

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan

Egleston hospital
Scottish Rite hospital

December 2019



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta



Table of contents



A letter from the chairman to the community	2
Acknowledgments	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definitions• About Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta• Child Advocacy at Children’s	
2019 Community Health Needs Assessment and Results	5
2020-2022 Implementation Plan	7
2017-2019 Progress Report	13
Appendices:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix A: Contributor Acknowledgments• Appendix B: Children’s Resource Inventory• Appendix C: Community Resources• Appendix D: Description of 2019 Community Needs• Appendix E: Key Informant Interview Guide	18 23 35 41 46





A letter from the chairman to the community

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta System Board of Trustees

Thomas M. Holder, Chairman

- Stephanie V. Blank
- W. Paul Bowers
- Paul Brown
- Mark Chancy
- Mike Cote
- Alan C. Dahl
- Allison Dukes
- John M. Dyer
- Ernest L. Greer
- Donna W. Hyland
- Michelle Jarrard
- Mark Kauffman
- William Mahle, MD
- Keith Mason
- Eddie Meyers
- Cedric B. Miller, M.D.
- Hala Moddelmog
- Beatriz Perez
- Charles H. Ogburn
- Jeff Seaman
- Atul Vats, MD
- Joshua Vova, MD

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is pleased to present its Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan. Children's has a long history of serving children, and we are exceedingly proud of our mission to make kids better today and healthier tomorrow.

We have identified and prioritized pediatric community health needs with input from a broad range of leaders throughout Georgia to help advance the health and wellness of children and adolescents within our community.

Our Board of Trustees has adopted the 2020-2022 Community Health Needs Implementation Plans for Egleston and Scottish Rite hospitals and is committed to expanding and leveraging our existing programs, services and resources to improve the health of children in our community.

Children's will also work with other organizations across our community to address the health need priorities of children who reside in and around metro Atlanta and across the state.

Please visit us at choa.org for more information and follow our progress.

Warm regards,

Thomas M. Holder
Chairman
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Board of Trustees

Acknowledgments

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta’s 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and 2020-2021 Implementation Plan was developed by Children’s with generous input from a broad group of stakeholders representing the interests of children and adolescents in Atlanta and throughout Georgia. Children’s had more than 100 community members complete the survey and/or participate in stakeholder interviews including representation from private industry, public health, schools, early care, physicians and youth-based organizations. Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta would like to acknowledge each of these individuals and thank them for their generous contribution and time given to this assessment.

Definitions

Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation governed by its Board of Trustees. In this document, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Inc. will be referred to as “Children’s.”

Disclaimer: References to community resources are not the endorsements of Children’s. Children’s requested that each community resource referenced in the report approve the description of its services.



About Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

We know Georgians are counting on us to make a difference—both in the lives of kids and in the strength of our communities. Children's offers several programs and services to meet the health needs of the community. In 2018, we managed 1,160,186 patient visits and treated 430,868 unique patients from all 159 counties in Georgia. Children's provided \$229.5 million in community benefit, including approximately \$120.7 million in unreimbursed clinical care, \$45.5 million in lifesaving research, \$28.3 million in subsidized services, \$17.5 million in specialty pediatric services, \$10.8 million on physician training programs, and \$6.7 million in wellness programs.

Child Advocacy at Children's

Children's has a long history of advocating for children's health in the community by providing education and awareness to both families and key stakeholders. Children's continually builds partnerships with organizations that serve children and their family. Our efforts have made a positive impact in communities we serve. In 2019, Children's Board approved a Child Advocacy strategy that established a long-term funding mechanism to continue these efforts.

Child Advocacy seeks to improve child health and wellness through awareness, prevention, and education efforts in the community. The strategy aligns Children's community prevention work to focus on four pillars: obesity, behavioral health, injury and illness, and child protection. These pillars reflect ongoing work, as well as new initiatives to better meet the health needs of children and adolescents in Georgia. Results from the Community Health Needs Assessment will be used to help prioritize initiatives and measure progress.



2019 Community Health Needs Assessment and Results

To continue advancing the health and wellness of children and adolescents within our community, we conducted our third community health needs assessment (CHNA) in 2019. In the assessment, we identified and prioritized pediatric community health needs with input from a broad range of truly remarkable healthcare and community professionals who are passionate about the interests of children and adolescents. The assessment helps Children’s better understand the needs of the pediatric healthcare community, informs our community benefit activities, and influences our strategic planning efforts. We will repeat the community health needs assessment process every three years and report the results of our assessment on the Children’s website in accordance with IRS regulations.

Our Community of Focus

Our 2019 CHNA continued focus on identifying pediatric healthcare needs in the metropolitan Atlanta region, specifically on the 18-county primary and secondary service areas that accounted for 88 percent of admissions, 93 percent of Emergency Department visits and 88 percent of outpatient visits to Children’s during 2018. These 18 counties are Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton.

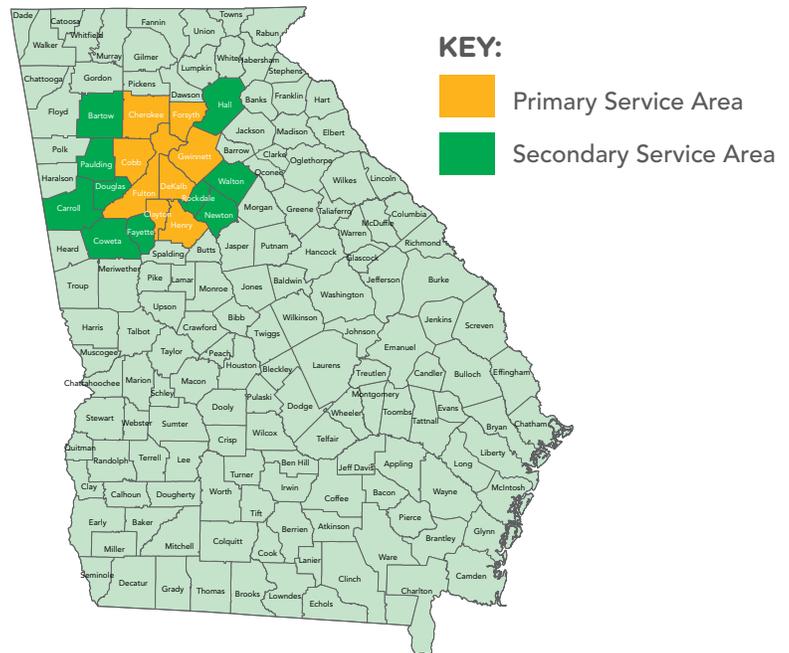
Process and Data Sources

The 2019 CHNA process built upon work conducted in 2013 and 2016, validating top needs and identifying new emerging needs through a survey of key stakeholders. In addition, key informant interviews from various sectors further validated the results.

The survey was completed by 108 individuals representing the interests of the pediatric healthcare community in the greater metropolitan Atlanta region. A complete list of participants is available in the appendix of this report. These individuals represent diverse backgrounds, including community leaders, physicians, schools, research/academia, government/nonprofit and parents. These individuals also represent each of the counties in the primary and secondary service areas. Contributors were asked to rank the pediatric community health need priorities previously identified on an ordinal scale with one being the highest priority and 10 being the lowest priority. Results were weighted to determine the overall ranking among respondents.

Previous groundwork in 2013 and 2016 identified significant consensus that these issues affect children across multiple cultural, socio-economic and geographic communities within the expansive greater metro Atlanta region. Participants also had the opportunity to identify new health needs outside of the 10 listed, as well as clarifying statements for each need listed. The CHNA survey was completed from May to June 2019.

Key informant interviews were conducted with community leaders across multiple sectors, including education, healthcare, nonprofit, government and corporate. The key informant interview guide is available in the appendix.



Our Community Health Need Priorities

The pediatric healthcare needs previously identified remain the top needs, except for injury and illness prevention replacing dentistry due to the principal functions of Children's. Key informants largely confirmed the survey ranking of health needs with deeper discussion of the intricacies surrounding each. Survey participants and key informant interviews also identified social determinants of health as a concern not currently identified in the report, specifically poverty and under-resourced communities. The 2019 CHNA needs in priority order are:

1. Ensure access to primary care medical homes for children and adolescents
2. Enhance access to behavioral and developmental health services for children and adolescents
3. Address childhood overweight and obesity
4. Ensure access to specialty care for children and adolescents
5. Raise awareness for asthma, allergies and respiratory issues
6. Support access to health services that address adolescent issues
7. Coordinate care with schools for primary and chronic health issues
8. Address injury and illness prevention
9. Coordinate transition of care for individuals with chronic health issues from adolescence to young adulthood
10. Address the health needs of immigrant and transient populations

Our Implementation Strategy

Due to the long history of Children's working with the community, the health needs of the community were well known. Each of the 10 needs is actively being addressed in some capacity by Children's existing and ongoing programs and services. See Appendix B for a resource inventory of Children's programs and services. Furthermore, there are many organizations in the community that are addressing these needs, as well.

Due to limited resources and the extraordinary cost of providing highly specialized care to children throughout Georgia, the Children's community health needs implementation strategy is focused on leveraging existing programs, services and resources, where possible, and focuses on the health need priorities of children and adolescents who reside in our 18-county, metropolitan Atlanta primary and secondary service area communities.

In addition to leveraging existing programs, over the next three years, Children's will place special emphasis on four of the 10 needs, as these tightly align with our strategic plan. These needs are:

- Ensure access to primary care medical homes for children and adolescents
- Enhance access to behavioral and developmental health services for children and adolescents
- Address childhood overweight and obesity
- Ensure access to specialty care for children and adolescents

No organization alone can address all the community health needs. In addition to fostering current collaborations, whenever possible and financially feasible, Children's will take a supportive role in other pediatric community health need efforts in the greater metropolitan Atlanta region and throughout Georgia. Existing healthcare facilities and community resources currently addressing the prioritized community health needs are highlighted in this report. See Appendix C for the Community Resources available.

2020-2022 Implementation Plan

Unique implementation plans for Egleston and Scottish Rite hospitals are included because of their unique tax ID. The following serves as the implementation plan for both Egleston and Scottish Rite. Although Children's continues its priorities at Hughes Spalding, an implementation plan is not included, as Children's manages this hospital for Fulton-Dekalb Hospital Authority.

Children's actively addresses the identified top 10 health needs by current programs and services. In addition to leveraging these existing resources, this Scottish Rite and Egleston implementation plans place special emphasis on the top four needs identified above that align with our strategy:

- Ensure access to primary care medical homes for children and adolescents
- Enhance access to behavioral and developmental health services for children and adolescents
- Address childhood overweight and obesity
- Ensure access to specialty care for children and adolescents

Community need #1:

Ensure access to primary care medical homes for children and adolescents

Children's will maintain clinical integration status in The Children's Care Network including primary care membership as well as continue training community physicians to reduce burden on subspecialists and mitigate the risk of care fragmentation. Children's will continue to grow partnerships with community pediatricians and Federally Qualified Health Centers to deliver quality pediatric care to children and their families in the manner that meets the needs of both physicians and families. By advancing toward the "Practice of the Future," a sustainable model designed for the modern-day parent, Children's hopes to protect pediatrics from changing market conditions while preserving access to pediatric primary care physicians for children in Atlanta. Children's will also continue to operate and optimize our call centers, 404-785-(DOCS) and 404-785-(KIDS), to assist caregivers in determining appropriate levels of care for their patients. Children's will continue to support the Healthy Beginnings nurse navigator who coordinates care through early learning centers across metro Atlanta.

The Children's Care Network

The Children's Care Network (TCCN) will maintain its clinical integration status, which was achieved in 2016. The Children's Care Network will implement multiple new quality improvement programs and enhance data collection and reporting capabilities for practices within The Children's Care Network. Success will be measured through the number of The Children's Care Network primary care provider members and the expansion of quality improvement. In addition, primary care services will continue to be provided through 143 community practices within The Children's Care Network.

Through TCCN, Children's will support trainings for community physicians on health concerns that are better managed within the primary care setting. Children's will identify critical needs of community pediatric primary care providers to better support care management.

Community need #2:

Enhance access to behavioral and developmental health services for children and adolescents

Children's is committed to being a leader and partner in building a pediatric behavioral and mental health ecosystem that improves outcomes, reduces stigma and enhances access to prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Our focus is on four areas:

- Enhance Behavioral and Mental Health Care
- Improve Access to Community Resources
- Pioneer Prevention
- Build a Strong Foundation

Enhance Behavioral and Mental Health Care

Children's will continue to provide inpatient and Emergency Department psychiatric consultations and select outpatient behavioral and developmental health services through specific medical clinics. In our Emergency Departments, we will continue to equip our staff to deliver enhanced and effective care for our patients through de-escalation training and our leaders will continue efforts with our partners in the community to streamline admissions processes to more efficiently connect kids with the care they need.

Children's will also continue to offer comprehensive services and evidence-based treatments for children with ASD through the Marcus Autism Center. Marcus Autism Center will continue to provide clinical services through the Diagnostic Assessment Clinic, Medical Clinic, Severe Behavior Program, Pediatric Feeding Program, and the Language and Learning Clinic, as well as educational programs, outreach clinics and support services. Marcus will continue translating research findings into clinical practice and extending these findings into the community and naturalistic setting.

In addition, Children's will continue innovating and expanding ways to help connect kids with the resources they need by leveraging existing expertise at our Marcus Autism Center. We will support innovative pilot programs to improve coordination for children in a behavioral or mental health crisis and enhance care by providing therapeutic services to children while they are under our care.

Improve Access to Community Resources

Children's will continue the behavioral health educational initiative focused on building a primary care network that can address behavioral and mental health needs. The effort includes a three-pronged approach:

- **Better access to behavioral and mental health expert advice:** Children's will continue service and awareness of the behavioral health expert advice line. In addition, we plan to enhance the services our call line offers by connecting pediatricians with the many resources already in their own community today.
- **Increasing community provider knowledge and comfort with primary behavioral and mental healthcare:** Children's will continue the Behavioral Health Education Boot Camp to ramp up educational offerings for providers to help them diagnose and treat patients with behavioral and mental health issues. Multiple behavioral and mental health-focused lectures and seminars will be included into the Children's grand rounds series, CME series and evening community educational offerings. Focused symposia in behavioral and mental health are now part of the major pediatric provider conference in Atlanta with Children's support. Behavioral and mental health topics will continue to be integrated into all 2020-2022 activities.

We will also continue to expand training offered directly to the primary care community through Project ECHO, which is a virtual hub and spoke training model that delivers teaching and learning through lectures, peer reviews, case studies and discussion. We use this tool today to reach and support our pediatricians while building their skills and confidence and fostering a community for information sharing and discussion. These interactive webinars have covered topics ranging from screening for depression, discussing depression with parents and families and pediatric suicide.

- **Access to online educational resources in one place:** We will continue to build the Children’s physician website to serve as an online resource center with behavioral and mental health resources, links to related behavioral and mental health organizations, questionnaires for assessing patient depression and anxiety, family education materials and upcoming educational opportunities.

Pioneer Prevention

Building on the success of community wellness and prevention work, Strong4Life, Children’s is expanding community programming to include more behavioral and mental health prevention work. The aim is twofold: improve resiliency in children and reduce stigma of behavioral and mental health. Children’s commits to bringing evidence-informed programs to healthcare providers, schools, community organizations, and early care and education centers. The programs will address emotional wellness in children through training and education for key influencers of children, while equipping influencers, parents and caregivers with the tools and resources to support resilience-building strategies in children.

We will also strengthen our internal expertise in behavioral and mental health and participate in local and national efforts to align best practices in improving pediatric behavioral and mental health.

Community need #3: Address childhood overweight and obesity

In 2011, Children’s committed to lead Georgia in the effort to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents through its Strong4Life programming. Strong4Life offers a unique and comprehensive approach utilizing multiple channels of key influencers in children’s lives: healthcare providers, schools, community organizations, youth-serving organizations and parents. Strong4Life offers evidence-informed programs, education and awareness to prevent, treat and manage childhood obesity. In addition, the Strong4Life Clinic offers clinical and bariatric intervention for children with obesity. Over the next three years, Children’s will continue its commitment to Strong4Life.

The Strong4Life provider programs currently focus on motivational interviewing techniques for healthcare providers that promote behavior change and early feeding to equip parents and caregivers with tools to keep their children healthy from the start. The provider programs will continue over the next three years with a continued emphasis on early feeding. The Early Feeding Program will be updated to continue to engage parents and providers with evidence-informed feeding techniques for children. In addition, the program will include a new board book series that reinforces healthy behaviors for children. The Strong4Life team will place special emphasis on expanding the early feeding program to more rural areas. The Strong4Life Provider Program will also be updated to include new information and resources.

Strong4Life school programming will continue its work with school nutrition managers, district-level personnel, school staff and children to engage in evidence-informed strategies of behavior change. Strong4Life will update training materials, resources and healthy habit information to reflect current evidence of obesity-prevention behaviors. Strong4Life will expand programming into the early care and education setting to provide training and resources to early care professionals on responsive feeding techniques. Children’s will continue to measure the unique number of schools impacted by Strong4Life programming.

The Strong4Life Clinic will work towards designation as a center of excellence for pediatric bariatric surgery, while continuing to offer both medical and bariatric intervention to children with obesity. The clinic will maintain a BMI stabilization rate of at least 75%, while also tracking the number of clinic visits with a goal of 3,000 visits from 2020-2022.

Strong4Life will continue to deliver marketing campaigns that inspire change, measured by visits to strong4life.com.

Through each channel, Children’s will continue to measure the number of children reached each year by Strong4Life programming, while also monitoring the state ranking and percentage of children with overweight and obesity reported through the National Survey of Children’s Health administered by the Census.

Community need #4:

Ensure access to specialty care for children and adolescents

Children's will continue to recruit key subspecialties to align with strategic and programmatic priorities, increase access to critical subspecialties and reduce wait times for key subspecialty services. Children's will continue to track key success measures including the number of new patients awaiting appointment, booked appointments per physician and median days from referral to date of service.

Children's Physician Group has grown to include more than 475 doctors and 270 advanced practice providers providing care in more than 35 specialties across metro Atlanta. Children's will continue to look for opportunities to provide care closer to patients, additional sites of service, developing partnerships and employing physicians to better meet the specialty care needs of children and adolescents.

Community need #5:

Raise awareness for asthma, allergies and respiratory issues

Children's will continue to be committed to reducing the prevalence of asthma and the number of emergency room visits caused by asthma. Children's will continue the High-Risk Asthma Program at Scottish Rite, Egleston, Hughes Spalding and patient clinics, as well as the Asthma Center at Hughes Spalding. In addition, Children's will continue to provide medical care to children at metro Atlanta schools through the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Children's will continue offering education to patients, caregivers and school staff about asthma triggers and management. In addition, physicians will be provided with standardized tools to improve asthma action plans, so that they can better provide care to asthma patients and their families

Community need #6:

Support access to health services that address adolescent issues

Children's will continue to operate an adolescent health clinic at Hughes Spalding, offering a psychologist, nurse practitioner, social worker and counselor dedicated to adolescent health issues. Teens can be referred from across the Children's network to the clinic.

Children's commits to community programming through the Stephanie V. Blank Center to address adolescent issues such child abuse, sex-trafficking, internet safety and child neglect. Children's will also target marketing resources to address adolescent health issues such as vaping and water safety.

Community need #7:

Coordinate care with schools for primary and chronic health issues

Children’s will continue to work with over 3,400 schools and 1,600 school health professionals to coordinate approaches for addressing primary and chronic health issues to reduce missed school days. The following programs and services will continue to be offered to keep kids healthy and reduce absenteeism:

- Children’s regional school health coordinator will provide training, education, technical assistance and communication on clinical pediatric topics and serve as a contact for school health professionals
- The Georgia School Health Resource Manual is available for free online or for purchase in hard copy
- Children’s Asthma Management Education Program
- Diabetes community education
- Educational Outreach Program at Marcus Autism Center
- Athletic injury prevention
- Project S.A.V.E.

Community need #8:

Address top injury and illness prevention

Children’s will continue its community work in injury and illness prevention, while streamlining offerings to maximize impact. Children’s will continue working with SafeKids Georgia to support injury prevention education, enforcement and safety equipment for Georgia’s children. Children’s will continue to support the Children’s Injury Prevention Program’s (CHIPP’s) mission to provide a multidisciplinary approach to reduce childhood injury—both unintentional and intentional—in the greater Atlanta area through evidence-based injury prevention programs, research, education and community outreach. Children’s will continue to support Project S.A.V.E. to offer CPR and AED training. These programs will combine with targeted marketing efforts to increase awareness.

Community need #9:

Coordinate transition of care for individuals with chronic health issues from adolescence to young adulthood

Children’s will continue to collaborate with Emory University, Grady Hospital and other adult hospitals to provide programs and services to coordinate the transition of care from adolescence to young adulthood for patients with:

- Cystic fibrosis
- Congenital heart disease
- Cancer
- Sickle cell
- Transplants (liver, kidney, heart)

Children’s will also continue its Taking Diabetes to College course for children with Type 1 diabetes transitioning into young adulthood.

Community need #10:

Address the health needs of immigrants and transient populations

Children's will continue to provide programs and services to improve the quality of healthcare provided to immigrant and transient populations in the community, including:

- Interpretative services as needed within the hospital
- English and Spanish teaching sheets on patient care and medication
- Website translations into Spanish, when feasible
- Cultural competency training for staff, including information on 18 different cultures

Children's will continue to operate the Primary Care Center at Chamblee, which, because of its location on Buford Highway in Atlanta, primarily serves an immigrant community. The staff is bilingual in English and Spanish. The Primary Care Center will continue to offer extended hours Monday through Thursday until 7 p.m. and offer a walk-in clinic on Saturday, in addition to regular hours on Fridays, to accommodate the work and transportation needs of the large immigrant community near Buford Highway in Atlanta. A full-time social worker will continue to be available and dedicated to providing education, support and coordination to families that visit the practice.

Children's will provide primary care to children through a new partnership with Mercy Care, a federally qualified health center offering child and adult primary care predominately to immigrant and transient populations.

2017-2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Progress Report

Children’s conducted its first CHNA in 2013, leveraging 67 community leaders in focus groups to identify the 10 most pressing needs for Children’s 18-county primary and secondary service area, including Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Forsyth, Cherokee, Douglas, Clayton, Henry, Fayette, Hall, Paulding, Walton, Bartow, Newton, Rockdale, Carroll and Coweta. Children’s conducted its second CHNA in 2016, surveying leaders from a diverse range of healthcare professionals to rank the pediatric health needs identified in 2013, while identifying new emerging issues.

All 10 of the health needs identified in the 2016 CHNA have been addressed by programs and services at Children’s. In addition to leveraging existing programs, over the past three years, Children’s has placed special emphasis on advancing four needs, as these tightly aligned with Children’s strategic plan, including:

- Provide coordination and continuity of services through “medical homes”
- Enhance partnerships to improve access to behavioral health services
- Deliver programs that reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents in the community
- Provide access to subspecialty services

Community need #1:

Provide coordination and continuity of services through “medical homes”

Children’s 2017-2019 Implementation Plan

In 2016, Children’s committed to continuing to provide primary care services at the primary care centers and operate 404-785-(KIDS) to assist caregivers in determining appropriate levels of care for their children and coordinate care through early learning centers across metro Atlanta with guidance from the Healthy Beginnings health navigator.

Children’s plan also included the expansion of The Children’s Care Network (TCCN) as well as the implementation of multiple new quality improvement programs.

Progress and Accomplishments

Children’s implemented several initiatives during the last three years to provide continuity of services through medical homes. Children’s has identified the “practice of the future” as part of a primary care strategy to partner with community pediatricians and ensure sufficient providers to cover the needs of children living in Atlanta.

Children’s expanded its Children Care Network (TCCN) network to 442 providers. This network is the foundation for metro Atlanta primary care pediatricians and specialists to work together to define, refine and demonstrate improved quality and outcomes. Clinical integration supports the medical home by bringing together all the key providers—primary care physicians, specialists and inpatient providers—through data-sharing, focused quality improvement initiatives and better coordination across the care continuum, to enable primary care physicians to better manage the healthcare needs of their patients.

Since 2014, The Children’s Care Network has created a robust quality program, including the development and implementation of primary care core measures focusing on preventive services, concussion, asthma, obesity and diabetes prevention and treatment. Through focused quality improvement initiatives and better coordination across the care continuum, primary care physicians

can better manage the healthcare needs of their patients. Data collected on network performance on all the approved quality measures allows the physicians to improve clinical excellence and develop targeted improvements where warranted. Clinical integration helps to enhance the practice's ability to coordinate the patient's care, rather than delivering care in silos.

In 2019, Children's entered into an agreement with Mercy Care whereby primary care previously provided at Chamblee will now be covered through the Mercy Care Clinic. In this new arrangement, Children's will be responsible for staffing providers and ensuring appropriate protocols are followed to provide quality pediatric health services for infants, children and adolescents. Mercy Care is expected to serve the same population of Chamblee Clinic who primarily rely on Medicaid. From 2016 through 2018, the Chamblee clinic managed 52,078 visits and 8,810 patients.

Hughes Spalding is a hospital managed by Children's for Fulton-Dekalb Hospital Authority. In addition to being an acute care hospital with a full-service Emergency Department and inpatient beds, Hughes Spalding provides primary care services. From 2016 through 2018, the Hughes Spalding primary care clinic managed 67,170 visits and 18,817 patients. Hughes Spalding serves as the medical home for children in foster care and in custody of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services.

785-KIDS is a 24-hour service that helps caregivers determine appropriate levels of care for their children and helps bridge the gap for patients without access to a pediatrician. In 2018, 785-KIDS fielded 74,645 calls from parents across Georgia. It is staffed by specially trained pediatric nurses with an average of more than 15 years of telephone triage experience. The nurse advice line provides patients with access to skilled pediatric nurses, who give home care advice or advise patients to seek a higher level of care when needed. The team also provides care management services, including registered nurses dedicated to patients with concussions and diabetes.

The Healthy Beginnings Health Navigator works in early learning centers serving children between the ages of six weeks and four years old. Healthy Beginnings is a community-based model that integrates child health services and early childhood education to help young children stay healthy, develop on track, and thrive socially and emotionally in order to achieve academic success. The essential pillars of the work include health navigation and care coordination, health education, community partnerships, multidisciplinary care, behavioral health and social-emotional development, data collection and evaluation. The health navigator helps families access care and obtain follow-up care with the medical home after urgent and emergency care visits. In addition, the health navigator helps to reduce families' barriers to accessing care by arranging transportation, requesting interpreters, connecting families with health insurance navigators or even accompanying them to visits. From 2016 through 2018, the health navigator supported 500 children and their families.

Community need #2:

Enhance partnerships to improve access to behavioral health services

Children's 2017-2019 Implementation Plan

In 2016, Children's implementation plan included the continuation of inpatient and Emergency Department psychiatric consultations and select outpatient behavioral and developmental health services through various service lines.

Children's also committed to providing psychoeducational testing for children with learning, attention and emotional/behavioral problems through a program that is part of Emory's Partners for Equity in Adolescent and Child Health program (PEACH) within the department of pediatrics. PEACH has hired a behavioral health coordinator, who provides behavioral health screening and referral services at Hughes Spalding.

Children's committed to offer comprehensive care through the Marcus Autism Center that provides clinical services through the Diagnostic Assessments Clinic, Severe Behavior Program, Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program, and the Language and Learning Clinic, as well as educational programs, outreach clinics and support services. Marcus conducted research findings into clinical practice and extending these findings into the community and naturalistic settings.

Children's stated the intent to provide ongoing provider education including CME classes, a behavioral health advice line and resources that could be easily accessible by the provider.

Progress and Accomplishments

Since 2016, Children's has been partnering with pediatricians to build capacity in the community for behavioral health. Children's adopted Project ECHO, a hub-and-spoke model for knowledge sharing, led by expert teams who use multi-point videoconferencing to conduct virtual clinics with community providers. Additionally, Children's Behavioral Health Initiative committee provided several behavioral health educational symposiums throughout the year, including Severe Problem Behaviors, Early-Aged Anxiety, Behavioral Health System Update, The Growing Problem of Suicide, Behavioral Coping Plans, Disruptive Behaviors in Young Children, Eating Disorders and Depression.

In 2016, Children's piloted a six-month Behavioral Health Advice Line to provide community primary care pediatricians with enhanced educational opportunities and access to dedicated mental health professionals who can assist in addressing behavioral health issues. Based on the success of the pilot, the Advice Line was continued with increased hours of operation. The Behavioral Health Advice Line is staffed by an advanced practice psychiatric nurse who is available to provide clinical advice on de-identified patients within TCCN practices. Community pediatricians can call and speak to a psychiatric advanced practice nurse and receive help to screen, treat and diagnose, as well as connect providers to community resources for their patients.

In 2019, Children's developed a behavioral health prevention-based approach by initiating conversations with caregivers to foster resilience in all children. Children's developed both hard-copy and digital educational and training materials for stakeholders, as well as resource maps so that when a child needs escalated care, navigation is mitigated as an obstacle to receiving that care.

Children's continued to provide inpatient and Emergency Department consultations at Egleston, Scottish Rite and Hughes Spalding hospitals. Social workers at the Children's Primary Care Center at Chamblee and Primary Care Center assisted with behavioral health assessments and referral for those children in need of treatment.

Children's offered outpatient behavioral health services through various service lines including neurosciences, the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, Sibley Heart Center Cardiology, rehabilitation services, Strong4Life Clinic, transplant services, and pain and palliative care.

Children's partnered with mental health providers within the community to offer support and provide services, where available. To provide increased access to behavioral health support and services, Children's launched a tele-psychiatry pilot project at the Primary Care Center at Chamblee in 2018 and a second pilot at Hudson Bridge in 2019.

Children's continues to offer comprehensive services and evidence-based treatments for children with autism spectrum disorder through the Marcus Autism Center, a National Institute's of Health Autism Center of Excellence. The Marcus Autism Center is one of the largest and most comprehensive centers in the country for the diagnosis and treatment of ASD and related disorders, providing specialty services and evidence-based treatments to approximately 500 children and impacting at least 500 more children in the community each year.

In 2016, Marcus added five new treatment rooms to the Severe Behavior Clinic, including a secure suite for elopement evaluations, which is the only room of its kind in the U.S. In 2017, Marcus Autism Center was chosen by the National Institutes of Health as one of only five Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE). In addition, Marcus developed new multidisciplinary services, including a Toddler Clinic focused on diagnostic evaluations and a pilot toddler workshop integrating speech and psychology.

The Marcus Autism Center continues to provide clinical services through four primary programs:

- The Diagnostic Assessment Clinic continued to pair cutting-edge research and the best diagnostic measures for ASD and related disorders with a large clinical practice performing diagnosis to more than 500 children in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- The Severe Behavior Program continued to address problem behaviors, including aggression, self-injury, pica, property destruction and others. In 2017, the Severe Behavior Program averaged more than a 91% reduction in these behaviors.

- The Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program, the only multi-disciplinary program in Georgia, continued to offer comprehensive treatment for children with chronic and severe problems with food consumption.
- The Language and Learning Clinic continued to teach new skills. Children seen in this clinic acquired functional communication including vocal language, augmentative communication systems and sign language.

In 2018, Marcus successfully launched the Investigational Device Clinical Trial that uses eye-tracking technology to assess the presence of ASD. This research aims to diagnose and treat children with autism at an earlier age. The Marcus Foundation has also allocated funds to continue expanding the feeding program at Marcus Autism Center. Children with autism are five times more likely to have feeding problems than other children, with 46% of children on the spectrum experiencing moderate to severe feeding disorders. These disorders can isolate families, forcing them to completely change their meal routines and restricting socialization with the community. Mild forms of feeding disorders result in frequent tantrums associated with food refusal behaviors, while the most severe forms can require hospitalization for placement of a feeding tube. To reach more families in need, Marcus Autism Center recently expanded the Feeding Program into the Center for Advanced Pediatrics, which opened in July 2018. The Marcus Foundation funds will ensure that the expertise and resources offered by the program reach not only children with autism, but also typically developing children with feeding disorders resulting from prematurity or other medical conditions.

Community need #3:

Deliver programs that reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents in the community

Children’s 2017-2019 Implementation Plan

In 2016, Children’s continued its commitment to lead Georgia in the effort to reduce the prevalence of weight problems and obesity in children and adolescents. Through clinical care, education and community outreach, Children’s committed to investing and expanding evidence-based programs and services to children in Georgia with the goal of changing obesity trends in the state.

Progress and Accomplishments

Strong4Life offers a unique and comprehensive approach to decrease the prevalence of obesity in Georgia: multiple types of approaches in programming formats, multiple stakeholders and target populations, strategic partnerships that maximize reach and impact and multiple goals in order to hit a range of points along a continuum of change.

In response to the nearly one million overweight and obese children in Georgia, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta made a commitment in 2011 to help tackle the issue with a movement called Strong4Life. Since inception, Strong4Life has made significant strides in building awareness through educating children, their families and key influencers. In 2016, Children’s expanded the Strong4Life Provider Program to include a focus on early feeding. The Early Feeding Program builds on evidence-informed strategies of responsive feeding to instill healthy habits from birth. To date, Strong4Life has trained nearly 4,000 healthcare providers in all of Georgia’s 159 counties. Over the past three years, over 3,000 key influencers including providers, individuals in the community, school health professionals, clinic assistants, cafeteria employees and school nutrition managers have attended Strong4Life trainings to gain evidence-based, actionable information to then be able to support their local communities. Ultimately, the Strong4Life Program has reached over 1.5 million children through its programs and initiatives.

Children’s continues to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity through Strong4Life’s many programs:

- The Strong4Life Clinic, created specifically for patients in the 95th percentile and above, is composed of a specialized, multidisciplinary team dedicated to providing families with achievable, personalized physical activity and nutrition goals. From 2016 through 2018, the clinic reached nearly 1,200 unique patients, conducting a total of 3,621 visits with 74% of patients stabilizing or decreasing their BMI.

- Children's has also hosted Camp Strong4Life where kids 9 to 14 years old with a body mass index (BMI) greater than the 85 percentile spend a week with physicians, nutritionists and exercise physiologists learning to set healthy goals and incorporate them at home. A total of 216 children attended Camp Strong4Life across the summers of 2016, 2017 and 2018, learning about goal setting and healthy habits to share with their families.
- Through the Strong4Life school programs, Children's now has a presence in over 1,800 schools.
- Strong4Life collaborates with organizations, such as YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Children's Museum of Atlanta, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta, Georgia Recreation and Parks Association, to develop grassroots efforts and solutions that are tailored to the needs of local communities. The Strong4Life team has hosted over 180 community events with over 30,000 children in attendance since 2016.
- Since 2016, 27 abstracts have been published to expand the awareness and influence of Strong4Life in the provider community.

Community need #4: Provide access to subspecialty services

Children's 2017-2019 Implementation Plan

In 2016, Children's decided to place increased emphasis on the addition of sites of service, providing care closer to the patient. Children's committed to open subspecialty clinics in Cherokee, Henry and Gwinnett counties, while increasing its footprint at the Town Center location in Cobb County.

Progress and Accomplishments

Based on the opinion of contributors to the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment, access to pediatric subspecialty care was identified as a major need throughout Georgia. From 2016-2018, Children's placed increased emphasis on the addition of sites of service to provide care closer to the patient, opened new subspecialty clinics, increased our footprint in Cobb County and completed construction on a multispecialty medical office building to provide improved access and increased patient convenience.

Children's Specialty Services is managed by the Children's Physician Group, one of the largest pediatric multispecialty physician practices in the Southeast. Children's offers more than 60 pediatric specialties with access to more than 2,100 physicians. Children's offers subspecialty care at over 50 physical locations across the state and, combined with its telemedicine sites, serves all 159 counties in Georgia.

To better serve children and families in suburban metro Atlanta counties, Children's opened new urgent care facilities in Cherokee, Henry and Gwinnett counties. In total, Children's operates eight pediatric urgent care sites throughout metro Atlanta and beyond to provide care closer to the patient. Children's pediatric urgent care centers provide staff specially trained to diagnose and treat children 0-21 years old; walk-in hours seven days a week, including evenings and holidays; lab and x-ray services; fracture care and access to pediatric orthopedic specialists; electronic prescription submission; online scheduling; and access to Children's network of doctors and pediatric specialists.

Opened in 2018, The Children's at Town Center Outpatient Care Center offers families in Cobb County and surrounding areas access to an expanded sports medicine gym, outpatient rehabilitation, and orthotics and prosthetics, as well as pediatric specialists, including allergy, otolaryngology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general surgery, nephrology, orthopedics and pulmonology. These services joined the existing urgent care and radiology offerings already offered on this campus.

In 2018, Children's opened The Center for Advanced Pediatrics, bringing together multiple pediatric clinics and specialists to allow for a better way to treat children and teens with chronic diseases and complex care needs. The 260,000-square-foot outpatient facility provides care across more than 20 pediatric specialties with more than 250 rooms for patient care, basic imaging and lab services, and a research center.

Appendix A: Contributor Acknowledgments

2019 CHNA Survey Participants and Key Informant Interviewees

Roy Benaroch, MD Pediatrician Pediatric Physicians, PC	Cheryl Benefield Program Manager Georgia Department of Education
Helena Bentley, MD Physician KidCare Pediatrics, LLC	Keri Berry, LPN School Health Professional Denmark High School
Tiffini Billingsly Medical Director Premier Pediatric Associates	Fiona Blair Physician-owner ABC Pediatric Group
Danita Breeden, RN School Health Professional Chickamauga City Schools	Gwendolyn Brown School Health Professional Atlanta Public Schools
Ms. Willie Cannady Clinic Aide Henry County School	Jennifer Cantrell CPNP Cornerstone Pediatrics
Alicia Cardwell-Alston District Communications Director Fulton County Board of Health	Gwen Chambers, RN Lead Nurse/School Health Professional Cherokee County School District
Rajani Chaudhari, MD Physician Rajani Chaudhari MDPC Pediatrics and Adolescents	Nicola Chin, MD Physician Morehouse Healthcare
Mark Coker, MD Physician Coker Pediatrics	Tim Coley Director Parks & Recreation
Jeff Cooper, MD Pediatrician Cooper Pediatrics	Catherine Crenson, PA Physician Assistant Sun Pediatrics
Lisa Crossman Deputy Director Cobb & Douglas Public Health	Rachelle Dennis-Smith, MD Pediatrician Pedia-Doc
Lori Desoutter, MD Pediatrician Pediatric Associates of North Atlanta	Jessica Doyle, MD Pediatrician Oakhurst Pediatrics

Missy Dugan CEO Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta	Tara Echols Performance Management & Community Health Director GNR Health
Gerren Ector, MD Pediatrician Tri-County Pediatrics	Tina Fleming Director, Gwinnett County Department of Community Services Gwinnett County
Lakita Ford Program Manager City of South Fulton Parks and Recreation	Cassandra Foster School Clinic Worker GCPS
Lester A Freeman, MD Pediatrician Teens, Little Ones & Children Pediatrics, LLC	Fay Fulton Executive Vice President Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
Ann Goehe Special Education Nurse DeKalb Schools	Dawn Hickmon, RN School Health Professional Forsyth County Schools
Valencia Hildreth Comprehensive Health Services Manager Atlanta Public Schools	Eric Hoffler, MD Physician ABC Pediatrics
Ginger Hogan, LPN School Health Professional Shiloh Point Elementary	Moncia Holzwarth, MD Physician Pediatric and Adolescent Healthcare
Dr. Angela Horrison-Collier Director of Student Services Clayton County Public Schools	Sharon Howell School Health Professional Forsyth County BOE
Jasmine Hughey Paraprofessional Henry County BOE	Lindsey Jorstad Outreach Manager Gwinnett County Department of Community Services
Michael Justus Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Paulding County Board of Commissioners	Abigail Kamishlian, MD Physician Daffodil Pediatrics
Kimberly Karlin Lead Nurse/School Health Professional RCPS	Cheryl Kendall Physician We Care Pediatric and Adolescent Group
Shelley Kim, MD Pediatrician Little Five Points Pediatrics	Debbie King, RN, BSN School Health Services Coordinator Fayette County Schools

Vicki Knight-Mathis, MD Physician DV Pediatrics	Shirleta Lawrence School Director Sheltering Arms
Richard Levitt, MD Physician North Fulton Pediatrics	Bob Licata, MD Physician Pediatric Associates
Valerie Lovejoy Family Child Care Provider Stem Grow LLC	Monette Lowe Elementary Clinic Assistant Rockdale County Public Schools
Sean Mack State WIC Director Georgia Department of Public Health, WIC	Khawaja Mahmood, MD Associate Professor of Pediatrics Mountainside Peds
Carol Martin Lead Nurse Newton County Schools	Dan Mathews COO Camp Twin Lakes
Rebecca McWalters School Health Professional Forsyth County Schools	Lynne P. Meadows Coordinator, Student Health Services Fulton County School System
Isaac Melamed, MD Pediatrician Kids Start Pediatrics	Janet Memark District Health Director Cobb and Douglas Public Health
Karen Minyard CEO and Professor Georgia Health Policy Center	Bill Moats HR Director Hall County Government
Roger Morales Medical Director Excellent Pediatrics	Cindy Mott Cluster Nurse—TeleHealth Henry County Schools (Not speaking as a representative of Henry County Schools, only from personal perspective and experience)
Debra Murdock Executive Director, School Operations Cherokee County School District	John Mynatt, MD Physician Locust Grove Pediatrics, LLC
Dorsey Norwood, MD Pediatrician Life Cycle Pediatrics, LLC	Wande Okunoren-Meadows Early Childhood Program Administrator Little Ones Learning Center
Tamara Olagbegi Site Director Our House	Kola Ologunja, MD Physician Spectrum Pediatric Group

J. Patrick O'Neal Retired DPH	Julie Opeka CPNP Grayson Pediatrics
Jill Overcash, MD Practice Owner and Pediatrician All About Kids Pediatrics	William Payne, MD Pediatrician Cartersville Pediatric Associates
Robert Platner, MD Pediatrician and Practice Owner Old Fourth Ward Pediatrics (Hammad & Platner)	C. Pleasant Childcare Provider Pleasant Family Childcare
Bentley Ponder Deputy Commissioner, Quality Innovations and Partnerships Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning	Darria Printup Education Disabilities Specialist Easter Seals North Georgia
Jim Pryor Director of Parks & Recreation Forsyth County Government	Pamela Quattlebaum, RN School Health Professional Rockdale County Public Schools, Shoal Creek Elementary
Ghazala Quraishi, MD Physician Crescent Neurology and Sleep	Michelle Raines HR Director DeKalb County Board of Health
Joseph Rosenfeld, MD Physician Snapfinger Woods Pediatrics	Connie Russell District Program Director Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale County Health Departments
Adriana Rzeznik, MD Pediatrician Woodstock Pediatric Medicine	Hal Scherz Managing Partner & President Georgia Urology
Luqman Seidu, MD Physician OMNI ALLERGY IMMUNOLOGY	Sonia Serrano Biller/Certified Medical Assistant Westside Pediatrics
Maribel Angka Servera, MD Physician Main Street IM & Peds PC	Allison Setterlind Georgia Head Start Collaboration Director Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
Anu Sheth, MD Physician Pediatric Associates of Lawrenceville	Gerald Silverboard, MD Physician
Ron Smith, MD Physician Owner Storybook Pediatrics	Kelly Spangler, RN School Health Professional Forsyth County Schools

<p>Teresa Tatum School Health Professional Clayton County School District, Clayton Elementary</p>	<p>Ruth Taylor Coordinator Fulton County School Nutrition Program</p>
<p>Ashlee Teli Program Director Little Sunshine's Playhouse</p>	<p>Cheryl Tillman, RN Lead Nurse/School Health Professional Walton County Schools</p>
<p>Michael Tim, MD Physician</p>	<p>Connie Trent Health Services Facilitator Forsyth County Schools</p>
<p>Yasmin Tyler-Hill Chair Dept of Pediatrics Morehouse School of Medicine</p>	<p>Phil Weiss, MD Physician North Atlanta Pediatrics</p>
<p>Robert Whipple, MD Physician</p>	<p>LaTrice Williams School Health Professional Atlanta Public School District</p>
<p>Douglas Williams, MD Pediatrician Georgetown Pediatrics</p>	<p>Melinda Willingham Physician Owner Decatur Pediatric Group</p>
<p>Bob Wiskind, MD Physician Peachtree Park Pediatrics</p>	

Appendix B: Children’s Resource Inventory

Primary Care/Medical Homes

Children’s provides primary care services at two locations: Mercy Care Atlanta at Chamblee and Primary Care Center at Hughes Spalding. In addition, through its clinically integrated network, The Children’s Care Network, primary care services are provided through 160 community practices in Georgia.

The Children’s Care Network: The Children’s Care Network was officially incorporated in 2014 and recruitment began in 2015. As of July 2019, The Children’s Care Network had recruited nearly 1,300 members, including 442 primary care providers.

The Children’s Care Network is the foundation for metro Atlanta primary care pediatricians and specialists to work together to define, refine and demonstrate improved quality and outcomes under the umbrella of a Clinically Integrated Network. Since 2014, The Children’s Care Network has created a robust quality program, including the development and implementation of primary care core measures focusing on HEDIS and other preventive services, concussion, depression, asthma and obesity. Clinical integration supports the medical home by bringing together all of the key providers—primary care physicians, specialists, ED and inpatient providers—through data-sharing, focused quality improvement initiatives and better coordination across the care continuum, to enable primary care physicians to better manage the healthcare needs of their patients. **Contact: 404-785-7935. tccn-choa.org**

Children’s Primary Care at Mercy Care is a service of Children’s, providing primary care for children from birth to age 18 at the Mercy Care Atlanta Chamblee location. Primary care doctors enable access to continuity and coordination of quality pediatric health services for infants, children and adolescents who primarily rely on Medicaid. Mercy Care Center at Chamblee is located at 5134 Peachtree Road. **Contact: 404-785-KIDS(5437). mercyatlanta.org**

Hughes Spalding is a hospital managed by Children’s for Fulton-Dekalb Hospital Authority. In addition to being an acute care hospital with a full-service Emergency Department and inpatient beds, Hughes Spalding provides primary care services. In 2018, the primary care center managed 22,915 visits and 10,655 patients. Hughes Spalding is located at 35 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE. **Contact: 404-785-KIDS(5437). choa.org/locations/hughes-spalding-hospital**

In addition to its primary care provision through The Children’s Care Network, Children’s at Chamblee and Hughes Spalding, Children’s offers services to its patients to coordinate care and enhance ease of access for parents and patients.

The Judson L. Hawk Jr., MD, Clinic for Children at the Center for Advanced Pediatrics is a service of Children’s and offers multispecialty outpatient treatment for children with a wide range of conditions. By housing all outpatient services together, families can receive comprehensive care for children with complex medical issues at this location. Specialists provide services to patients and families in one appointment, reducing the number of school and work absences. The Judson Hawk Clinic provides access to continuity and coordination of quality pediatric health service for infants, children and adolescents with complex medical issues. The Judson Hawk Clinic is located at 1400 Tullie Road NE. **Contact: 404-785-KIDS(5437). choa.org/locations/childrens-medical-office-building**

785-(KIDS) is a 24-hour service that helps caregivers determine appropriate levels of care for their children and can help bridge the gap for patients without access to a pediatrician. It is staffed by specially trained pediatric nurses with an average of more than 15 years of telephone triage experience. The nurse advice line provides patients with access to skilled pediatric nurses, who give home care advice or advise patients to seek a higher level of care when needed. The team also provides care management services, including registered nurses dedicated to patients with concussions and diabetes. **Contact: 404-785-KIDS(5437).**

The **Healthy Beginnings Health Navigator** works in early learning centers serving children between the ages of six weeks and four years old. Healthy Beginnings is a community-based model that integrates child health services and early childhood education to do our part to help young children stay healthy, develop on track, and thrive socially and emotionally in order to achieve academic success. The essential pillars of the work are:

- Health navigation and care coordination
- Health education
- Community partnerships
- Multidisciplinary care
- Behavioral health and social-emotional development
- Data collection and evaluation

The health navigator helps families access care and obtain follow-up care with the medical home after urgent and emergency care visits. In addition, the health navigator helps to reduce families' barriers to accessing care by arranging transportation, requesting interpreters, connecting families with health insurance navigators or even accompanying them to visits. Families are provided with individualized health education on topics such as the American Academy of Pediatrics periodicity schedule of well child visits, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immunization schedule, developmental milestones and chronic condition management to support parent knowledge, encourage timely well child visits and facilitate parent engagement at the medical home.

The **West Side Health Collaborative** formed in 2016 to address growing disparities among one of Atlanta's communities. The Westside on the Rise initiative seeks a safer, healthier and more prosperous community through five areas of impact: education, health, economic inclusion, crime and safety, and civic empowerment. Children's supports this initiative through a community nurse navigator based in the westside community. The Children's nurse navigator is based at Promise Center to provide connection to services, to provide ongoing management of children's health concerns and to create partnerships with local organizations for delivery of healthcare. In 2018, 185 children and families received navigation services.

Behavioral Health Resources

Children's is a national leader in developmental healthcare with a focus on ASD.

Marcus Autism Center

For children with autism spectrum disorder, Marcus Autism Center offers specialty services and evidence-based treatments to approximately 5,000 children each year within its walls and impacts at least 5,000 additional children in the community. Marcus Autism Center offers clinical services, educational programs, outreach clinics, support services and access to one of the largest healthcare teams dedicated to child development in Georgia. As a National Institutes of Health Autism Center of Excellence, Marcus Autism Center serves as a community resource for parents and children across Georgia and is one of the largest and most comprehensive centers in the country for the diagnosis and treatment of ASD and related disorders. Marcus Autism Center actively collaborates with the Georgia Department of Public Health's Babies Can't Wait Program, Georgia's Department of Early Care and Learning's program Bright from the Start, and Head Start programs locally and nationally. Marcus Autism Center also collaborates with 1,700 Children's community physicians and the Kids Health First Pediatric Alliance in metropolitan Atlanta. Strategic alliances enable Marcus Autism Center to translate ASD research findings to providers across Georgia.

The mission of Marcus Autism Center is to maximize the potential of children with ASD today and transform the nature of ASD for future generations. Marcus Autism Center is achieving this goal through the integration of multiple services into one coordinated care model, quickly translating research findings into clinical practice and extending into the community and naturalistic settings.

Marcus Autism Center offers four primary clinical programs:

- The Diagnostic Assessments Clinic pairs cutting-edge research and the best diagnostic measures for ASD and related disorders with a large clinical practice performing diagnoses for 23 or more children a week. The clinics offer medical care along with psychological evaluations, allowing clinicians to provide excellent care with the shortest possible wait time. Contact: 404-785-9350. marcus.org/clinical-services/clinical-assessments-and-diagnostics

- The Severe Behavior Program addresses problem behaviors including aggression, self-injury, property destruction, disruptive behavior, pica, elopement and others. Over the past several years, the Severe Behavior Program has averaged more than an 80% reduction in these behaviors, even though the patients seen in this program represent the most severely challenging population. **Contact: 404-785-9350. marcus.org/clinical-services/behavior/severe-behavior-day-treatment**
- The Pediatric Feeding Disorders Program is one of the few multidisciplinary programs in the United States, and the only program in Georgia, offering comprehensive treatment for children with chronic and severe problems with food consumption. These issues well exceed ordinary developmental variations in hunger, food preferences and interest in eating. Contact: 404-785-9493. **marcus.org/clinical-services/feeding**
- The Language and Learning Clinic teaches new skills, particularly in communication. Approximately 63% of children in the program were non-vocal at admission. Of the children that have been treated, more than 80% acquired functional communication including vocal language, augmentative communication systems and sign language. **Contact: 404-785-9400. marcus.org/clinical-services/language-and-learning-clinic**

The Preschool Program, now offering Georgia Pre-K, is a collaboration of Marcus Autism Center, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University offering preschool education to children with and without autism to learn together. The preschool operates as both a school and a place of research on preschool education. Because of this unique relationship, our program continuously creates new and better ways of supporting families and meeting the learning needs of all children with high teacher-to-student ratios. **Contact: 404-785-6511. marcus.org/care-and-services/preschool-program**

Assessment in primary care settings:

The Children’s Primary Care Center at Chamblee and Primary Care Center at Hughes Spalding have social workers on site to help with behavioral health assessments. Children requiring treatment are referred to the appropriate setting for care.

Provider education:

In 2016, Children’s initiated a Behavioral Health Educational Initiative, funded by its physician philanthropic organization, the 1998 Society, focused on building a primary care network that can address behavioral health needs. The effort includes a three-pronged approach:

- **Better access to behavioral health expert advice:** In 2016, Children’s piloted a six-month Behavioral Health Advice Line to provide community primary care pediatricians with enhanced educational opportunities and access to dedicated mental health professionals who can assist in addressing behavioral health issues. Based on the success of the pilot, the Advice Line was continued with increased hours of operation. The Behavioral Health Advice Line is staffed by an advanced practice psychiatric nurse who is available to provide clinical advice on de-identified patients within TCCN practices. From 2017-2018, the advice line received 219 calls.
- **Increasing community provider knowledge and comfort with primary behavioral healthcare:** The Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative committee provided several behavioral health educational symposiums throughout the year, including eating disorders, ADHD, depression, severe behavior problems, anxiety, suicide and using a multi-disciplinary approach to improving care, among many others. In 2017, Children’s launched a year-long behavioral health ECHO focused on diagnosis and management of depression and anxiety. Twenty-two primary care practices participated. Participation was associated with improvements in confidence, knowledge and behavior.
- **Access to online educational resources in one place:** The Behavioral Health Physician Portal Resource Page was launched in 2016 on the Children’s physician website to serve as an online resource center with behavioral health resources, links to related behavioral health organizations, questionnaires for assessing patient depression and anxiety, family education materials and upcoming educational opportunities.

Outpatient hospital services:

- Outpatient behavioral health services are offered through various service lines at Children’s including neurosciences, the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, Sibley Heart Center Cardiology, rehabilitation services, Health4Life Clinic, transplant services, and pain and palliative care.

- These outpatient services cover a wide array, ranging from coping with pain to assessing potential developmental delay as a result of chemotherapy treatments.
- Children’s partners with mental health providers within the community to offer support and provide services where available.

Inpatient hospital services:

- Children’s does not operate an inpatient behavioral health unit, but it addresses behavioral health contributors to medical illness through a comprehensive consultation-liaison service.
- Inpatient and Emergency Department consultations are available at Egleston, Scottish Rite and Hughes Spalding.

Childhood Obesity

Children’s has taken a leading role within Georgia in developing and supporting programs to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity in the community. Highlighted below are the extensive programs, education and services offered.

Programs in clinical settings: Children’s works in its clinical settings to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity through several programs, including:

- **Strong4Life Clinic:** The Strong4Life Clinic is a multidisciplinary team of medical providers, dietitians, exercise physiologists and psychologists who work with patients and families to provide intensive treatment of obesity through the promotion of a physically active lifestyle, healthy eating habits and behavior changes. Patient successes include healthy weight loss and weight management, increase in daily physical activity, improved nutritional intake, reduction of incidence of associated comorbidities, and improved quality of life and self-image. Children’s also provides bariatric surgery to those children with extreme weight issues. **Contact: 404-785-3512.**
- Sibley Heart Center Cardiology houses a preventive cardiology program to assist cardiac patients who are overweight and obese. The program provides diet and nutrition counseling. choa.org/medical-services/cardiac-care/sibley-heart-center-cardiology
- Hughes Spalding Hospital has an obesity clinic and refers kids to the Strong4Life Clinic if they need more advanced treatment.

Strong4Life:

In 2011, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta launched the Strong4Life movement, a unique model for change designed to improve the health and well-being of Georgia’s children. The focus is on reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity through prevention and treatment initiatives for kids and those that influence their lives. Strong4Life aims to leverage Children’s clinical and nutrition expertise and thought leadership with other organizations who are joining the fight against childhood obesity. Strong4Life impacts kids and families through programs and community partnerships designed to deliver consistent messages and support that bring about sustainable lifestyle change. Since 2011, Strong4Life has made significant strides in building awareness, impacting over 1.5 million children, training nearly 4,000 healthcare providers throughout the state and establishing a presence in more than 1,800 schools in 172 Georgia school districts. **Strong4Life.com**

Community awareness:

- Increasing awareness of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents: Children’s continues to leverage its marketing expertise to deliver messages that address this critical need and inspire change. Children’s employs traditional media campaigns, as well as digital media and other tactics, to reach parents in the community.
- Strong4Life website: Children’s created the Strong4Life website, strong4life.com, to educate parents and empower key influencers to support change and provide practical solutions for those ready to change. The site contains:
 - Videos, fact sheets, recipes, activity ideas and other useful information on healthy habits
 - In-depth information on all Strong4Life programs, as well as community resources
 - Specific information for physicians and other clinical professionals interested in training and continuing medical education (CME)

Strong4Life community programs:

- **Strong4Life Provider Program:** The Strong4Life Provider Program is designed to improve healthcare providers' ability to influence patients and families to choose healthy lifestyles to reduce childhood obesity. The program is free and includes a lecture, videos and hands-on practice sessions centered on counseling, supported by a toolkit of materials. Physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners who complete the training are recognized on the Strong4Life website as Certified Strong4Life Providers. The Strong4Life Provider Program also provides an Early Feeding Program, focusing on early prevention (conception to three years of age), as prevention and early intervention are critical to reversing Georgia's childhood obesity epidemic. **[Strong4Life.com/landing-pages/providers-and-professionals](https://www.strong4life.com/landing-pages/providers-and-professionals)**
- **Strong4Life webinars:** As an extension of the Strong4Life Provider Program, Children's offers a series of live streaming webcasts related to the management and treatment of comorbidities associated with childhood obesity. The webcasts are offered during lunchtime and feature a 45-minute roundtable discussion among experts in the field.
- **Early Childhood Intervention Book Program:** This early intervention program aims to address prevention of unhealthy habits before they start. In this program, providers, including pediatricians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, provide evidence-based messaging at well-child checkups and provide families with a children's book reinforcing the same messages. The program has the dual benefit of reinforcing messages that prevent obesity while also promoting reading and literacy. Since 2013, Strong4Life has distributed 156,379 books to pediatric offices and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices throughout the state.
- **Essentials of child and adolescent weight management training for registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN):** The Strong4Life RDN Training Program aims to develop and support a network of registered dietitian nutritionists across the state of Georgia with the targeted skills and training to provide medical nutrition therapy to manage and treat childhood obesity. The program uses a continuous tiered education format with a combination of live and web-based training and hands-on workshops. RDNs who attend training components are promoted as a referral resource to pediatric primary care providers, enabling RDNs and pediatricians to work collaboratively to reduce childhood obesity in Georgia. **[Strong4Life.com/providers-and-professionals/registered-dietitians](https://www.strong4life.com/providers-and-professionals/registered-dietitians)**
- **Strong4Life WIC Training Program:** Sixty percent of Georgia's children are eligible for the Georgia WIC Program. Accordingly, Children's developed the Strong4Life WIC Training Program to equip nutritionists with the necessary tools and resources to motivate families to choose healthy lifestyles that prevent and reduce childhood obesity. The program aims to enhance goal setting by the WIC nutritionist and increase goal adherence of the caregiver. Currently, WIC requires each nutritionist to complete an online Strong4Life module about motivational interviewing and early feeding best practices. **[Strong4Life.com/providers-and-professionals/georgia-wic](https://www.strong4life.com/providers-and-professionals/georgia-wic)**
- **Strong4Life School Nutrition Program:** The Strong4Life School Nutrition Program aims to increase consumption of healthier foods in Georgia school lunchrooms by equipping school nutrition team members with targeted skills and an innovative toolkit. Strong4Life uses basic marketing principles to encourage kids to make positive choices regarding the foods they eat. **[Strong4Life.com/landing-pages/school-nutrition](https://www.strong4life.com/landing-pages/school-nutrition)**
- **Strong4Life School Nurse Program:** The goal of the Strong4Life School Nurse Program is to educate and empower Georgia's school health professionals to serve as health ambassadors in the school. Specifically, the program provides nurses with the nutrition knowledge and counseling skills necessary to positively impact students' health. School health professionals learn how to have conversations with students and parents around nutrition and the Strong4Life healthy habits. Children's provides ongoing technical assistance and webinar training to enhance the skills of the nurses. **[Strong4Life.com/providers-and-professionals/school-nurses](https://www.strong4life.com/providers-and-professionals/school-nurses)**
- **Strong4Life Challenge:** Strong4Life Challenge is a program that teaches elementary school children about the importance of good nutrition and physical activity in a fun and challenging way, energizing the entire school community. The program provides schools with a kick-off pep rally, follow-up visit to the PE classroom and cafeteria, as well as fun incentives for students and teachers, including water bottles and t-shirts.
- **Camp Strong4Life:** Camp is based upon the premise of simple, sustainable change through the adoption of healthy habits while having fun through a curriculum developed by a multidisciplinary team of experts. The overnight camp, held in partnership with Camp Twin Lakes, provides targeted interventions for children ages 9 to 14 with a BMI in the 85th percentile or higher. The unique camp experience engages the entire family, providing hands-on learning and skill building. **[Strong4Life.com/programs/camp/about-camp-strong4life](https://www.strong4life.com/programs/camp/about-camp-strong4life)**

- **Wellness Blueprint:** The Wellness Blueprint aims to promote a healthy environment within youth organizations. A Wellness Blueprint is a set of written standards an organization commits to achieving to promote the health and wellness of those reached by their programs and services. In this program, Strong4Life engages organization leaders one-on-one to develop an individualized Wellness Blueprint. A key component of the program is the Strong4Life Wellness Hub, which includes a wellness assessment, a wellness basecamp, a youth hall of fame and healthy habits videos. Participating organizations receive two toolkits to support their wellness efforts. [Strong4Life.com/landing-pages/wellness](https://www.strong4life.com/landing-pages/wellness)
- **Champions Program:** The Champions Program invites Children’s employees to participate as volunteer representatives of Strong4Life at community events. Champions increase Strong4Life’s presence at community events, while engaging Children’s employees in the initiative. Champions are trained throughout the year and agree to volunteer for a minimum of eight hours per year. In addition to providing a valuable community service, several Champions report that they adopted healthier habits as a result of participating.
- **Community events:** Strong4Life’s participation is often requested for community events, such as health fairs, festivals and more. Strong4 Life’s participation in these events is a vehicle for delivering key campaign messages, promoting programs and building relationships with community partners and stakeholders. Positioning itself as a go-to resource on childhood obesity and healthy habits, Strong4Life has a responsibility to offer support resources to the community.
- **Publications dissemination:** Strong4Life continues to contribute to the body of research around childhood obesity prevention and treatment, reflecting a programmatic priority for understanding its causes and finding replicable solutions. In 2018, Strong4Life submitted eight abstracts to professional journals, with additional abstracts and posters to state and national conferences, all of which were accepted for either publication or presentation.

Strong4Life programs in collaboration with community organizations: Children’s, in collaboration with community organizations, is working to further support the fight against overweight and obesity in children and adolescents. Some community collaborations include:

- Alpharetta Parks and Recreation
- Atlanta Community Food Bank
- Camp Twin Lakes
- City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation
- City of Roswell Parks and Recreation
- City of Smyrna Parks and Recreation
- Emory University
- Georgia Association of School Nurses
- Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition
- Georgia Department of Education
- Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Georgia Recreation and Parks Association
- Georgia Shape
- Georgia WIC
- Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation
- Kids Health First Pediatric Alliance
- Roswell Recreation, Parks, Historic and Cultural Affairs Department
- YMCA of Metro Atlanta

Sub-Specialty Care

Children’s Specialty Services is managed by the Children’s Physician Group, one of the largest pediatric multispecialty physician practices in the Southeast. Children’s has more than 30 pediatric specialties and programs and more than 500 physicians and 350 advanced practice providers. All Children’s specialists accept and serve Medicaid patients. Children’s offers access to pediatric subspecialists across 25+ neighborhood locations in Atlanta and surrounding communities. Pediatric specialists are available to patients and healthcare providers through telemedicine, offering remote consultations, evaluations and training. Children’s specialties include:

- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesia
- Apnea
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Child Advocacy
- Critical Care
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Diabetes and Endocrinology
- Emergency Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery
- Gynecology
- Hematology/Oncology
- Hepatology
- Hospitalists
- Infectious Diseases
- Interventional Radiology
- Neonatology

- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Neuropsychology
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
- Otolaryngology (ENT)
- Pathology
- Physiatry
- Plastic Surgery
- Primary Care
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonology
- Radiology
- Rheumatology
- Sedation Services
- Sleep
- Transplant
- Urgent Care

For a full list of Children’s specialties and locations, please call **404-785-KIDS (5437)** or visit **choa.org/medical-services/childrens-physician-group**.

The **Center for Advanced Pediatrics** opened in 2018 to bring complex care specialists, modern technology and advanced research for outpatient pediatric care under one roof. Children’s offers services including aerodigestive, allergy and immunology, asthma, cardiac, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, developmental progress, diabetes, endocrinology, feeding, gastroenterology, general and thoracic surgery, genetics, gynecology, infectious disease, interventional radiology, medically complex care, multispecialty clinics, nephrology, neurogastroenterology, neurology, neurophysiology, neuropsychology, orthopedics and sports medicine, orthotics and prosthetics, otolaryngology, pain relief, pelvic and anorectal, physiatry, pulmonology, rheumatology, sleep disorders, Strong4Life and vascular anomalies clinic. The Center for Advanced Pediatrics is located at 1400 Tullie Road NE. **Contact: 404-785-KIDS(5437). choa.org/locations/center-for-advanced-pediatrics**

Adolescent Care

In September 2013, Children’s began operating an adolescent health clinic at Hughes Spalding. In 2016, the clinic received a grant from Rooms To Go to provide a psychologist, nurse practitioner, social worker, counselor and peer support dedicated to adolescent health issues to begin July 2017. Teens are referred from across the Children’s network to the clinic. **Contact: 404-785-9855. choa.org/medical-services/adolescent-medicine**

Adolescent health clinic: The clinic at Hughes Spalding provides services in the following areas:

- Comprehensive medical care for adolescents, including school and sports physicals and vaccines
- Comprehensive sexual education and related medical care for teens with developmental delays
- Evaluation and treatment of menstrual and gynecological disorders
- Female and male confidential family planning services
- Pregnancy testing
- Pregnancy prevention education
- Puberty and growth concerns
- Screening and medical care for patients with eating disorders such as anorexia and obesity
- Screening and treatment for mental health issues such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), uncomplicated anxiety and depression, and self-injurious behaviors
- Sexually transmitted infection and HIV screening and treatment
- Substance abuse screening
- Tobacco cessation counseling

Asthma, Allergies and Respiratory

Children’s is committed to helping reduce the prevalence of asthma and the number of emergency room visits caused by asthma. Several programs at Children’s work to make this happen. **choa.org/medical-services/asthma**

Children’s Asthma Demonstration Project: The Atlanta Asthma Demonstration Project (AADP) quality improvement initiative was conducted in 2015, in partnership between Children’s and 11 community pediatric practices, to try to improve asthma care based

on current evidenced-based guidelines (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Guidelines). The AADP, led by a pulmonologist, general pediatrician and emergency medicine physician, included multiple practice-based interventions over a 12-month period. As a result of the project, Children's saw a decrease in hospital admissions and emergency department utilization and an increase in urgent care visits for asthma.

High-Risk Asthma Program: The Children's High-Risk Asthma Program has been standardized at Scottish Rite, Egleston, Hughes Spalding and outpatient clinics serving more than 475 children. The goal of the program is to coordinate care and support for families and children with asthma. The program provides education and communication between families, providers and schools to help decrease missed days of school, hospital admissions and Emergency Department visits.

Children's Asthma Center: The Asthma Center located at Hughes Spalding provides testing, treatments and equipment for patients with asthma. Pediatricians at the center go to the homes of patients to coordinate their care and assess the environmental conditions of the child's living environment. Pediatricians at the center also educate patients, community physicians and school staff on triggers and asthma management. The program includes a nurse navigator who is dedicated to providing further education, support and coordination to patients seen through the Hughes Spalding Emergency Department, admitted as inpatients or seen in the Asthma Center.

Comprehensive Asthma Management Program: Through this program, we conducted 23 asthma education presentations, reaching 900 Children's employees, school health professionals, school staff members and after-school program staff. We distributed asthma equipment to children and schools, provided developmentally appropriate asthma education to 137 campers and 76 volunteers at Camp Breathe Easy, and conducted two educational ACE mentor programs for 73 physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile: The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile began providing medical care to children at metro Atlanta schools in 2016. Launched in October 2016, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a mobile clinic that visits schools in metro Atlanta to provide medical services for children with asthma. Since 2016, the Care Mobile has seen 3,212 children. In 2018, the program expanded from nine schools to 11 schools with 1,375 visits for 652 unique patients. We also saw a 10% decrease in the number of missed school days for Care Mobile patients in 2018. The concept, which is part of a larger outreach program of the Children's Asthma Center at Hughes Spalding hospital, is a collaborative effort between Children's and Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities. Asthma is one of the leading reasons for missed school days in Georgia, and access to care is a barrier to asthma control identified by many families. By bringing asthma medical care directly to the schools, we aim for kids to be able to gain control of their asthma, miss less school and spend less time in unnecessary emergency room visits. Children's mission is to bring asthma care where kids live, learn and play. rmhc.org/ronald-mcdonald-care-mobile

Education and research: Children's provides training and educational video series for schools, community providers and coaches on what to do during an asthma-related emergency. In 2016, Children's began to offer CME on raising awareness of asthma management. Children's supports multiple research initiatives around the treatment and prevention of asthma to improve the recognition of asthma severity.

School Health

Children's has a robust history of collaborating with schools in the community and provides several services and alliances to keep kids healthy and reduce absenteeism. choa.org/schoolhealth

Children's regional school health coordinator: Children's has a full-time regional school health coordinator that collaborates with over 3,400 schools and 1,600 school health professionals throughout Georgia to provide updates and webinars on clinical pediatric topics and staff education for school districts in metro Atlanta. The regional school health coordinator serves as the primary contact for school health professionals to call to discuss programmatic needs and difficult cases. The regional school health coordinator also provides resources to the school health community, including an annual conference for school health professionals, a common infectious illnesses poster, teaching sheets and educational videos. **Contact Gail Smith, B.S.N., R.N.: 404-785-7202.**

Georgia School Health Resource Manual: Children’s provides school health professionals with a free, regularly updated, online Georgia School Health Resource Manual, which is also available for purchase in hard copy. The manual includes sections on injury management and emergency medical concerns, administration of medications, communicable disease and infection control, chronic health conditions, special health procedures in a school setting, mental health in schools, screening considerations in the school setting, health education, and employee health and workplace wellness.

Children’s Asthma Management Education Program: The Asthma Management Education Program trains school health professionals, school staff and healthcare professionals in asthma management. Topics include controlling asthma triggers and helping children safely participate in school and physical activities. Program offerings include on-site presentations, trainings through the Asthma Care and Education (ACE) Program, asthma education resources and asthma equipment. **Contact Ginger Tuminello: 404-785-7240. choa.org/medical-services/asthma**

Scoliosis Screening Program: The Scoliosis Screening Program partners with public health and school health professionals to detect early signs of scoliosis. Students can be referred to one of the registered nurse-facilitated scoliosis tertiary clinics for an X-ray evaluation, and the results and treatment recommendations are sent to the family and primary care physician. The annual Scoliosis Screening Conference is conducted for healthcare professionals and focuses on scoliosis screening techniques, research and treatment methods. **Contact: 404-785-7553. choa.org/medical-services/orthopaedics/scoliosis-and-spine-program/scoliosis/scoliosis-screening-program**

Diabetes community education: Children’s has a diabetes community educator who offers information, classes and contacts to help teachers and other school health professionals make their school safe for kids with diabetes. **choa.org/medical-services/diabetes/diabetes-resources**

Educational Outreach Program at Marcus Autism Center: The Educational Outreach Program at Marcus Autism Center provides schoolwide trainings to foster social and emotional engagement in the classroom, professional development for school health professionals, and systemwide trainings to build professional learning communities and effective coaching practices to foster social engagement. **Contact: 404-785-9446. marcus.org/clinical-services/outreach-programs**

Athletic injury prevention: Children’s has contracts with 29 high schools and 24 club sports for injury prevention around metro Atlanta. In addition, quarterly sports medicine seminars are provided to coaches, school health professionals and pediatricians in the community, covering topics including exercise-induced asthma, heat illness and more. Children’s sports medicine physicians serve as a resource in the area of concussion management in schools.

Project S.A.V.E.: Children’s cardiac services support Project S.A.V.E. (sudden cardiac death: awareness, vision for prevention and education), a program that helps Georgia’s schools become recognized as heart-safe, which means they have implemented our comprehensive program to prevent sudden cardiac deaths. It includes teaching CPR, implementing automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and preparing coaches, school health professionals and other staff to manage these emergencies. Project S.A.V.E. was created to educate school systems and doctors about pediatric sudden cardiac arrest. Georgia schools can also apply for training grants to assist with the training portion of program implementation. **choa.org/projectsave**

Stong4Life school nurse training: Strong4Life provides school health professionals with information, communication techniques and counseling skills that help inspire and support kids to make smart food choices in the lunch line and to be more active.

Action plans for school health: Children’s has a number of action plans, including asthma, sudden cardiac arrest, mitochondrial, diabetes and seizure, that are created with the patient during their visit and shared with the child’s school to help them identify and handle these conditions in the event of an emergency.

School Program: The School Program is available for patients who miss school because of hospitalizations and clinic appointments. Certified hospital teachers serve as liaisons between patients and schools to coordinate instruction and educational support. The team educates parents on available services with their child’s school and provides the latest medical updates and recommendations to school teachers. In 2018, Children’s provided 2,102 individualized instructional sessions for patients at Egleston and Scottish Rite and served 5,146 patients with educational support.

Telemedicine Program: Children’s Telemedicine Program provides patients with access to the expertise of pediatric specialists using live, secure video. Children’s has nine telemedicine programs in sites across Georgia, including schools, hospitals, public health clinics and pediatrician or family doctor offices. choa.org/medical-services/telemedicine

Georgia Health Information Network: Children’s is enrolled in the Georgia Health Information Network to help communicate and coordinate care with our community colleagues, including both providers and schools. **Contact:** 1-855-200-1214. gahin.org

Illness and Injury Prevention

SafeKids: Safe Kids Georgia was established 25 years ago as the injury prevention outreach arm and is located in the Trauma Services Department of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.

Safe Kids fosters collaboration to prevent injuries to children by bringing together a statewide network of health educators from law enforcement, fire departments, public health agencies and hospitals. Depending upon the individual county community needs and resources, Safe Kids coalitions provide direct services in the following areas: child passenger safety, bike/wheeled safety, pedestrian safety, home safety, water safety, fire safety and sports safety.

With 33 coalitions in more than 60 counties touching 70% of Georgia families, Safe Kids numbers statewide tell a compelling story. In 2018, a total of 258,531 parents and youth were reached throughout Georgia. Safe Kids coalitions held 3,623 safety events and 6,444 car seat checks, distributed 236,786 educational materials, and provided 22,945 safety equipment items. **Contact:** safekidsgeorgia.org/

CHIPP: Childhood injury remains the number one cause of death for children ages 1 to 19 in the US. To address this problem, a multidisciplinary group of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta physicians and staff from the departments of trauma, emergency medicine, advocacy and primary care came together to form the Children’s Injury Prevention Program (CHIPP) in January 2016. CHIPP’s mission is to provide a multidisciplinary approach to reduce childhood injury, both unintentional and intentional, in the greater Atlanta area through evidence-based injury prevention programs, research, education and community outreach. CHIPP is a CHOA-based organization that has grown rapidly as a pediatric injury prevention coalition since its inception and includes representatives from multiple specialties at all three of CHOA’s campuses. In addition, CHIPP partners with Safe Kids, Georgia Department of Public Health, Center for Disease Control, Injury Prevention Research Center at Emory, and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids.

Project S.A.V.E.: Children’s cardiac services support Project S.A.V.E. (sudden cardiac death: awareness, vision for prevention and education), a program that helps Georgia’s schools become recognized as heart-safe, which means they have implemented our comprehensive program to prevent sudden cardiac deaths. It includes teaching CPR, implementing automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and preparing coaches, school health professionals and other staff to manage these emergencies. Project S.A.V.E. was created to educate school systems and doctors about pediatric sudden cardiac arrest. Georgia schools can also apply for training grants to assist with the training portion of program implementation. choa.org/projectsaveMarketing

Sports Medicine: Children’s sports medicine team understands how to diagnose and care for young athletes to avoid long-term damage. The multidisciplinary team includes sports medicine physicians, orthopedic surgeons, physical therapists and certified athletic trainers. The team works together to develop specialized, effective treatments that return young athletes to playing their sport as safely and quickly as possible, treating athletes who have a wide range of sports-related injuries and conditions, including back, neck and spine, upper body, and lower body.

Children’s services include athletic training, physical therapy, sports primary care, sports surgery, specialized treatment and testing, dry needling, isokinetic testing, Sports Motion Analysis, sports nutrition education and surgery. **Contact:** 404-785-KIDS (5437) choa.org/medical-services/sports-medicine

Neurocritical Care: Children’s offers care for children with critical brain conditions, including brain tumors, seizures and traumatic brain injuries. Children may receive evaluation and diagnostic tests including neurocritical care intensive care unit monitoring, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, intracranial pressure monitoring, video electroencephalogram monitoring and X-ray. Services may include medication, inpatient rehabilitation, occupational therapy, pain management, physical therapy and surgery. In

addition, the neurocritical team works closely with the inpatient rehabilitation program and psychiatrists to better help patients recover from injury and illness. **Contact: 404-785-KIDS (5437) choa.org/medical-services/neurosciences/neurocritical-care**

School Nurse Resources: Children's provides school health professionals with information, skills and resources to support injury and illness prevention in schools.

Georgia School Health Resource Manual: Children's provides school health professionals with a free, regularly updated, online Georgia School Health Resource Manual, which is also available for purchase in hard copy. The manual includes sections on injury management and emergency medical concerns, administration of medications, communicable disease and infection control, chronic health conditions, special health procedures in a school setting, mental health in schools, screening considerations in the school setting, health education, and employee health and workplace wellness.

Transition of Care

Children's collaborates with Emory University and Grady Hospital to provide programs to coordinate the transition of care from adolescence to young adulthood for patients with cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disease, cancer and sickle cell disease.

Cystic fibrosis (CF): The transition program for pediatric CF patients, Journey to Independence, was initiated as a formalized transition program at Scottish Rite in 2009 and at Egleston in 2013. Journey to Independence is a five-stage program with transfer at age 17 years and 21 years, respectively. The program requires patients to complete various age-appropriate homework assignments and hands-on activities to advance through the program. There is a total of 25 activities throughout the program. The transition process culminates with a combined pediatric-adult CF capstone clinic held in the pediatric clinic. Children's also established a CF Family Advisory Council, a group of patients' parents who serve as an advisory group to the Emory Adult Cystic Fibrosis Center. With the Family Mentor Program, families facing CF are matched with trained, veteran parents. **choa.org/medical-services/cystic-fibrosis**

Congenital heart disease (CHD): The Congenital Heart Center of Georgia partners with Emory's Heart and Vascular Center to bridge gaps in care. The Congenital Heart Center of Georgia is one of the largest transition of care programs in the nation and the only one in Georgia. A team including anesthesiologists, cardiac intensivists, cardiologists, child life specialists, congenital heart surgeons, echocardiographers, electrophysiologists, heart failure cardiologists, heart surgeons, interventional cardiologists, nurse practitioners, nurses and social workers work together to transition from pediatric to adult care. At Children's, teens with moderate to complex congenital heart disease work with their doctors and nurses to prepare them to transition to adult care. They are given a booklet about growing up with CHD, and pediatric cardiologists help them fill out an Owner's Manual about their condition. The booklet outlines expectations for many life decisions teens will face, such as guidelines for insurance coverage, ability to start a family and physicians who should be a part of their adult care team. Many patients transition to the Emory Adult Congenital Heart Center. **choa.org/medical-services/cardiac-care/congenital-heart-center-of-georgia**

Cancer: The Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's has developed a multidisciplinary team to address the needs of childhood cancer survivors. Cancer survivors establish a survivor healthcare plan (a long-term, follow-up plan that includes a medical summary of cancer diagnosis and treatment, individualized risk profile and personalized surveillance program) and have access to SurvivorLink, an information technology network that serves as a crucial tool for helping childhood cancer survivors in Georgia receive the recommended survivor care and, as a result, optimal health and quality of life. SurvivorLink includes a survivor healthcare plan, individualized risk profile, personal surveillance plan, educational materials, national guidelines for survivorship care and other information needed. SurvivorLink electronically facilitates communication and shares information among the survivor, survivor team, primary care physician and 23 subspecialists. Children's also supports Survivor Day, an annual, free patient education session to discuss resources to cover the cost of care, applying for Medicare, accessing insurance plans and more.

Contact: 888-785-1112. choa.org/medical-services/cancer-and-blood-disorders/cancer/cancer-survivor-program

Diabetes: Children's offers workshops, classes, panel discussions and information sessions to patients with diabetes and their families about the transition to college. A panel of both parents and peers answers questions and shares their own experiences. **choa.org/medical-services/diabetes/diabetes-classes**

Sickle cell: At Children's, patients with sickle cell participate in a transition clinic. As part of the transition program, teenagers are taken to the Grady sickle cell program for adults and introduced to adult providers. The transition to adult providers occurs by age 18. Children's also supports Sickle Cell Day, an annual, free patient education session to discuss resources to cover the cost of care, applying for Medicare, accessing insurance plans and more. **Contact: 888-785-1112. choa.org/sicklecell**

Transplant: Children's also offers specific adolescent transplant clinics for teenage liver, kidney and heart transplant patients to provide care specific to the needs of the adolescent transplant population. Patients in adolescent transplant clinics receive age-appropriate healthcare education, opportunities for independence (they are seen without their parents at most clinic visits), comprehensive, individualized care and a tour of Emory for patients preparing to transition to an adult facility.

Contact: 800-605-6175. choa.org/medical-services/transplants/adolescent-and-young-adult-program

Health Needs of Immigrant and Transient Populations

Children's serves a diverse patient population and provides services to facilitate access to healthcare for immigrant and transient populations.

The Mercy Care Clinic: Since 1985, Mercy Care has been providing care to those with and without health insurance, little or no income, and those experiencing homelessness. As a network of primary care clinic sites, Mercy Care is a medical home to thousands who need quality primary medical, dental and vision care, behavioral health, diagnostics and social services. The Mercy Care clinic at Chamblee sees a large immigrant and transient population. Children's supports Mercy Care by providing primary care for children and adolescent patients.

Interpretative services: Children's provides interpretative services at every facility. Children's supplies as many teaching sheets on patient care as possible in both English and Spanish, as well as medication instructions. In addition, Children's provides free education tapes on asthma training in both English and Spanish.

Marcus Autism Center is studying cultural and language differences in ASD outcomes and diagnoses and implementing programs to address the disparities in the average age of diagnosis between different communities. Marcus Autism Center is hiring more bilingual providers, translating important diagnostic measures into other languages, and validating them appropriately and training its own staff on cultural competencies. Contact: 404-785-9400. marcus.org

Cultural differences: Children's has cultural resources available to its staff with information on 18 different cultures and the clinical implications associated with these cultures. Through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are two training courses available to staff to increase cultural awareness concerning the health needs of immigrant populations, as well as providing instruction to increase immigrants' health literacy.

Appendix C: Community Resources

Advocacy for the Community Health Needs of Children

Annie E. Casey Foundation: The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization, dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state effort to track the well-being of children in the United States, using data and policy analysis. The Atlanta Civic Site incorporates multiple programs for vulnerable families with young children. These programs seek to ensure that children are healthy, thriving socially and emotionally, and developing on track to achieve academic success by the third grade. **Contact Kweku Forstall: 678-686-0145. aecf.org**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta (BGCMA): For nearly 75 years, BGCMA has been in the forefront of youth development, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social and family circumstances. BGCMA enriches the lives of girls and boys that other youth agencies fail to reach. BGCMA is dedicated to ensuring that our community's young people, who are most in need of our help, have greater access to quality programs and services that help them succeed academically, live healthy lifestyles and become leaders. Contact: 404-527-7100. bgcma.org

Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): The Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is the state-wide professional association of general pediatricians and pediatric medical and surgical subspecialists. Its mission is to obtain optimal physical, mental and social health for the infants, children, adolescents and young adults of Georgia. To accomplish this, the Georgia AAP also supports the professional needs of its members.

Georgia Family Connections Partnership (GFCP): The Georgia Family Connections Partnership is a statewide network of 159 county organizations collaborating in communities to improve the quality of life for children and families. GFCP wants kids to be healthy and ready to start school and do well when they get there and wants families to be stable and self-sufficient. gafcp.org

Voices for Georgia's Children: Established in 2003, Voices for Georgia's Children is a nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where children are safe, healthy, educated, employable and connected to their family and community. Its mission is to be a powerful, unifying voice for a public agenda that ensures the well-being of all of Georgia's children. Voices has developed a long-term policy agenda focused on early childhood, child health and transitioning youth to foster change in five measures of child well-being. georgiavoices.org

YMCA of Metro Atlanta: The YMCA of Metro Atlanta focuses on developing the potential of kids, improving individual health and well-being, and giving back and supporting our neighbors. Parents find a safe, positive environment for children to learn good values, social skills and behaviors. Families come together to have fun and spend quality time with each other. Children and teens play, learn who they are and what they can achieve, and are accepted. Adults connect with friends, pursue interests and learn how to live healthier. Communities thrive because neighbors support each other and give back. We all build relationships that further our sense of belonging and purpose. ymcaatlanta.org

Financial Assistance

PeachCare for Kids: The PeachCare program is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Community Health and provides comprehensive healthcare to children through the age of 18 who do not qualify for Medicaid and live in households with incomes at or below 247% of the federal poverty level. Health benefits include primary, preventive and specialist care, dental care, and vision care. The program covers hospitalization, emergency room services, prescription medications and mental healthcare. Each child in the program has a Georgia Families Care Management Organization that is responsible for coordinating the child's care. **Contact: 404-463-8368. peachcare.org**

Right from the Start Medical Assistance Group (RSM): RSM is a doorway for certain people in need of healthcare coverage. The mission of the RSM is to enable children under age 19, pregnant women, low-income families and women with breast or cervical cancer to receive comprehensive health services through Medicaid and related programs. RSM eligibility specialists help working and low-income families obtain access to no-cost and low-cost healthcare coverage. The RSM staff has expertise in accessing eligibility to Medicaid, as well as PeachCare for Kids for those not eligible for Medicaid. RSM also refers clients to assistance with other services and collaborative programs and conducts outreach within the communities. **Contact: 800-809-7276. <https://dch.georgia.gov/right-start-medical-assistance-group>**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): The TANF program, often referred to as welfare, is a monthly cash assistance program for low-income families with children under the age of 18. Cooperation with the Division of Child Support Services is a requirement for receiving TANF benefits. In order to be determined eligible for TANF benefits, a child under the age of 18 must reside in the home and must be deprived of the care of at least one parent due to a variety of reasons, including: continued absence from home, death of the parent, physical or mental incapacity, or if one parent has a recent connection to the work force and both parents are in the home. <http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/temporary-assistance-needy-families>

Legal Assistance

Health Law Partnership (HeLP): HeLP is interdisciplinary community collaboration among Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia State University College of Law and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society to improve the health and well-being of low-income children and their families by providing free civil legal services to address health-harming legal problems affecting children’s health. **Contact: 404-785-2005. healthlawpartnership.org**

Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health Link provides professional staff that are available any time day or night to help with a mental health crisis or problem with drugs or alcohol. **Contact: 800-715-4225. behavioralhealthlink.com**

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) provides treatment and support services to people with behavioral health challenges and addictive diseases and assists individuals who live with developmental disabilities. The agency’s mission is to provide high-quality healthcare opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities or behavioral health challenges close to their homes and in the least restrictive setting possible, allowing them to create a sustainable, self-sufficient and resilient life in their community while embracing independence and recovery. DBHDD offers crisis services, outpatient treatment and therapeutic programs to all Georgia residents. **Contact: 404-657-2252. <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov>**

Georgia Community Support Solutions (GCSS) is a community-based nonprofit organization that provides services to people with developmental disabilities, as well as support to their families. GCSS offers a wide variety of program options, including respite services, residential options, children’s services and day programs. The Homes Offering Support and Training (HOST) Children and Adolescents program provides a safe, supportive family environment for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities, including those with severe behavioral problems. GCSS currently operates 23 programs that benefit over 1,300 individuals in 20 counties in Georgia. **Contact: Chiyoko Rasser: 404-634-4222. gacommunity.org**

View Point Health provides behavioral health services to children, adolescents and their families throughout the state. View Point Health is a pioneer for Georgia’s system of care, having helped developed community services and support for over a decade. View Point Health fees are established by the State of Georgia on a sliding scale based on family size and amount of income. View Point Health does not file private insurance claims for services provided to clients. **Contact: 678-209-2411. myviewpointhealth.org**

Crescent Pines Hospital is a 50-bed facility in Stockbridge, Ga., that provides psychiatric treatment and substance abuse services for children (ages 4 to 12), adolescents (ages 13 to 18) and adults. Crescent Pines provides all levels of care from acute inpatient stabilization, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programming. **Contact: 770-474-8888. crescentpineshospital.com**

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health Georgia (Devereux Georgia), in Kennesaw, Ga., provides a continuum of care that includes: a psychiatric residential treatment facility for youth 10 to 21 years of age who are experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges brought on by mental illness, abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, or intellectual and/or developmental disabilities; a specialty foster care program; community-based therapeutic group homes; and an AdvancED-accredited school. **Contact: 770-427-0147. devereuxga.org**

Hillside Inc. in Atlanta provides numerous treatment options for children and adolescents ages 7 to 21 experiencing difficulties with emotional and behavioral challenges. Hillside’s primary treatment modality is Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), a specialized form of cognitive behavioral therapy. DBT has been successfully proven to help decrease self-injurious behaviors, mood instability, chaotic relationships, anger and impulsive behaviors. DBT also helps improve the understanding of personal boundaries and

relationships and how to better deal with conflicting or painful emotions. Other interventions provided are Theraplay, animal-assisted therapy, recreation therapy, Triple P Positive Parenting Program and prescriptive education curriculum provided at the accredited Conant School. Hillside's array of services includes residential, day/partial hospitalization and outpatient DBT services, as well as community intervention programs and therapeutic foster care. hside.org and <http://hillsidedbt.org>

Laurel Heights Hospital is a private intensive residential treatment center located in Atlanta's Emory/Druid Hills neighborhood. Laurel Heights has the only specialty acute unit in the Southeast that specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents ages 6 to 17 with complex psychiatric and behavioral problems with co-occurring developmental disabilities. This includes children and adolescents with any level of ASD. The 12-acre campus offers seven residential cottages, a separate clinic, a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)-accredited school, a cafeteria, a gym, a swimming pool and several outdoor playgrounds. Laurel Heights accepts commercial insurance, Medicaid/Managed Medicaid, TriCare, agencies and school system funding.

Contact: 404-888-5475. laurelheightshospital.com

Peachford Hospital in Atlanta provides mental health and chemical dependency treatment in a nurturing environment for children (ages 4 to 12), adolescents (ages 13 to 18), adults and senior adults to find hope and healing from emotional, psychiatric and addictive diseases. The Peachford Hospital system includes a 246-bed inpatient acute care facility, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs. **Contact: 770-455-3200. peachford.com**

Ridgeview Institute is located in the suburb of Smyrna, Ga. Since 1976, Ridgeview has treated adolescents and their families with a variety of therapeutic approaches such as group therapy, family therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and dialectical behavior therapy. Ridgeview emphasizes a multi-disciplinary model with an integrated treatment approach, allowing comprehensive care for adolescents ages 11 to 17. Using a track system, patients are separated by age and diagnosis; this includes primary psychiatric, primary addiction and dual diagnosis. Ridgeview provides three levels of care for the adolescent population: inpatient, partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient. Ridgeview is in-network with most major insurances and offers free assessments 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **Contact: 800-329-9775 or 770-434-4567. ridgeviewinstitute.com**

RiverWoods Behavioral Health is located behind the Southern Regional Medical Center campus in Riverdale, Ga., and provides psychiatric and chemical dependency services, intensive outpatient programs, partial hospitalization programs and adolescent treatment. **Contact: 770-951-8500.**

SummitRidge Hospital in Lawrenceville, Ga., treats teenagers with addiction problems through inpatient and partial hospitalization programs. **Contact: 678-442-5800. summitridgehospital.net**

Obesity

Alliance for a Healthier Generation, founded by the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation, works to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity and to empower kids to develop lifelong healthy habits. The Alliance works with schools, companies, community organizations, healthcare professionals and families to transform the conditions and systems that lead to healthier children. healthiergeneration.org

Georgia Shape, led by Governor Nathan Deal but facilitated by the Department of Public Health, is positioned as the state's lead organization for childhood obesity initiatives. Georgia Shape begins with a basic, benchmark measurement of fitness among our students called FITNESSGRAM. The FITNESSGRAM tool used for Georgia Shape's annual standardized fitness assessment evaluates five different parts of health-related fitness, including aerobic capacity, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and body composition, using objective criteria. It also generates reports providing valuable individual, school and state-level data to empower parents, schools and the community to best assess the current health needs for children in Georgia. The report is delivered confidentially to families, and aggregate results are reported to create a true snapshot and highlight areas for improvement. georgiashape.org

Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential (G-CAPP) works with adolescents and their parents to reduce childhood obesity through the PowerMoves: Eat Better Do Better program. gcapp.org

Georgia Family Connections Partnership (GFCP) is a statewide network of 159 county organizations collaborating in communities to improve the quality of life for children and families. GFCP wants kids to be healthy and ready to start school and do well when they get there. GFCP wants families to be stable and self-sufficient. gafcp.org

Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) was established in 1995 in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. The GHPC integrates research, policy and programs to advance health and well-being. With more than 20 years of experience, the center is at work locally, statewide and nationally, focusing on solutions to some of the most complex issues facing health and healthcare today, including child health and well-being. The center aims to improve child outcomes and child and family policies in Georgia through applied policy analysis and research. Funding from public and private sources supports work in the areas of school health, childhood obesity and child well-being. The GHPC is also home to the Georgia Center of Excellence for Children's Behavioral Health (the COE). The COE partners with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities in aiding the state's child and adolescent behavioral health system of care. <http://ghpc.gsu.edu>

Georgia Organics connects organic food from Georgia farms to Georgia families. georgiaorganics.org

Voices for Georgia's Children, established in 2003, is a nonprofit child policy and advocacy organization that envisions a Georgia where children are safe, healthy, educated, employable and connected to their families and communities. Its mission is to be a powerful, unifying voice for a public agenda that ensures the well-being of all of Georgia's children. Voices for Georgia's Children has developed a long-term policy agenda focused on early childhood, child health and transitioning youth to foster change in five measures of child well-being. georgiavoices.org

HealthMPowers is a comprehensive school health intervention program exemplifying the key strategies that the CDC outlined for improving health, physical activity and healthy eating in schools. In collaboration with its sponsors (CDC, Emory School of Public Health, Children's, Piedmont Healthcare, Northside Hospital and Isakson-Barnhart), HealthMPowers has created a model that not only targets youth, but also addresses the major support networks in a child's life—school staff and family members.

Contact: 770-817-1733. healthmpowers.org

University of Georgia (UGA) launched a major campuswide initiative in January 2012 to help the state address its growing epidemic of childhood and adult obesity, as well as the increasing incidence of overweight infants. UGA can harness diverse and extensive obesity-related instruction, research activities, and public service and outreach components to address this multifaceted problem. The initiative will develop obesity prevention and treatment programs that interested Georgia communities, employers and healthcare providers can implement. The initiative will also coordinate the study and development of state and national public health policies and economic strategies to address obesity and metabolic disorders. UGA will work cooperatively with interested parties, including other Georgia research institutions and Athens Regional Medical Center, to help bring obesity under control.

<http://obesity.ovpr.uga.edu/about>

Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth (GPT): In collaboration with the GPT, Children's is able to improve access to pediatric specialists throughout Georgia with its Telemedicine Program. With 15 specialists and 80 presenting sites in Georgia, this program uses specialized high-definition cameras to allow specialists to provide consultations and evaluations for patients in communities with limited access to services. From 2016-2018, GPT subspecialists provided 1,152 visits to children across the state, and the program had 646 healthcare professionals participate in distance learning and outreach offerings. Access is provided to the following subspecialty areas: aerodigestive, ASD, child protection, hepatology, nephrology, pulmonology, sports medicine and concussion. gatehealth.org/georgia-partnership-for-telehealth

Other Community resources

The American Heart Association has published "Best Practices in Managing Transition to Adulthood for Adolescents With Congenital Heart Disease: The Transition Process and Medical and Psychosocial Issues: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association" to assist healthcare providers in creating a formal transition process for youth with congenital heart disease.

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/123/13/1454.full>

The American Lung Association in Georgia is the lead organization in the state working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. The association provides a wealth of resources related to respiratory health, including programs for children with asthma, such as the Asthma 101 Program, Camp Breathe Easy, asthma-friendly schools awards and Open Airways for Schools. In addition, it is a leading advocate for creating asthma-friendly environments. **Contact: 770-434-5864. lung.org**

Georgia Academy of Family Physicians (GAFF) offers patient-centered medical home (PCMH) educational opportunities to members with live activities, on-site coaching, online education and shared resources. GAFF encourages NCQA PCMH recognition. In 2010, GAFF initiated the Patient-Centered Medical Home University, which has now guided more than 200 clinicians from Georgia family medicine practices and residency programs through the process of meeting the standards for NCQA Recognition. gaffp.org

Georgia Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) Program includes 30 teen centers and 18 district youth coordinators and is available to children ages 10 to 19. Services include abstinence education, drug and alcohol prevention education, reproductive health services, and seminars to increase awareness about sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy. **Contact: George Crawford at 404-656-6679. gcapp.org/ahyd**

Georgia Association of School Nurses (GASN) was organized in 1991 to unite school health professionals committed to providing quality healthcare services to school children. GASN remains dedicated to promoting excellence in school health through its continued education programs and advocacy. **gasn.org**

The Georgia Asthma Control Program is part of a national initiative launched by the CDC, National Center for Environmental Health to reduce the burden of asthma and improve the health and quality of life for all persons affected by asthma through effective control of the disease. The Georgia Asthma Control Program has developed a partnership with the Georgia Association of School Nurses that will lead efforts towards the adoption and implementation of the American Lung Association and CDC's Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative throughout Georgia school systems. The core components of the program include: establishment of management and support systems for asthma-friendly schools; providing appropriate school health and mental health services for students with asthma; providing asthma education and awareness programs for students and school staff; providing a healthy school environment to reduce asthma triggers; providing enjoyable physical education and activity opportunities for students with asthma; and coordinating school, family and community efforts to better manage asthma symptoms and reduce asthma-related school absences. The goal of this initiative is to reduce asthma-related hospitalizations, emergency department visits and days missed from school. Contact Francesca Lopez, M.S.P.H., A.E.-C.: **Contact 404-651-7324. <http://dph.georgia.gov/asthma-surveillance>**

Georgia Department of Education, School Nurse Exchange provides a collection of resources for school health professionals to keep abreast of current trends and best practices in the leadership and delivery of school-based health services. Their webpage serves as a vehicle for exchanging ideas and suggestions to support school health professional programs across Georgia. **gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/School-Nurse.aspx**

Georgia Department of Public Health, deputy chief nurse provides leadership, training and consultation as it relates to school nursing practice and public health to all health districts and school districts, including private and parochial schools, as well as nurses employed as school health professionals. **<https://dph.georgia.gov/school-health>**

Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential (GCAPP) provides programs in teen pregnancy, physical activity and nutrition, and healthy relationships. GCAPP works to build comprehensive and improved sexual health education in Georgia school districts through the Working to Institutionalize Sex Education (WISE) initiative. **Contact: 404-524-2277. gcapp.org.**

Grady Teen Clinic serves adolescents ages 12 to 19 and provides birth control, gynecological care, pregnancy testing, STI testing and treatment, HPV vaccinations and sports physicals. **Contact: 404-616-3513. <http://gradyhealth.org/specialty/teen-center/>**

Johns Hopkins Medicine Cystic Fibrosis Center developed a webcast, "Partnering for Care: Transition to Adult CF Care," which identifies specific and concise goals for adolescents as they transition from pediatric to adult care. Goals are established for 12- to 14-year-olds, 16- to 18-year-olds and 21-year-olds, with the focus on each individual developing a sense of personal responsibility for their own care and treatment. All patients and families have access to this webcast. **cff.org/uploadedfiles/livingwithcf/webcasts/archivedwebcasts/partnering-for-care-part-3-slides-adult-transition.pdf**

National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) is the only nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is solely focused on the issues and needs of the more than 1,200 free and charitable clinics and the people they serve in the United States. Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the NAFC is an effective advocate for the issues and concerns of free and charitable clinics, their volunteer workforce of doctors, dentists, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, technicians and other healthcare professionals, and the patients they serve. **nafclinics.org**

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) trains providers in the PCMH and recognizes practices implementing the PCMH program. NCQA PCMH recognition is the most widely used way to transform primary care practices into medical homes. **www.ncqa.org**

National Diabetes Education Program (NEDP) is a program of the National Institutes of Health and the CDC and provides a pediatric-to-adults diabetes care transition checklist designed to help healthcare providers, young adults and families discuss and plan the change from pediatric to adult healthcare. The young adult, family and healthcare provider can obtain online transition resources at the NDEP website. ndep.nih.gov/transitions

The National Kidney Foundation has developed a toolkit to assist pediatric nephrology social workers in helping transition adolescents with chronic kidney disease to adult facilities. Note: to view the toolkit modules, one must enroll as a member of the website. kidney.org/professionals/CNSW/toolkit.cfm Not One More Life (NOML) is an asthma education program dedicated to teaching others about asthma. The program is designed to deliver knowledge needed to make informed decisions.

Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation (OIF) provides information to parents, youth and healthcare providers on the transition from pediatric to adult care for teens with osteogenesis imperfecta, a genetic bone disorder characterized by fragile bones that break easily. oif.org/site/docserver/transition_from_pediatric_to_adult_care.pdf

Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC) is a nonprofit that advocates nationally to advance patient-centered primary care and the medical home model. PCPCC also works to broadly disseminate resources that capture best practices and lessons learned from medical home initiatives throughout the country, including free webinars, publications and conferences. These resources and tools are available at www.pcpcc.org.

Planned Parenthood offers sex education and counseling and reproductive services, and coordinates with schools to provide education programs. There are two locations in metro Atlanta, in Cobb and Gwinnett counties. plannedparenthood.org

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA) provides resources to assist patients, family members, healthcare providers and medical social workers with the transition of patients with sickle cell disease from pediatric to adult care. sicklecelldisease.org/about/sickle-cell-101

St. Joseph's Mercy Care Clinic is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy and Saint Joseph's Health System. The clinic was created in 1985 by volunteer nurses and physicians and grew from modest beginnings into a "medical home" that provides an efficient, integrated system of primary medical care for adults and children, dental healthcare, behavioral health, education and social services reaching thousands of persons in need throughout Atlanta each year. There are 10 fixed-site clinics across metro Atlanta. Six other clinics are conducted in community partner facilities or onboard our mobile health coach. Their clinic services are available to the uninsured, underinsured, persons of low income, the homeless and HIV-positive individuals on a sliding-fee scale according to a patient's ability to pay. They offer resource referral, supportive services, case management and mental health assessment. They also provide health education programs on a variety of topics, including prenatal care, parenting and child education to Atlanta's Hispanic community. **Contact Downtown: 678-843-8600, North: 678-843-8700 or City of Refuge: 678-843-8790.** mercycareservices.org

ThinkFirst Program: The ThinkFirst Program provides free, research-based education to children and teens on the prevention of injuries related to the use of seat belts, helmets and lifestyle choices. Presentations are available for schools and community programs. **Contact: 800-THINK-56.** thinkfirst.org

Vaccines for Children (VFC) is intended to help raise childhood immunization levels in the United States, especially for infants and young children. This effort requires wide participation and collaboration of private healthcare providers to reach children who might not otherwise receive vaccinations because of financial barriers or who might receive vaccines late because they would be referred to another setting for free vaccines. This federally funded program supplies vaccines free of charge to participating providers. The vaccine may then be made available to children up to 19 years of age who are enrolled in Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured (child has health insurance, but immunizations are not a covered benefit), and/or American Indian or Alaska Native. <https://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children-program>

Appendix D: Description of 2019 CHNA Community Needs

Community need #1:

Ensure access to primary care medical homes for children and adolescents

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) first introduced the concept of a “medical home” in 1967, when it envisioned one central source for a child’s pediatric records and emphasized the importance of centralized medical records for children with special healthcare needs.¹ Since then, the AAP has developed the medical home model for delivering primary care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate and culturally effective to all children and youth, including youth with special health needs.² Based on 2017 data from the National Survey of Children’s Health, 45.9% of children in Georgia receive coordinated, ongoing and comprehensive care within a medical home. This is slightly below the nationwide rate of 48.5%.³ One key informant noted “navigating healthcare is scary and overwhelming.”

1. Sia, C., Tonniges, T.F., Osterhaus, E., and Taba, S. “History of the Medical Home Concept” *Pediatrics*, Vol. 113, Supplement 4 May 1, 2004, pp 1473-1478.

2. The National Center for Medical Home Implementation, American Academy of Pediatrics.

3. The National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) 2017. *Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health*. Retrieved July 9, 2019 from childhealthdata.org.

Community need #2:

Enhance access to behavioral and developmental health services for children and adolescents

Based on the opinion of contributors to CHNA, throughout metro Atlanta there is a shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, yet there are a growing number of children and adolescents needing behavioral and developmental health services in the community. In addition, poor reimbursement for behavioral health services has caused many child and adolescent psychiatrists to become unwilling to accept any patients without good commercial insurance or private payment arrangements.

Increasingly long wait times to obtain referral appointments for behavioral or developmental health services has further hampered access to these services. Based on data from the 2017 National Survey of Children’s Health, 56.8% of Georgia’s children ages 3-17 years with a mental or behavioral condition who needed treatment did not receive care, which is higher than the national average of 51.4% of children not receiving needed care. In addition, 53% of children who did receive needed mental health care had problems receiving that care.¹ These concerns were also raised in multiple key informant interviews, mentioning a lack of providers, awareness, education and understanding across the state. One key informant added that many “things are not covered by insurance, placing tremendous burden on families.”

Nationwide, approximately 7.1% of children ages 3-17 years have diagnosed anxiety; 3.2% have diagnosed depression.² About one in six U.S. children ages 2-8 years have a diagnosed mental, behavioral or developmental disorder.³ Estimates are that approximately 20% of adolescents have a diagnosable mental health disorder, and an estimated 67 to 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health disorder. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in adolescents nationwide.⁴

In the United States, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability. It is estimated that 4.9% of children in Georgia currently have autism spectrum disorder, just above the national prevalence of 3.1%.¹

1. *The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) 2017. Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health.* Retrieved July 9, 2019 from childhealthdata.org.

2. *Children's Mental Health: Anxiety and Depression in Children.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 8, 2019, from <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/features/anxiety-depression-children.html>.

3. *Children's Mental Health: Data and Statistics on Children's Mental Health.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 8, 2019, from <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/data.html>.

4. *Adolescent Health, National Center for Health Statistics.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 8, 2019, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/adolescent-health.htm>.

Community need #3:

Address childhood overweight and obesity

Based on the opinion of contributors to the CHNA, obesity is a serious issue in the community. According to the 2017 National Survey of Children's Health, 14.4% of children ages 10-17 years in Georgia were overweight and 18.3% had obesity.¹ Georgia Department of Public Health 2016-2017 Fitnessgram data suggests that 56.6% of boys and 45.3% of girls are in the healthy zone for aerobic capacity.² While the state is moving in the right direction, there are still nearly 1 million children who are overweight or obese in Georgia. Decreasing childhood obesity prevalence rates will take sustained effort and collaboration.

A key informant discussed how healthy eating and physical activity habits cut across demographics, noting a sugar epidemic, rise in diabetes and complications to having obesity. Another key informant cited the chronic disease trail—children with chronic disease are more likely to become adults with chronic disease. A third key informant mentioned the importance of education, access to quality foods and prevention to combating obesity.

1. *The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) 2017. Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health.* Retrieved July 9, 2019 from childhealthdata.org.

2. *Georgia Department of Education: Annual Fitness Assessment Program Report 2017.*

Community need #4:

Ensure access to specialty care for children and adolescents

Based on the opinion of contributors to the Community Health Needs Assessment, access to pediatric subspecialty care is still a major need throughout Georgia. There is a significant disparity in the geographic distribution of pediatric subspecialists across the country, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Approximately one in three children must travel 40 miles or more to receive pediatric subspecialty care and wait between five weeks and three months to get an appointment.¹ One key informant cited a nine-month wait list for neurology patients with Medicaid, as well as limited providers to refer to after a diagnosis of autism. A recent survey conducted by the Children's Hospital Association identified specialties with the highest average wait times, including genetics, developmental pediatrics and pain management palliative care.² Many hospitals reported experiencing vacancies longer than 12 months for pediatric specialists. Access challenges lead to a need for initiatives that address access to pediatric subspecialty services.

1. *Gage, Daniel. "America's Children Need Access to Pediatric Subspecialists." American Association of Pediatrics.* Retrieved Sept. 16, 2016 from <http://www2.aap.org/visit/Sec5203FactSheet.pdf>.

2. *Pediatric Workforce Shortages Persist. Children's Hospital Association, January 19, 2018.* Retrieved July 8, 2019 from <https://www.childrenshospitals.org/Issues-and-Advocacy/Graduate-Medical-Education/Fact-Sheets/2018/Pediatric-Workforce-Shortages-Persist>.

Community need #5:

Raise awareness for asthma, allergies and respiratory issues

According to the most recent data from the Georgia Department of Public Health, almost 14% of children in Georgia had been told at some point they had asthma. Boys cited a higher prevalence of asthma than girls, and the overall asthma hospitalization rate is two times higher for black children than white children.¹

In Georgia, asthma is one of the top 10 causes for emergency room visits across children of all age groups for 2013 through 2017.²

Children <1 year old 7th leading cause

Children 1 to 4 years old 3rd leading cause

Children 5 to 9 years old 3rd leading cause

Children 10 to 14 years old 4th leading cause

Children 15 to 17 years old 9th leading cause

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 4-6% of children in the U.S. have food allergies, many of which face life-threatening reactions,³ with some studies suggesting prevalence rates closer to 8%.⁴ A recent study reports a nearly 200% increase in food-induced anaphylaxis-related emergency department visits from 2005 to 2014.⁵

1. Georgia Department of Public Health: 2016 Georgia Data Summary: Asthma in Children. Retrieved July 10, 2019 from <https://dph.georgia.gov/sites/dph.georgia.gov/files/2016%20CHILD%20ASTHMA%20DATA%20SUMMARY%2008.2017.pdf>.

2. Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), Community Health Needs Assessment Dashboard, Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Health Indicators and Planning (OHIP). Retrieved July 10, 2019 from oasis.state.ga.us.

3. Food Allergies in Schools: Food Allergy Fast Facts. CDC Healthy Schools, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 10 from <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/>.

4. Gupta, Ruchi S. et al. The Public Health Impact of Parent-Reported Childhood Food Allergies in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2018; 142(6).

5. Motosue, Ms et al. Increasing emergency department visits for anaphylaxis, 2005-2014. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract*. 2017;5(1):171-175.e3.

Community need #6:

Support access to health services that address adolescent issues

Adolescent health issues include adolescent gynecology, hormonal modulation, HPV vaccinations, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual identity, pregnancy and prenatal care, tobacco use, alcohol and substance use, and alcohol and substance abuse. Based on 2017 data from the CDC STATE Monitoring System, 7.7% of high school students currently smoke cigarettes.¹ The NSDUH from SAMHSA found in 2016-2017 that 7.76% of children in Georgia ages 12-17 years used alcohol in the previous month.² In addition, the Georgia Student Health Survey found that 7% of students grades 6-12 reported at least one drink of alcohol in the previous 30 days, 9% reported use of an electronic vapor product and 6.4% used marijuana.³ All of these issues lead to a need for programs that encompass a coordinated approach to adolescent health issues.

1. Youth and Tobacco Use. Office on Smoking and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 28, 2019. Accessed July 9, 2019 from https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use/index.htm#anchor_1549569386405.

2. National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Comparison of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Population Percentages (50 States and the District of Columbia). Retrieved July 6, 2019 from <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/comparison-2015-2016-and-2016-2017-nsduh-population-percentages-50-states-and-district>.

3. Georgia Student Health Survey, 2019. Retrieved July 7 from <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/GSHS-III/Pages/GSHS-Results.aspx>.

Community need #7:

Coordinate care with schools for primary and chronic health issues

Based on the opinion of contributors to the CHNA, there is a need for partnerships with schools to coordinate approaches for addressing primary and chronic health issues to reduce absenteeism. Based on data from the National Survey of Children's Health 2017, 3.5% of children ages 6 to 17 (approximately 62,701 children) in Georgia miss 11 or more days of school because of illness or injury; an additional 7.9% (139,675 children) missed 7-10 days of school due to injury or illness. This is higher than the 5.4% of children nationwide who miss 7-10 days of school because of illness or injury.¹

1. *The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) 2017. Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health. Retrieved July 9, 2019 from childhealthdata.org.*

Community need #8:

Address injury and illness prevention

Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unintentional injuries is the leading cause of death for children ages 1-14 years old.¹ In 2018, 270 children aged 0-19 years in Georgia died due to unintentional injury, with approximately 182,000 emergency room visits.² The CDC cites injuries as one of the most under-recognized public health problems facing the United States.³ In 2017, 24% of children living in Georgia missed four or more days of school due to injury and illness.⁴

1. *Child Health. National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017. Accessed July 10 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/child-health.htm>.*

2. *Georgia Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), Georgia Department of Public Health. OASIS Web Query – Emergency Room Visit Statistics, retrieved July 31 from <https://oasis.state.ga.us>.*

3. *Borse NN, Gilchrist J, Dellinger AM, Rudd RA, Ballesteros MF, Sleet DA. CDC Childhood Injury Report: Patterns of Unintentional Injuries among 0-19 Year Olds in the United States, 2000-2006. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2008.*

4. *The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) 2017. Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health. Retrieved July 9, 2019 from childhealthdata.org.*

Community need #9:

Address injury and illness prevention

Based on the opinion of contributors to the CHNA, there continues to be a need for programs to coordinate transition of care for individuals with chronic health issues from adolescence to young adulthood. Kids who have transplants, heart surgery, cystic fibrosis, diabetes and cancer, for example, need to be followed as they transition to adult care. Young adults are increasingly recognized as a vulnerable population, susceptible to high rates of behavioral health risk coupled with emerging or worsening chronic health conditions and traditionally low use of healthcare.¹ Estimates from the 2016 National Survey of Children's Health suggest that 83% of youth with special healthcare needs and 86% of youth without special needs do not meet the national healthcare transition performance measure.²

Children need continuity and quality of care in transitioning from pediatric specialists to adult specialty physicians. Based on data from the National Survey of Children's Health 2017, 89.3% of children ages 12 to 17 with special healthcare needs in Georgia do not receive the services required to make an appropriate transition to adult healthcare, work and independence.³ Special healthcare needs include learning disabilities, ADD/ADHD, depression, anxiety, ASD, behavioral problems, developmental delay, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, speech problems, Tourette syndrome, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, hearing problems, vision problems, bone/joint/muscular problems and brain injury.

1. White, Patience H. et al. *Supporting the Health Care Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood in the Medical Home*. *Pediatrics*, 2018; 142(5).
2. *Child Health*. National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016. Accessed July 9 from www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/child-health.htm.
3. *Child Health*. National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017. Accessed July 10 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/child-health.htm>.

Community need #10:

Address the health needs of immigrant and transient populations

According to the American Immigration Council, immigrants and their children are a growing share of Georgia's population. Approximately 10% of Georgia's population (nearly one million individuals) was born in another country, and 1 in 13 Georgians are native-born U.S. citizens with at least one immigrant parent. Georgia is home to 69,858 children who are immigrants. Many children in immigrant families experience language barriers with community pediatricians, which results in poor compliance and difficulty in ensuring follow-up visits. These challenges lead to a need for programs that address the health needs of immigrant and transient populations.¹

1. *Immigrants in Georgia*. American Immigration Council, 2017. Accessed July 8 from <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-georgia>.

Appendix E: Key Informant Interview Guide

Name:

Organization:

Date of Interview:

1. Please tell me about your background and your organization.

Paper copy of top 10 priority areas given to key informant to review. This can also be sent prior to meeting with finalized schedule information.

2. Thinking about this list of priority issues, what do you consider to be the top three issues facing children in the greater Atlanta metro area?
 - Probe: Who do you think is most affected by each of these [needs]?
3. To your knowledge, are there any plans in the next 3-5 years to address [need]?
4. In your opinion, who else should be working on [need]?
5. How could Children's make more of an impact in this [need]?
 - More generally, what can hospitals or the medical community do to impact [this need] and its barriers?
6. What health needs or concerns should be considered that are not currently listed?
7. What is your top suggestion for a healthcare organization, like Children's, to improve health in its community?

If time allows:

8. Is your organization working with any childhood populations? E.g., adolescents, children within a certain age range, children living with a specific condition.

Thinking specifically about [this population], in your opinion, what are the most important health issues or concerns that need to be addressed?

If multiple populations are described, ask below questions for each population.

- Probe: Why do you consider this a high priority issue?
- Probe: Who do these health issues affect most?
- Probe: To your knowledge, what is currently being done to address these issues?
- Probe: What do you see are the major barriers to addressing these needs?



Main locations

Egleston hospital

1405 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-785-KIDS (5437)

Scottish Rite hospital

1001 Johnson Ferry Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30342
404-785-KIDS (5437)

Hughes Spalding hospital

35 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-785-KIDS (5437)

Children's Support Center

Administration
1575 Northeast Expressway
Atlanta, GA 30329



Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is ranked among the nation's **top pediatric hospitals** in the U.S. News and World Report 2019-2020 edition of "Best Children's Hospitals." Recognized as one of the most comprehensive listings of its kind, the report compiles data from 179 pediatric centers and the opinions of 150 pediatric specialists to name the best of the best in 10 specialties. The rankings are designed to serve as a tool for parents and families looking for the best and most comprehensive care for their child.

For more information, please visit choa.org.



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

choa.org



choa.org