**Compendium Overview:  
Lee Memorial Health System**

**Healthy Lee - Choose. Commit. Change.**

More than half of all health care occurs outside the formal health care environment of hospitals, physician’s offices, and outpatient clinics. Since 2007, Lee Memorial Health System, in Fort Myers, Florida, has convened 53 diverse, influential community leaders to guide a countywide effort to improve the health of its residents and the community’s health care delivery system.

Through facilitated dialog and data analysis, selected priorities now focus attention and organize implementation efforts. A one-page scorecard shows 17 key data points selected to best illustrate changes impacting population health tied to these seven goals:

* healthful lifestyles
* behavioral health
* chronic disease prevention/management
* primary care alternatives to the emergency department
* health care workforce strategies
* electronic health records
* community engagement for a culture of healthful lifestyles

After focus groups found behavioral health to be the top community concern, Healthy Lee focused its initial improvements in that arena. A severe shortage of treatment beds and psychiatrists at Lee Memorial resulted in many service gaps. By 2011, the hospital added these resources:

* 322 beds
* a new psychiatric hospital
* detox beds
* a behavioral triage center for jail diversion
* comprehensive crisis intervention training for law enforcement
* a new Hope Clubhouse to transition persons with mental illness back into the workforce
* geriatric psychiatric beds at Lee’s acute hospitals
* a new intensive outpatient services for mental health

More than 300 organizations in Lee County now actively contribute to Healthy Lee.  
  
**Poster Content:**  
**Lee Memorial Health System**

**Healthy Lee – Choose. Commit. Change.**

**Overview**

Lee Memorial Health System’s Healthy Lee program is a collaborative effort with more than 300 organizational partners in Lee County, Florida, working to improve community health through education, prevention, partnerships, and outreach. Selected priorities gleaned from facilitated dialog and data analysis drive Healthy Lee’s implementation efforts, which focused initially on behavioral health.

**Problem Identified**

More than half of all health care occurs outside of the formal health care environment of hospitals, doctor’s offices, and outpatient clinics. Instead, it occurs in the community, in churches, in the workplace, and in homes. To improve community health, community partners must actively participate in best practice programs focusing on areas including prevention, outreach, education, screenings, and creative partnerships for intervention and care. This work is particularly necessary in Florida, which has the second-highest uninsured state in the country, and where access to primary care for the uninsured is lacking.

**Social Determinants Influence**

Healthy Lee promotes healthy lifestyles through recreation, nutrition, and health programs. It includes a community collaboration of grassroots organizations that meets quarterly and has a strategic plan, a distribution list of more than 300 active participants/organizations, and a community website. It also hosts Streets Alive! – a free community celebration to showcase healthy lifestyles in an open streets event. In addition, new best practice programs are reengineering the program’s social, education, health, and physical infrastructure.

**Partnerships**

Community-based organizations have been a part of the Healthy Lee steering committee, its 200- member community collaboration for healthy lifestyles and implementation projects, from the beginning. Board members or executive leaders of these organizations sit on the committee and champion several goals. They also participate in the development of the Community Health Needs Assessment tools, analysis, and the implementation of projects while helping to set priorities and monitor results. The committee additionally shares and celebrates successes to provide others with lessons learned.

**Results**

After focus groups found behavioral health to be the top community concern, Healthy Lee focused its initial improvements in that arena. A severe shortage of treatment beds and psychiatrists at Lee Memorial resulted in many service gaps; however, by 2011, the hospital added the following resources:

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**Charts/Graphs:  
Please submit one or two high resolution charts or graphs that you would like included on your poster to Kristin Sinko at** [**ksinko@essentialhospitals.org**](mailto:ksinko@essentialhospitals.org) **no later than Wednesday, April 16.**