



2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2018, The Center for Health Affairs delivered value to members through **five program areas**: community health outreach, emergency preparedness, hospital finance and reimbursement, the Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium, and volume statistics data reporting. Represented here are the organization's key accomplishments under each program.

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

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The first ever hospital and public health collaborative community health needs assessment was completed. The 2018 joint assessment, which was managed by The Center for Health Affairs, included the participation of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH), Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) and University Hospitals. A coordinated marketing plan that included both traditional and social media was implemented, resulting in favorable coverage by ideastream and *Crain's Cleveland Business*.
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Under The Center's leadership, the planning process began for a 2019 assessment involving an even broader collaborative of hospitals. Commitments were received from MetroHealth, Southwest General Health Center, St. Vincent Charity Medical Center and University Hospitals to participate in the assessment along with CDPH and CCBH.
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The Center collaborated with hospital and public health partners to inform a proposal that was submitted by CCBH to a local foundation. Funds would be used to support a regional approach to community health planning and matched by funding commitments from participating hospitals and public health organizations.
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The Center spearheaded hospital participation in an initiative to promote OSU-Extension SNAP-Ed's Celebrate Your Plate social marketing campaign to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables among the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) population. A variety of strategies were used to promote the campaign including distribution of incentives at health fairs and promotion on social media.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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Each year The Center successfully applies for funding under the federal Hospital Preparedness Program to support regional disaster response planning activities. In 2018, \$785,676 was awarded to the region. The Center also administers these grants, ensuring all activities meet grant requirements and are eligible for funding support.
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In 2018, The Center orchestrated five exercises that enabled hospitals to test and improve their response plans. These included: a regional infectious disease exercise with 32 participating agencies; a regional coalition surge exercise with 27 participating hospitals and an additional 29 organizations that participated as required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); a virtual active shooter tabletop exercise with 42 participating agencies; and an exercise that involved a plane crash at Burke Airport with victims transported to area hospitals. The Center participates in the planning of these exercises, coordinates hospital participation, and develops the after-action reports that are necessary to ensure hospitals meet CMS and Joint Commission requirements as well as grant requirements.
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Hospital and healthcare planning for an influx of patients began in anticipation of the Major League Baseball All-Star Game that will take place in Cleveland July 9, 2019.
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The Center leads the Northeast Ohio Metropolitan Medical Response System Meta-Coalition, which works to develop a communication network between healthcare and private agencies that can respond together in a disaster to save lives. Through planning, training and exercises, the coalition also enables hospitals along with 17 other agency types to meet CMS requirements.

HOSPITAL FINANCE AND REIMBURSEMENT

- ✓ The Center completed the 2019 Wage Index Project, resulting in an additional \$7.3 million in Medicare inpatient payments to member hospitals between Oct. 1, 2018, and Sept. 30, 2019. The index was originally proposed at 0.8750. The review resulted in changes that increased the index to 0.8829.
- ✓ The individual hospital data review for the 2020 Wage Index Project has been completed, and CMS has accepted all submitted changes. Participants will learn preliminary results after the upcoming release of the public use file.
- ✓ The Center continues to support members' information needs related to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement issues. Support includes an e-newsletter, as well as attendance at Ohio Hospital Association finance and CGS provider outreach and education meetings to gather and disseminate information to the membership.
- ✓ The Center submitted comments on the Ohio Department of Medicaid's proposed 1115 demonstration waiver to CMS. The comments were quoted by several news outlets, including The Plain Dealer, Gongwer and Hannah News Service.

NORTHEAST OHIO HOSPITAL OPIOID CONSORTIUM

- ✓ In 2018, the Opioid Consortium formalized its structure, establishing a physician chair and executive committee, and finalized a strategic plan with deliverables.
- ✓ The Center, with input from the Nurse Education Subcommittee, developed and pilot tested the nurse education course titled "Introduction to Substance Use Disorders: Screening, Intervention and Referral to Treatment," which has been approved for 4.75 contact hours and provides a standardized education across all Opioid Consortium hospitals.
- ✓ The Center launched the Opioid Consortium initiative related to expanded access to nasal naloxone by convening an advisory group, as well as developing and conducting a survey to determine the availability of nasal naloxone within participating hospitals.
- ✓ Through The Center, the Opioid Consortium spoke out on a number of critical issues, including in a letter to the editor published in *Crain's Cleveland Business* regarding a misleading study on naloxone; a request for a joint regulatory statement on buprenorphine from the state's medical, pharmacy and nursing boards; written testimony regarding the State Medical Board of Ohio's proposed rule on office-based opioid treatment; and letters to Senators Brown and Portman seeking their support for aligning rules regarding the privacy of substance use disorder treatment information with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.
- ✓ Opioid Consortium members had the opportunity to share the work being done at their individual organizations, as well as glean insight on federal-level activities, when The Center hosted U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 5 Director Douglas O'Brien at the Opioid Consortium's November meeting.

VOLUME STATISTICS DATA REPORTING

- ✓ Data review was conducted on a monthly basis to ensure complete, accurate data submission by participants.
- ✓ At the request of a member, a survey was conducted to determine consistency of the information submitted by program participants for elements related to reporting newborn metrics to Volume Statistic data. Analysis of the survey results is currently in progress.
- ✓ At the end of 2018, The Center hired a healthcare data analyst. Responsibilities will include managing Volume Statistics and exploring opportunities to augment that program for the membership.

