Improving the Health Status of Your Community

Length: 1.5 hours

Target Audience: C-suite, vice presidents and directors who are focused on population health, chronic disease management, healthcare reform, strategic planning, business operations or community outreach

Description: Healthcare organizations exist to serve the communities in which they reside. Though community health has always been a focus for these organizations, new regulations require them to take an active role. The health of a community or geographic population has a critical impact on a healthcare organization’s planning, operations, financial sustainability, outcomes and success.

As the key components of the healthcare reform legislation are implemented, it will be even more important that provider organizations are both aware of and responsive to the health status and disease states that are most prevalent in their communities. Not only is a population-based focus the right thing to do, but it may prove to be the financially astute course of action.

Faculty: Moderator and two to three panelists. The moderator should be a high-level healthcare executive with extensive knowledge of strategic planning, service line development and business operations in regard to community health.

The panel should be composed of a diverse group of individuals and could include a hospital C-suite executive, an individual focused on strategic planning from a healthcare organization, a regulatory compliance expert, a disease management expert or a community or public health official.

Topics for Discussion:

- Organizational alignment to community health needs
- Strategic and operational planning concerning community health
- Measuring quality within community health
- Gauging the health literacy of your community
Conducting community health assessments
Evaluating the demographics, disease prevalence and service utilization of your community
Understanding federal, state and local community benefit regulations and reporting
Financing and providing charity care

Questions for Discussion:
1. What is the level of commitment from your organization to community health, and how is that commitment carried out into the communities you serve?
2. How do you measure your community benefit, and what are the reporting benchmarks to which an organization should be comparing them?
3. What is the healthcare executive’s role in community health? How do you lead for change?
4. Within your organization, who has responsibility for community health? If you do not have specified individuals or departments, what is your process for ensuring the organization’s commitment to community health?
5. How do you open a dialogue with local leaders to discuss assessing and improving health status?
6. How has the health of your community directly impacted your organization?
7. In what ways is your organization addressing behaviors that could be impacting the health of community members (smoking, obesity, drug use, etc.)?
8. What have been the outcomes from your organization’s role in improving the health of your community? How have you measured those outcomes?

Materials for Distribution:

Additional Resources:
Association for Community Health Improvement: www.communityhlth.org.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov.
U.S. Census Bureau: www.census.gov.