

## Behavioral Health Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Collaborative Newsletter December 2018



### Social/Resources Barriers Assessment and Links to Community Based Organizations

Social determinants can create differences in the health of different populations of people. Social determinants of health have been defined as the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances can lead to health inequities or the unfair and avoidable differences in health status between groups of people. These health inequities greatly influence the risk of illness, the actions taken to prevent people from becoming ill, and/or the treatment for illness when it occurs. The drivers of health inequities include: income, education, occupation, employment opportunities, gender, race/ethnicity, racial biases, and other factors.

Health care organizations are pursuing partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) such as housing organizations, workforce development agencies, food banks, and early childhood education providers to meet both the medical and social needs of the populations they serve.

Locally based CBOs are well positioned to identify and address unmet social needs since they are so closely connected to the populations they serve and familiar with the environments in which they live and work. Through care coordination and the integration of social needs assessments, medical and behavioral health providers can partner with CBOs in their communities to address a broad range of needs.

## Key Elements of Social/Resource Barriers Assessment and Links to CBOs

- Incorporate social service and non-medical needs as part of the organization's assessment of the client's barriers to services
- Create an inventory of community resources that can be tailored to the client's needs.
- Include a process to connect clients to local community based organizations in your care pathways.
- Establish a "feedback loop" with CBOs to determine whether clients received services and the outcomes of those services

Source: [Transitions of Care Planning Guide Final March 2018](#) (3) by the Care Transitions Network for People With Serious Mental Illness

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