# Riverside Medical Center CHNA Implementation Plan 2025-2027

# Priority #1: Chronic Disease Heart disease

The Riverside Heart & Vascular Institute improves the health of our community members by preventing heart disease through advanced screening and education. We will continue to achieve this by partnering with community organizations to host educational events for populations with high risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Additionally, we will host quarterly events with cardiovascular screenings such as blood pressures, lipid profiles, smoking cessation and blood sugars.

Our commitment to delivering the highest quality care is also key to caring for the community's cardiovascular disease conditions. Our services have received national recognition for the quality we provide. Our team and services were highlighted by Becker's in 2023 as one of the "Top 100 Hospital and Health Systems with Great Heart Programs" celebrating outstanding cardiovascular care, superior patient outcomes, and leading technologies. The team was recognized for bringing the latest technology and the most advanced procedures to the community to improve and save lives.

The Institute offers a wide variety of specialized clinical programs including open heart surgery, interventional cardiology, vascular surgery, cardiaconcology, heart failure, electrophysiology, wound care, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation and diagnostic services, as well as maintaining a graduate medical education program and research programs. The Heart & Vascular team is proud to offer these high-quality services close to home for our community. We will continue to expand our service geographic footprint to improve access for our patients to receive the highest- quality heart care close to home.

#### **Cancer**

The Riverside Cancer Institute focuses on disease prevention and holistic care for those in need of cancer and hematology services.

We recognize the importance of cancer screenings and prevention measures. Our primary care providers ensure that patients (within the most at-risk age and condition ranges) are educated and referred for proper screenings to prevent cancers and chronic diseases. These screenings include mammography, cervical cancer, colonoscopy, blood pressure monitoring, A1C monitoring, kidney health evaluations, screenings for STDs, and screening and preventative care for depression, among many others. Our providers are measured on the compliance of these standards based on the completion of testing of the patients referred. Our oncology nurses and providers also provide a screening for skin cancer at least once per year at a public event like the local farmer's market and cancer prevention presentations to at- risk/ vulnerable population groups.

To further cancer treatment, Riverside recently installed a new linear accelerator and streamlined our time from referral to new patient visit to ensure patients receive quick care with the highest treatment technologies available. Our focus now and in the upcoming years will continue to be working on easier access, advanced technologies, and ensuring we are meeting the needs of our patient populations.

To increase access to care, we continue to recruit for another medical oncologist.

The two TrueBeam Linear Accelerators are used for daily radiation treatments as well as stereotactic surgeries. We will be adding HDR Brachytherapy which will allow for radiation treatment of skin and gynecological cancers directly to the sites of tumor.

With our multidisciplinary team of social workers, chaplains, dietician, and more, we will continue to focus on the social determinants that prevent patients from receiving care. We will also continue to focus on preventing our patients' financial challenges by utilizing Advocatia for Medicaid/Medicare/Marketplace eligibility screening, enrolling patients



in copay assistance programs, and accessing other financial assistance programs for those in need.

#### **Stroke**

Riverside Healthcare is committed to both quality and advancement of stroke care through a variety of focused efforts. We will provide a new level of Advanced Stroke Care in this community with the launch of a state- of- the- art Endovascular Suite allowing Riverside Providers the ability to perform procedures for both Ischemic and Hemorrhagic Strokes. Most notably, will be our team's ability to perform thrombectomy procedures eliminating the need to transfer stroke patients out of our community. We will maintain our Primary Stroke Center Certification through DNV Healthcare.

Our inpatient neurological care will continue to serve patients 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. And we will continue to provide community education on the effects of stroke, major risk factors, primary prevention, and stroke intervention.

# **Respiratory illnesses**

Riverside Pulmonology brings the most advanced including technology Robotic navigation bronchoscopy and noninvasive treatments options for COPD. We now offer advanced diagnostic options for lung cancer with cancer care treatment accessibility with the purchase of a state- of- the- art ION robotic navigation and cone beam CT. Further, Riverside will continue its commitment to treating chronic lung conditions offering Endobronchial valve for severe emphysema. We are pleased to treat obstructive sleep apnea. We are expanding pulmonary rehabilitation programs to Watseka and other areas in the community.

#### Alzheimer's disease:

As the need for Alzheimer's care continues to grow in our community, Riverside will continue to offer and expand comprehensive services in in early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and support of memory disorders.

We will continue to support our comprehensive, onsite team of Neurosurgeons, Neurologists,

Neuropsychologists, Physiatrists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, and Social Workers. We will continue to offer residential communities specializing in those with memory loss. In addition, we will continue hosting our Alzheimer's Support Group.

Going forward, we will recruit and retain our vital staff through onsite training programs (i.e. Employment of Neuropsychology Post-Doctoral Candidates). We will provide community education with a focus on early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of those with Dementia while offering support for both the patients and their families.

# **Priority #2: Behavioral Health**

#### **Substance Use**

Riverside will continue as a leader in securing grant funding for substance abuse initiatives. In collaboration with community partners, Riverside will continue to lead the Riverside opioid task force to address prevention in our community. Through this task force, community members will be educated on the impact of substance use/abuse. Riverside will provide NARCAN to overdose clients that present to Riverside's emergency room as well as to clients in need in the outpatient behavioral health setting in attempt to decrease deaths by overdose.

Riverside will provide substance abuse specific services including therapy as well as medication assisted treatment, to meet the needs of community partners such as probation and drug court as well as community members.

#### **Behavioral Health**

Riverside is committed to making Behavioral Health services more accessible to the community. Riverside will continue to provide assessments and referrals to the community, linking individuals with the appropriate type of treatment and level of care.

Riverside will increase the availability and access of services offered our inpatient and outpatient services. Riverside will identify ways to bring



education and services to clients to decrease barriers including transportation and funding. Riverside will offer professional development and trainings to community and team members to remain current on appropriate interventions to address treatment needs.

#### **Trauma Awareness and Prevention**

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# **Priority #3: Social Determinants of Health Food**

The Riverside Hospital-Based Food Pantry continues to be a necessary pillar in promoting health and well-being within our community. With the continued success of the food pantry, we are able to provide access to nutritious food that aids in addressing food insecurity and helping combat chronic health conditions. The importance of our hospital-based food pantry allows for us to take a holistic approach to care, ensuring that community members are receiving both support for their physical health and their basic nutritional needs. With the intention of changing healthcare from a reactive environment to a more proactive approach, this model fosters a sense of community, reduces the stigma in seeking aid, and creating a more resilient population.

Our future implementation goal is to establish more internal and external partnerships to provide a larger variety of goods at the pantry. By collaborating with key stakeholders, we can offer both food and non-food items as well as additional resources and education to those we serve.

# Housing

Riverside aims to continue to collaborate with local government, nonprofit organizations, and community organizations to keep abreast of new and upcoming development of mixed-income housing projects that cater to diverse populations, alongside existing resources. Community engagement will be at the forefront of our efforts, by fostering a collaborative environment and working with other agencies to create a range of housing options and to build a more inclusive community where everyone has access to safe and stable housing.

#### **Transportation**

Riverside's plan aims to address transportation needs of our patient population through a multifaceted approach that prioritizes accessibility, sustainability and safety. We will continue to conduct a comprehensive assessment of a current transportation infrastructure based on insurance coverage, identifying gaps and areas of opportunity. We will continue to foster partnerships with local facilities, transportation agencies, and community organizations such as Show bus, River Valley Metro and Catholic Charities to create a more connected, efficient, and inclusive transportation system that meets the diverse needs of all residents.

## **Interpersonal Safety**

Riverside aims to enhance interpersonal safety within our community by fostering a culture of awareness, support, and resilience. We will continue to collaborate with local law enforcement and our own behavioral health expertise as well as other organizations in our community to provide resources and to ensure that residents have access to the tools they need to feel secure. We will continue to maintain the implementation of a community reporting system to encourage open dialogue about safety concerns, empowering residents to participate actively in their neighborhood's well-being. By prioritizing education, collaboration, and support, we aspire to create a safer, more cohesive community where every individual feels protected. Some of the key community resources we partner with are Harbor House, Victim's assistance program, Clove Alliance and State's attorney's office.



# **Healthcare Affordability**

Riverside aims to tackle healthcare affordability in our community by implementing a multi-pronged approached that enhances access to affordable services and promote healthcare literacy around healthcare and insurance options. We will continue to help alleviate the cost of medications by connecting them with the pharmaceutical assistance program which assists low-income residents with out-ofpocket expenses for their medications. We will also continue to educate residents about Riverside's financial assistance and refer them to Advocatia to access available financial assistance programs. By fostering collaboration with healthcare providers and community organizations, we seek to reduce broad financial barriers to care, ensuring that all community members can received the essential health services they need without facing undue financial hardships. Riverside's ongoing commitment to supporting our community with free and subsidized health services is most easily quantified in our Community Benefit summary, which in 2023 totaled \$68 million.

## Conclusion

It should be noted that Riverside Healthcare's broad support of the Community's Health Needs occurs every day as we pursue our mission. While we will give attention to the three CHNA priorities and focus areas identified in this process, Riverside will further support the community's health with the following major areas of support:

- 1. Annual Community Benefit, which in 2023 totaled more than \$68 million.
- 2. Riverside's funding of and leadership for the CHNA and related community initiatives.
- 3. Riverside's commitment to quality care, which regularly results in national recognition and benefits every patient through all of our services, every day.