

2021 Health Equity Evaluation: Laying the Foundation

In 2020 the Spectrum Health board of directors approved a \$1 million award from the health equity endowment and directed the team to use 2021 to lay the foundation for health equity into the future. Four key findings from the evaluation are shared in this executive summary..

Important Organizational Structures to Support Health Equity were Created in 2021

Governance

Several important leadership committees were established to provide oversight and direction to the health equity work at SHL including community advisory groups. New and diverse perspectives were added to the Population Health Board Committee to increase community representation.

Strategic Direction

Frameworks to guide health equity were identified and developed in 2021 forming critical component parts for guiding this work in the future. These frameworks are important to future alignment and planning of health equity work now and into the future.

Leadership

The appointment of Dr. Lynn Todman as Vice President, Health Equity, at the Spectrum Health System level demonstrated commitment, and squarely positions health equity inside conversations at the highest levels of leadership. Two key hires at the divisional level helped fill out a leadership team for health equity.

Funding

The first award of \$1 million was made from the health equity endowment fund in late 2020 to sustain the Center for Better Health. An additional award of \$2.5 million was approved in late 2021 to support the expansion of the Center for Better Health and health equity in 2022.

The Lakeland Institute for Value & Equity (LIVE) was Formed

Outstanding outcomes



Equity

Ensuring all community members live long, healthy lives

Value

Advancing outcomes through integration and value-based care and coverage

Understanding the relationship between *Value* and *Equity* is crucial for ensuring health equity work remains financially viable and sustainable.

To ensure alignment with Spectrum Health's commitment to *Outstanding Outcomes* the LIVE was created to explore and identify the ways in which *Value* and *Equity* are mutually supportive. This group consists of senior leaders is positioned to play a leadership role for health equity at SHL. The LIVE will work to develop relevant guidance material and supports for SHL departments as they work to integrate health equity.

Intentionally and strategically integrating equity considerations into our value-based strategies.

-LIVE Charter

The Center for Better Health was Launched and Expanded in 2021

The Center for Better Health, located in downtown Benton Harbor continued operating in 2021 supported by a \$1 million award from the health equity fund in late 2020 approved by the SHL board. The reach continued to grow due mainly to word-of-mouth messaging from clients who appreciated both the service offerings and the welcoming and safe environment created by staff. As expansion planning continues the Center continues to be a cornerstone of health equity work at SHL.

2,204

In-person visits

1,308

Unique clients

625

Virtual visits

92%

Clients who said the Center is conveniently located

They were very polite. They greeted me with kindness and warm arms. The wait wasn't too long. They answered all of my questions. They pointed me in the right direction.

-Center for Better Health Client

Meaningful Internal & External Partnerships were Developed

Partnerships are crucial for advancing the health equity mission of SHL. The issues that impact health are wide-ranging and beyond the scope of what SHL can achieve on it's own. Partnerships is one of the foundational building blocks identified for health equity at the system level.

At SHL there exists a diverse and broad-based set of partnerships to build upon. In 2022 a more extensive analysis of partnerships will be undertaken.

60

Unique external partners

73

Unique internal partners

Internal partnerships were critical to launching, maintaining, and planning for the Center for Better Health expansion. Below are departments who have supported the Center over the past year.

- Legal
- Marketing
- IS
- Lakeland Care Network
- Compliance
- Finance
- Pharmacy
- Cardiology
- Security
- Facilities
- SHL Foundation
- GME
- Human resources
- Procurement
- EVS