

# Executive Summary

Owensboro Health Inc. (OHI) owns and operates Owensboro Health Regional Hospital, a 477 bed hospital in Daviess County, Kentucky. Owensboro Health Regional Hospital (OHRH) is pleased to present its 2021-2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). OHRH contracted with the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) to conduct a CHNA in accordance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code for nonprofit tax-exempt hospitals. This CHNA is the second report prepared by CEDIK for OHRH. This report will be used to create an implementation plan with wide community input to address the identified health needs for the community served by OHRH over the next three years. The Owensboro Health, Inc. Board of Directors approved this CHNA on May 23, 2022.

## Summary of Findings

### ***Methodology***

CEDIK facilitated the process of primary data collection through focus groups and key informant interviews to support OHRH in their creation of an implementation plan to address identified health needs. In addition, county specific secondary data was gathered to help examine the social determinants of health. Throughout the process, CEDIK made it a priority to get input from populations that are often not engaged in conversations about their health needs or gaps in service. CEDIK conducted seven key informant interviews to probe more deeply into health and quality of life themes within the county. Potential barriers to accessing community resources were also identified in these interviews.

This CHNA report synthesizes community health needs survey data, focus groups with vulnerable populations, and key informant interview data with social and economic data as well as health outcomes data collected from secondary sources to help provide context for the community. Below are identified themes collected from the primary data collection:

### ***Focus Group Visioning***

Residents describe their vision of a vibrant, healthy Daviess County: access to healthy foods and shelter; access to health care and dental care; transportation; inclusive services and programs; safe parks, bike and walking paths, accessible green spaces for physical activity; quality mental health care; strong education system; tobacco free policies; air quality; decrease in substance abuse, child abuse and domestic violence; jobs; safe environment for seniors.

### ***Focus Groups – Unmet Needs***

Focus groups were conducted by CEDIK in Daviess County to discuss health needs of populations with unmet health needs and to deepen the understanding of the health challenges they face. Focus group discussions revealed unmet needs across the low-income and senior populations. Common concerns across these populations include: obesity and obesity related diseases in children and adults; tobacco use and vaping; food insecurity, poor diet and lack of exercise; substance use and addiction – drugs, alcohol and illegal substances; substandard or limited housing and homelessness; affordability – high cost of health care; mental health – depression, stress, lack of providers and long wait times; recent increase in gun violence;

community safety, particularly for elderly; transportation; caregiver support; transitional services; dental care – not enough providers who will accept Medicaid; aging population health care – residential treatment for dementia and Alzheimer’s; cancer; having to travel outside of county for care; and providers’ lack of communication skills with individuals with disabilities.

### ***Key Informant - Community Themes and Strengths***

OHRH and CEDIK obtained additional primary data through seven key informant interviews with individuals knowledgeable about health and quality of life needs in Daviess County. CEDIK organized the data into strengths, barriers, and opportunities for change for Daviess County. Strengths included expansion of telehealth for services; collaborative partners; a growing community in industry, service, and retail sectors; expansion of bus routes; corporate community embraces wellness and partners with hospital; generous hospital that provides community grants and responsive to emerging needs. Challenges faced by residents include: the health care system does not always understand patient’s circumstances – how they choose to access healthcare; transportation needs; not enough mental health and primary care providers; need for more communication of hospital services; and a lack of knowledge about what the hospital is doing in the community. Several opportunities were highlighted, including an increased understanding of the impact of trauma; understanding cultural differences in patients and communication; community openness to prioritizing health and changing culture of health; routine care addressing mental health, tobacco use and obesity; mobile crisis units and expanded transportation assistance to health care appointments.

## **Prioritized Areas**

Based on survey results, focus group and key informant interview results, as well as key secondary health data, there were five priority areas identified. Existing local, state and national priorities were considered. This information can assist the hospital as implementation plans are developed to address the prioritized health needs. The following priorities were identified as areas of need to address in the next three years:

- **Obesity and related diseases**
- **Tobacco use**
- **Substance use**
- **Mental health**
- **Housing**

A plan for addressing these priority areas will be described in the OHRH Implementation Strategy.