Redefining Access: The Role of Transportation in Access to Health Care

Kalpana Ramiah, DrPH
Vice President of Innovation & Director of Essential Hospitals Institute

June 14, 2018
WHO WE ARE
Average Uncompensated Care
Members of America’s Essential Hospitals
Versus All Hospitals Nationwide, 2015

$7,342,657 U.S. HOSPITALS

$60,809,022 ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS
National Operating Margins
Members of America’s Essential Hospitals
Versus All Hospitals Nationwide, 2015

AGGREGATE

Operating Margin
U.S. HOSPITAL AGGREGATE: 7.4%
Operating Margin
MEMBER AGGREGATE: 3.2%
Operating Margin
MEMBER AGGREGATE WITHOUT MEDICAID DSH PAYMENTS: -3.6%
ABOUT AMERICA’S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

Economic Needs in Essential Communities

Members of America’s Essential Hospitals, 2015

- Our communities have more than 4.6 MILLION families below the poverty line
- Our communities have more than 21.5 MILLION individuals without health insurance

Social Needs in Essential Communities

Members of America’s Essential Hospitals, 2015

- Our communities have more than 275,000 homeless individuals
- Our communities have more than 8.5 MILLION people served by essential hospitals have limited access to healthy food

WHAT IS POPULATION HEALTH?
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.
TRANSPORTATION

The availability of affordable and reliable modes of travel which impact an individual’s ability to access well-coordinated health care, purchase nutritious food, and otherwise care for oneself.
INVESTING IN TRANSPORTATION
PROGRAM EXAMPLES
EXAMPLE: PRONTO

- UI Health (Chicago, Illinois)
  - Partnered with LYFT to offer free rides to discharged patients in Chicago
  - Social Worker assesses patients transportation needs, and if necessary will arrange a Lyft home (within an hour)
EXAMPLE: LYFT PARTNERSHIP

• Denver Health Medical Center (Denver, Colorado)
  • Partnered with LYFT to offer free rides to discharged patients and outpatient clinical appointments within 25 miles
  • Hospital staff is responsible for requesting and tracking a Lyft ride once they are discharged
  • The hospital tracks the number of rides per a location to determine where the greatest community needs are located
The MetroHealth System (Cleveland, OH)

• 5-year plan to revitalize the surrounding neighborhood
• MetroHealth Line runs directly to the hospital and clinics
• 20 new buses, 400 bus stops, and 37 bus shelters
DISCUSSION