	Community Member
Diana Bader, OP	Community Member
Janet Capone, OP	Community Member
Hannah Farquharson, MD	Community Member
Edison Jensen, J.D.	Community Member
Gabriella Marie Jones, RSM	Community Member
Dean Kashino, MD	Community Member
Marsha Muir, MD, FACOG	Community Member
Ana Ventura Phares	Community Member
Jorge Sanchez	Community Member
Rajinder Singh, MD	Community Member
Claire Sommargren, R.N.,Ph.D.	Community Member
Jay Johnson, M.D.	(Ex-officio Chief of Staff)
Jon Sisk	(Ex-officio)
Nanette Mickiewicz, MD	(Ex-officio)

Dominican Community Advisors

Susan Brutschy	Community Member
Leslie Conner	Community Member
Margarita Cortez	Community Member
Mary Lou Goeke	Community Member
Dan Haifley	Community Member
Deidre Hamilton	Community Member
Mary Hammer	Community Member
Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson	Community Member
Rabbi Rick Litvak	Community Member
Carole Mulford	Community Member
Giang Nguyen	Community Member
Ana Ventura Phares	Community Member
Paul O'Brien	Community Member
Larry Pearson	Community Member
Reyna Ruiz	Community Member
Jorge Sanchez	Member, Board of Directors
Ana Ventura-Phares	Member, Board of Directors
Michaela Siplak, OP	Sister Sponsor
Nanette Mickiewicz, MD	(Ex-officio)
Nancy Austin	(Ex-officio Board Chair)

COMMUNITY NEEDS INDEX MAP

Dominican Hospital



	Zip Code	CNI Score	Population	City	County	State
■	95003	2.4	22,357	Aptos	Santa Cruz	California
■	95005	2.2	6,618	Boulder Creek	Santa Cruz	California
■	95006	2.6	9,618	Boulder Creek	Santa Cruz	California
■	95010	3	8,900	Capitola	Santa Cruz	California
■	95017	2.6	394	Davenport	Santa Cruz	California
■	95018	2.4	9,528	Felton	Santa Cruz	California
■	95019	4.8	8,247	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	California
■	95033	2	8,737	Lexington Hills	Santa Cruz	California
■	95060	3.4	45,248	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	California
■	95062	3.4	35,642	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	California
■	95064	4.2	4,629	Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	California
■	95065	2.8	7,730	Scotts Valley	Santa Cruz	California
■	95066	2.2	14,283	Scotts Valley	Santa Cruz	California
■	95073	2.8	9,827	Soquel	Santa Cruz	California
■	95076	4.4	84,506	Watsonville	Santa Cruz	California

CNI MEDIAN SCORE: 2.8

DIGNITY HEALTH
SUMMARY OF PATIENT PAYMENT ASSISTANCE POLICY
(June 2012)

Policy Overview:

Dignity Health is committed to providing payment assistance to persons who have health care needs and are uninsured or under-insured, ineligible for a government program, and otherwise unable to pay for medically necessary care based on their individual financial situations. Consistent with its mission to deliver compassionate, high quality, affordable health care services, and to advocate for those who are poor and disenfranchised, Dignity Health strives to ensure that the financial capacity of people who need health care services does not prevent them from seeking or receiving care. Payment assistance is not considered to be a substitute for personal responsibility, and patients are expected to cooperate with Dignity Health's procedures for obtaining payment assistance, and to contribute to the cost of their care based on individual ability to pay. Individuals with financial capacity to purchase health insurance shall be encouraged to do so as a means of assuring access to health care services.

Eligibility for Patient Payment Assistance:

- Eligibility for payment assistance will be considered for those individuals who are uninsured, ineligible for any government health care benefit program, and unable to pay for their care, based upon a determination of financial need in accordance with the policy.
- The granting of payment assistance shall be based on an individualized determination of financial need, and shall not take into account age, gender, race, or immigration status, sexual orientation or religious affiliation.

Determination of Financial Need:

- Financial need will be determined through an individual assessment that may include:
 - a. an application process in which the patient or the patient's guarantor is required to cooperate and supply all documentation necessary to make the determination of financial need;
 - b. the use of external publicly available data sources that provide information on a patient's or a patient's guarantor's ability to pay;
 - c. a reasonable effort by the Dignity Health facility to explore and assist patients in applying for appropriate alternative sources of payment and coverage from public and private payment programs; and will take into account the patient's assets and other financial resources.
- It is preferred but not required that a request for payment assistance and a determination of financial need occur prior to rendering of services. The need for payment assistance may be re-evaluated at each subsequent rendering of services, or at any time additional information relevant to the eligibility of the patient for payment assistance becomes known.
- Dignity Health's values of human dignity and stewardship shall be reflected in the application process, financial need determination and granting of payment assistance. Requests for payment assistance shall be processed promptly, and the Dignity Health facility shall notify the patient or applicant in writing within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.

Patient Payment Assistance Guidelines:

Services eligible under the policy will be made available to the patient on a sliding fee scale, in accordance with financial need as determined by the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in effect at the time of the termination as follows:

- Patients whose income is at or below 200% of the FPL are eligible to receive free care;

- Patients whose income is above 200% but not more than 350% of the FPL are eligible to receive services at the average rates of payment the Dignity Health facility would receive from Medicare, Medicaid (Medi-Cal), Healthy Families, or any other government-sponsored health program in which the hospital participates, whichever is greater in amount for the same services;
- Patients whose income is above 350% but not more than 500% of the FPL are eligible to receive services at 135% of the average rates the Dignity Health facility would receive from Medicare, Medicaid (Medi-Cal), Healthy Families, or any other government-sponsored health program in which the hospital participates, whichever is greater for the same services;
- Patients whose income exceeds 500% of the FPL may be eligible to receive discounted rates on a case-by-case basis based on their specific circumstances, such as catastrophic illness or medical indigence, at the discretion of the Dignity Health facility.

Dignity Health's administrative policy for Eligibility and Application for Payment Assistance shall define what qualifies as income for these purposes.

Communication of the Payment Assistance Program to Patients and the Public:

- Information about patient payment assistance available from Dignity Health, including a contact number, shall be disseminated by the Dignity Health facility by various means, including the publication of notices in patient bills and by posting notices in the Emergency and Admitting Departments, and at other public places as the Dignity Health facility may elect. Such information shall be provided in the primary languages spoken by the populations served by the Dignity Health facility.
- Any member of the Dignity Health facility staff or medical staff may make referral of patients for payment assistance. The patient or a family member, a close friend or associate of the patient may also make a request for payment assistance.

Budgeting and Reporting:

- Specific dollar amounts and annual plans for patient payment assistance will be included within the Social Accountability Budget of the Dignity Health facility. Dignity Health facilities will report patient payment assistance calculated at cost in the annual Social Accountability Report and may voluntarily report such information as deemed appropriate.
- Patient payment assistance statistics shall be disclosed in annual financial statements but shall not include amounts that are properly considered to be bad debt or contractual discounts.

Relationship to Collection Policies:

- Dignity Health system management shall develop policies and procedures for internal and external collection practices by Dignity Health facilities that take into account the extent to which the patient qualifies for payment assistance, a patient's good faith effort to apply for a governmental program or for payment assistance from Dignity Health, and a patient's good faith effort to comply with his or her payment agreements with the Dignity Health facility.
- For patients who qualify for payment assistance and who are cooperating in good faith to resolve their hospital bills, Dignity Health facilities may offer interest-free extended payment plans to eligible patients, will not impose wage garnishments or liens on primary residences and will not send unpaid bills to outside collection agencies.

Regulatory Requirements:

In implementing this policy, dignity health management and dignity health facilities shall comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations that may apply to activities conducted pursuant to this policy.