



**American Hospital  
Association™**

*Advancing Health in America*

## **Part 2 – Connect: Building bridges from health care to social care**

October 26, 2022

Organized by:



Sponsored by:



# Welcome & Housekeeping

1. Attendees have been **muted**. Please make comments or ask questions in the Chat.
2. Send a chat message **AHA Host** with any technical issues.
3. If desired, you can **indicate your organization or city, state** by hovering your pointer over your video & clicking on the ... and selecting “Rename”.



**MetroHealth**

Institute  
for H.O.P.E.™



## Building a Comprehensive SDOH Screening and Response Model Within a Health System

### Part 2 – Connect: Building bridges from health care to social care

---

Kevin Chagin, Manager, Advanced Analytics & Data Operations

Karen Cook, Director, Healthy Families & Thriving Communities

Sarah Woernley, Nurse Manager

Alissa Glenn, Director, Community Health, Nutrition and Measurement, Greater Cleveland Food Bank



# MetroHealth

- Serving Greater Cleveland since 1837
- The essential safety-net health system for the most at-risk members of our community
- Open and accessible to all (95% of Cuyahoga County residents live within 10 minutes of MetroHealth care)
- The region's essential public-health leader during times of crisis
- 300,000+ patients making 1.5 million visits annually
- Provide care at four hospitals, four emergency departments, more than 20 health centers and 40 additional sites in Northeast Ohio
- Operate Ohio's top rehabilitation center, the region's most experienced Level I Trauma Center, and Ohio's only adult and pediatric trauma and burn center
- Total Community Benefit: \$238.6 million

Devoted to Hope, Health, and Humanity





# MetroHealth

Institute for H.O.P.E.™

Identifying and acting on the social drivers of health as an integral component of care, through programs and partnerships for:

- Fresh, healthy food
- Stable, safe housing
- Legal assistance
- Education
- Job training
- Transportation
- Language and literacy
- Digital connectivity
- Connection with others
- Safer neighborhoods
- ... And much more

Health, Opportunity, Partnership, Empowerment



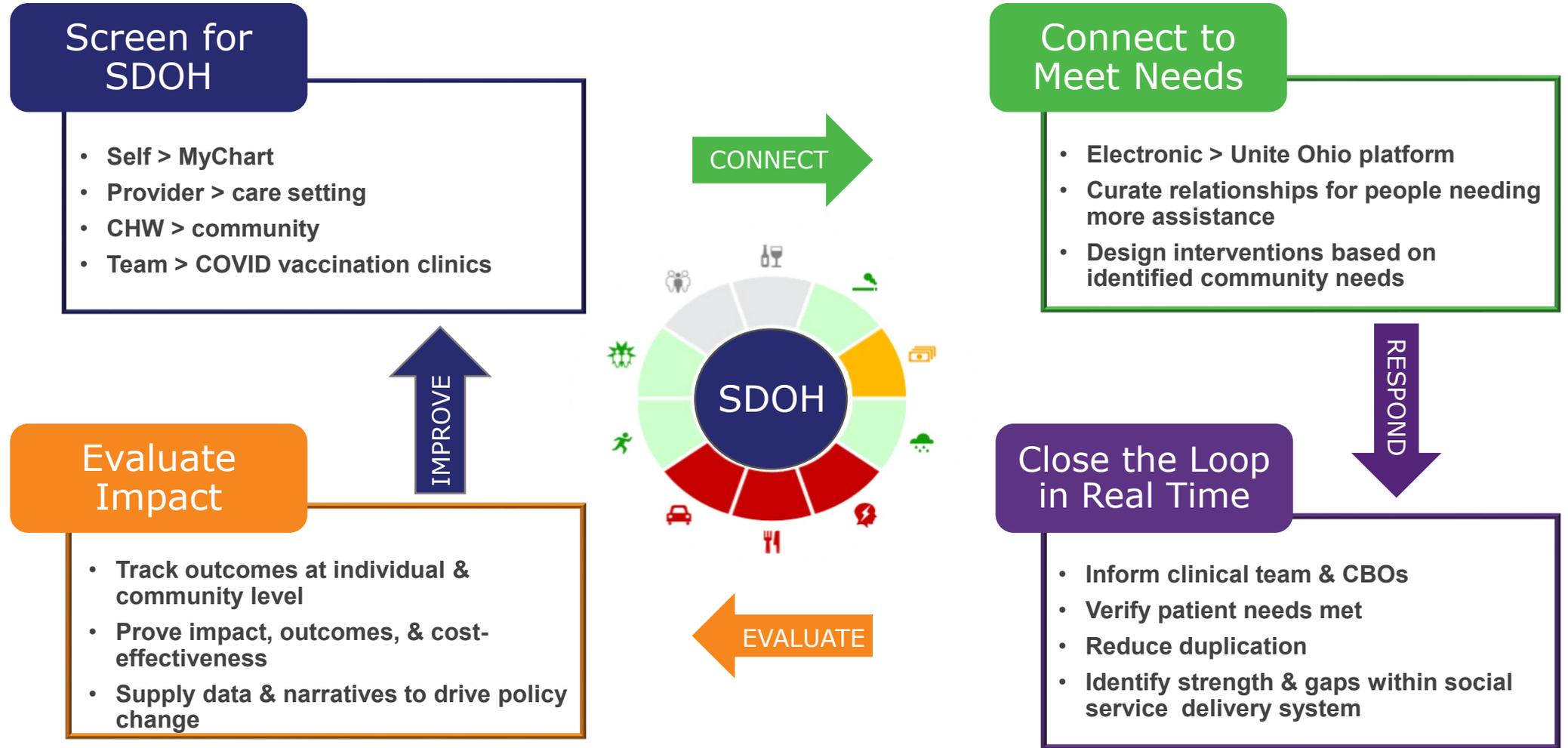


## Greater Cleveland Food Bank

- GCFB mission is to ensure that everyone in our communities has the nutritious food they need every day
- Collect and store food to distribute to smaller hunger relief programs, such as food pantries, hot meal programs, and other child and senior food programs
- We serve 6 counties, including Ashland, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Richland
- In our FY 2021, served 343,000 unique individuals through **emergency feeding** programs, 36,000 children through (CNI) **Children Nutrition Initiative**, submitted 11,000 **SNAP applications** for our neighbors, and distributed over 48 million pounds of food

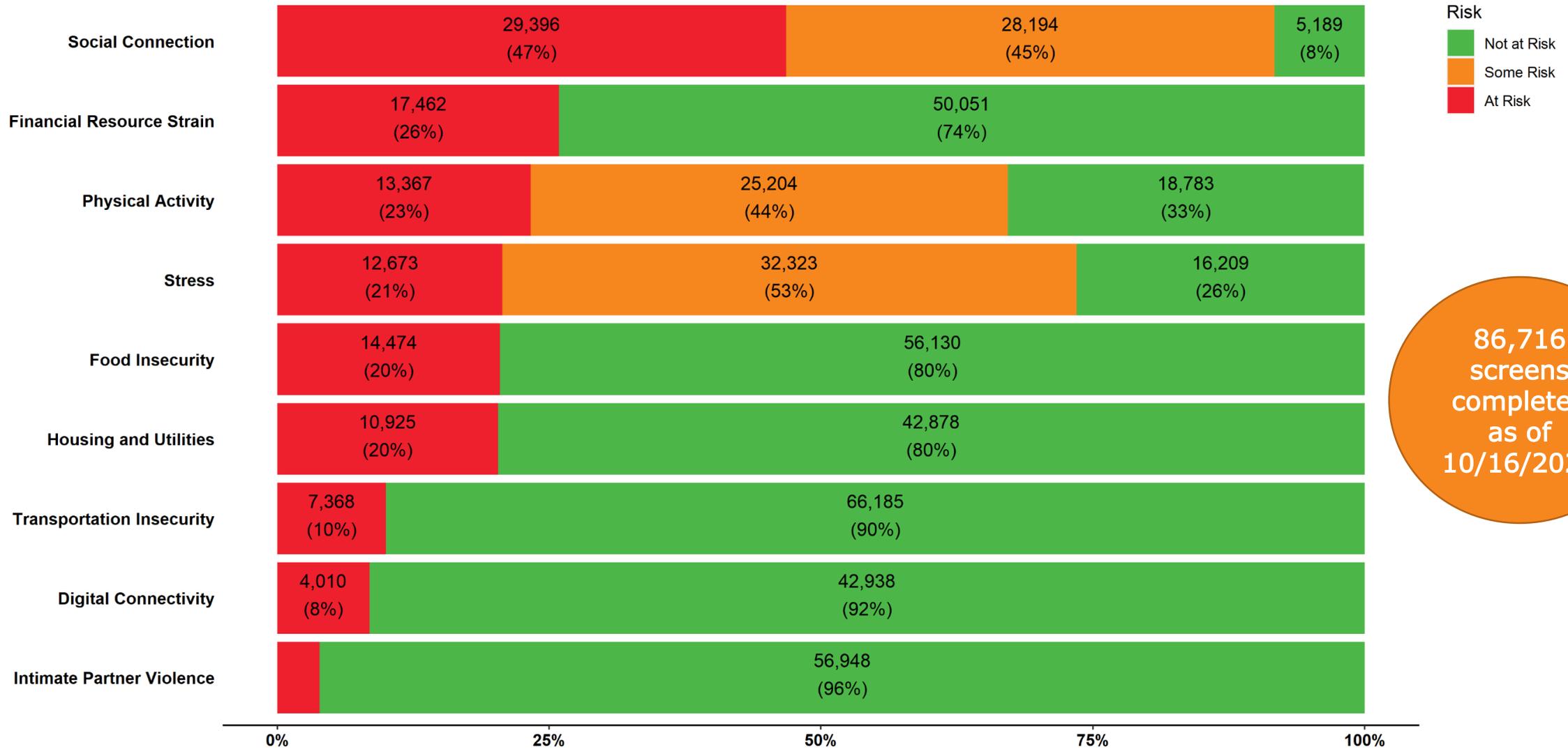


# Redesigning how healthcare and community organizations work together to help communities thrive



Utilize process and outcome data to drive program evaluation, research and continuous program improvement

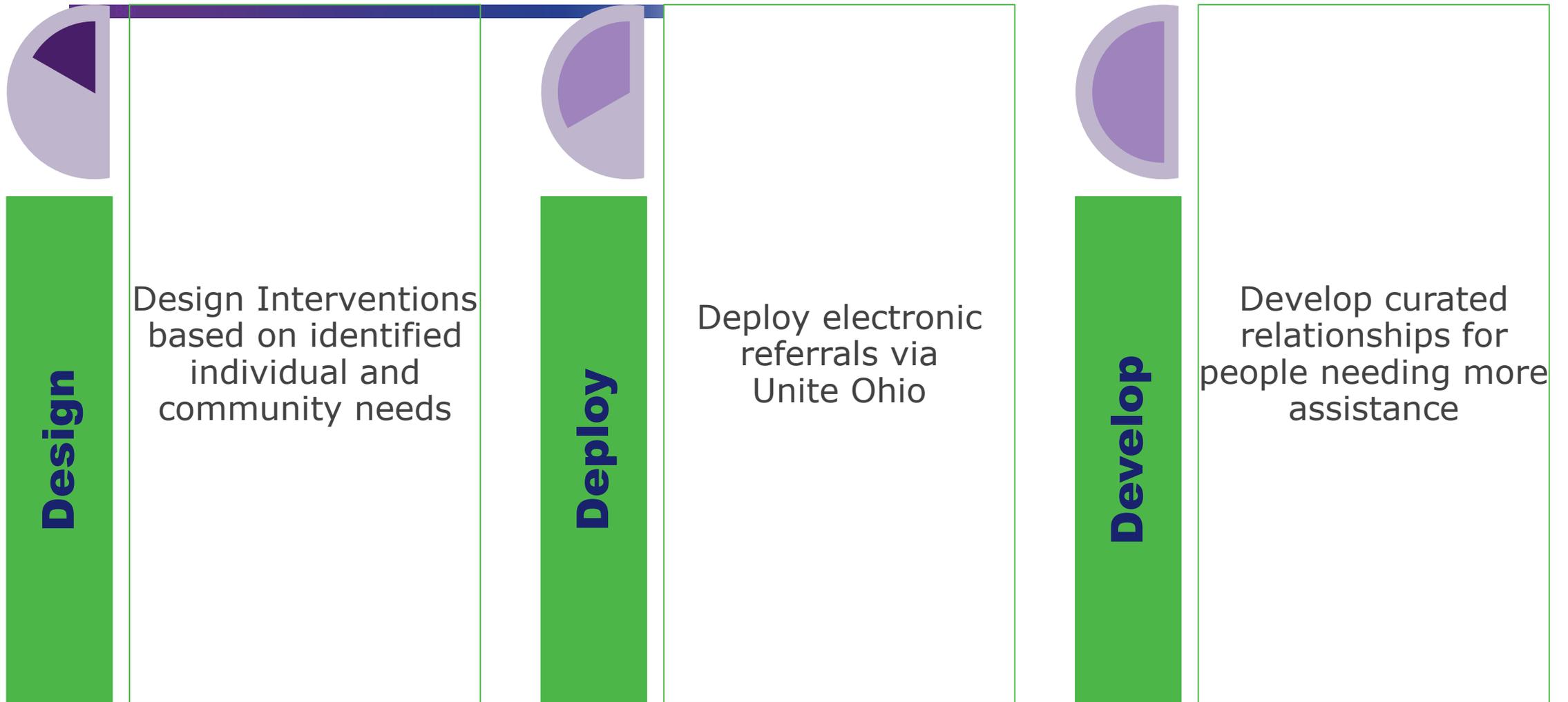
# Patient SDOH Screening Results



86,716 screens completed as of 10/16/2022



# Making Connections for Patients with Social Needs



# Food Security

## Why Focus on Food Security?

- Food Security is among the highest identified social risks among MetroHealth patients, with 20% of patients screening at-risk
- Strongly correlated with chronic disease:
  - Food insecure individuals are more likely to develop a chronic disease
  - Once a disease is established, food insecurity makes management more difficult
- Many health systems have active programming in this area
- Most communities are served by a food bank





## Design Interventions

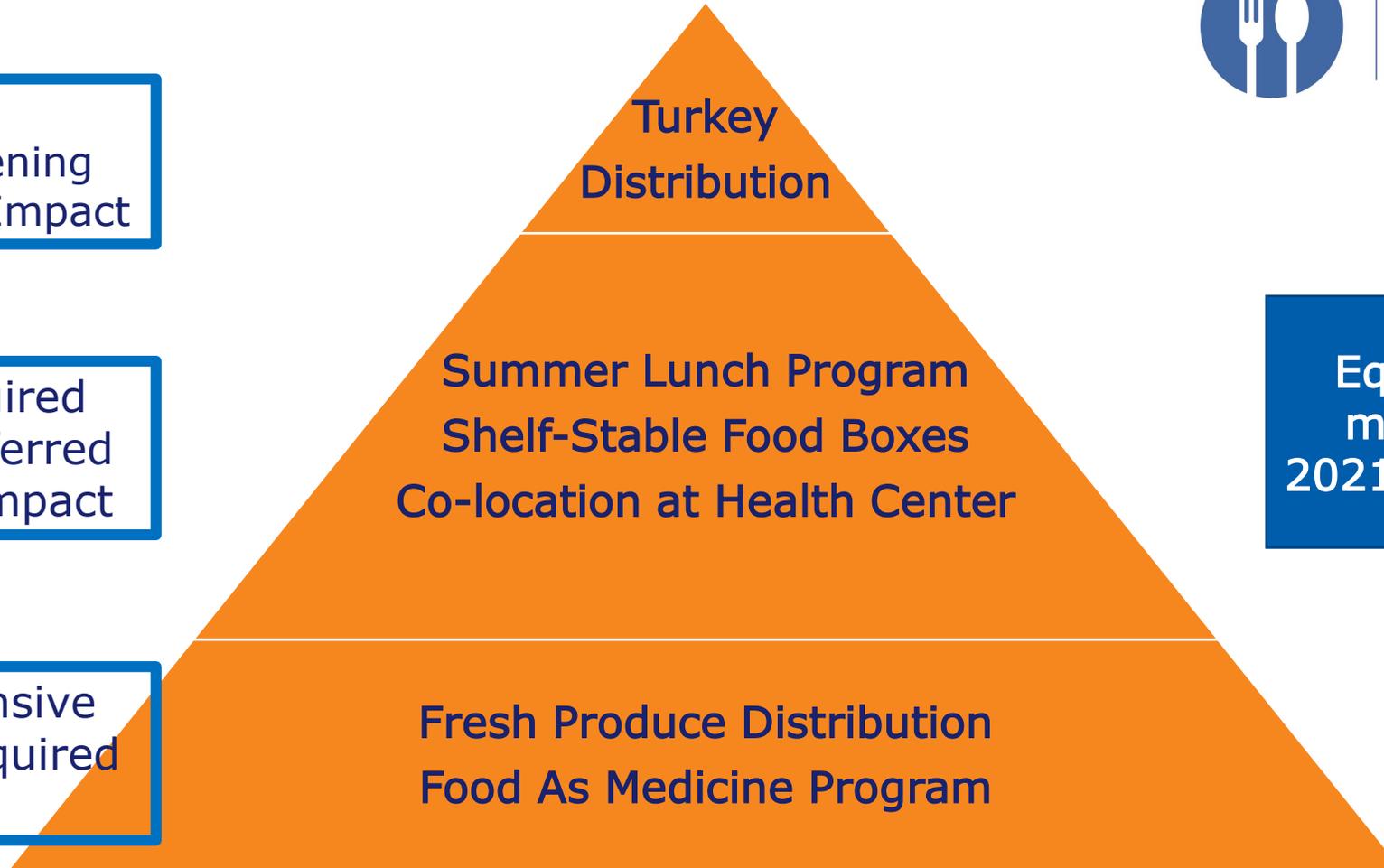
Low Resource  
No SDOH Screening  
Low/Unknown Impact



Resource Required  
Screening Preferred  
Likely Some Impact



Resource Intensive  
Screening Required  
Health Impact



Equivalent of 80,000  
meals distributed in  
2021 across all programs



# Food As Medicine Clinic

## Nutrition Prescription for Good Health



- Nutrition prescription program for patients who are food insecure and have specific chronic disease diagnoses that are impacted by diet
- Adult and pediatric populations are served
- Eligible for healthy food package every 2 weeks for up to one year
- Two clinic locations
- Home delivery and curbside pick-up options available
- Demonstrated outcomes in behavior change (eat more vegetables; reduced fast food consumption); trend of decreased ED visits
- On-going evaluation in process

# Deploy Electronic Referrals



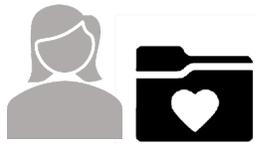
## Background

- Aligned with County's Community Health Needs Assessment process
- Multiple vendors assessed, with feedback from community stakeholders
- Key features desired:
  - Free to CBOs
  - Integration with electronic health record
  - Real-time status updates, confirming outcome
- Launched September 2020, with MetroHealth as inaugural sponsor
- Pandemic underscored need for better connections between health and social care
- Greater Cleveland Food Bank as first CBO to join
- All local health systems now on same platform

# Community-Wide Resource Referral Platform

MetroHealth partners with community-based social service organizations (CBOs) through Unite Ohio’s multi-directional electronic interface to “close the loop” on social needs.

## Screening

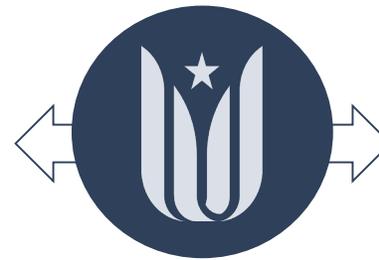


Patients complete a SDOH questionnaire in MyChart or during their clinic encounter to assess social needs they may have

## Referral



Clinicians and Coordinators note SDOH concerns, obtain consent, and make a UniteOhio referral within the Epic Health Record



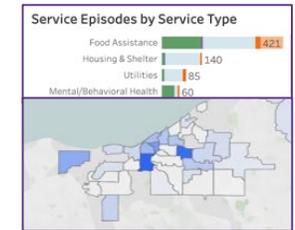
The shared technology platform serves as a coordinated care network to connect people to resources

## Resource



CBOs in the UniteOhio Network receive referrals and connect patients with resources.

## Feedback



Clinicians and Coordinators receive updates on partners working to support patients. Aggregate data used to inform community strategy.

Discover more at <https://ohio.uniteus.com>



## By the Numbers

229  
Community  
Based  
Organizations

422  
Programs

Over  
13,300  
Referrals  
Made

On behalf  
of 7,353  
Individuals

By 1,288  
Users

## Since Inception

Aligned with CHNA,  
with leadership from  
CWRU and CHA

Review and input  
from United Way,  
BHP and others

MetroHealth  
Founding Sponsor of  
Unite Ohio

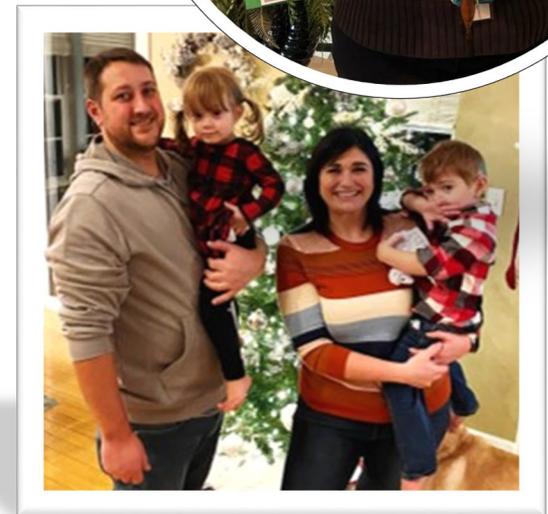
Cleveland Clinic, St.  
Vincent's Charity and  
UH also active with  
Unite Ohio

Local Community  
Advisory Council  
formed

Figures from inception through 10/10/2022 for MetroHealth users

# MetroHealth and Unite Ohio

- 150 user licenses at MetroHealth across multiple departments
  - Care Coordination
  - Institute for H.O.P.E.™
  - Trauma Recovery Center
  - Cancer Care
  - Opioid Safety
- Care Coordinators, Social Workers and Community Health Workers are primary users
- On-going efforts:
  - Onboarding new users
  - Training all users
  - Network growth
  - Assessing outcomes
  - Integration with screening and evaluation





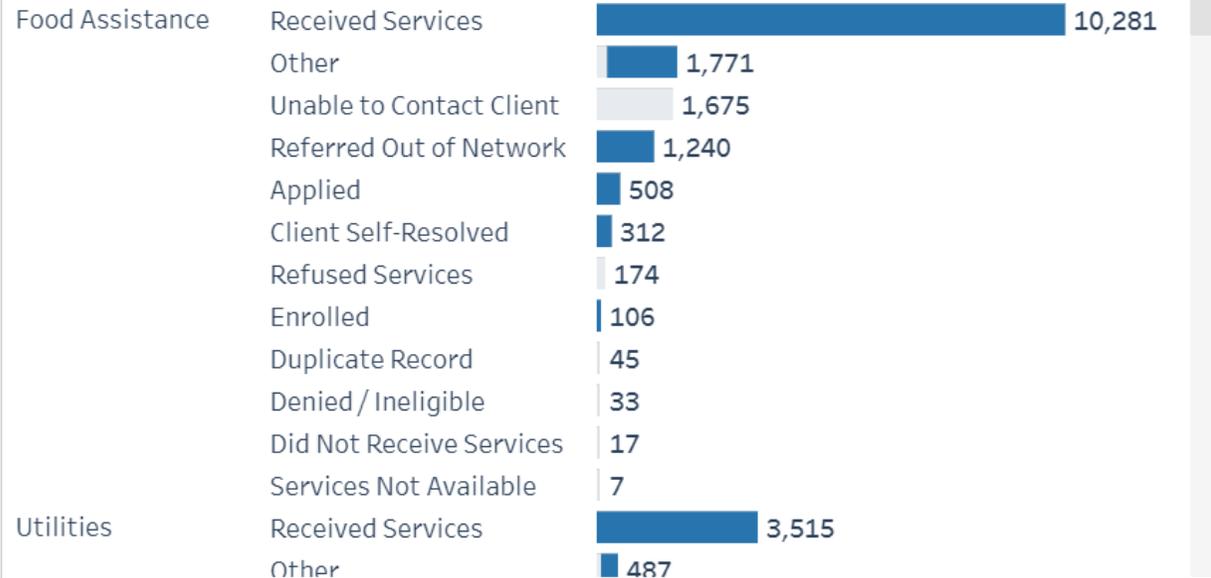
## GCFB Experience with Unite Ohio

- Among CBOs, GCFB had relatively robust capacity to manage referrals
- Initially “shared” responsibility across staff, but found it beneficial to have 1 dedicated staff member to manage referrals
  - Form productive relationships with those submitting referrals
  - Gain institutional knowledge
  - Notice patterns among referrals, leading to ideas for programmatic improvements/better service
- Unite Ohio platform is user friendly and intuitive; we do request modifications and customization when needed
- Regular training for healthcare partners sending referrals is critical
  - Understand services we offer
  - Make sure referrals are entered correctly
- Focus on quality vs quantity

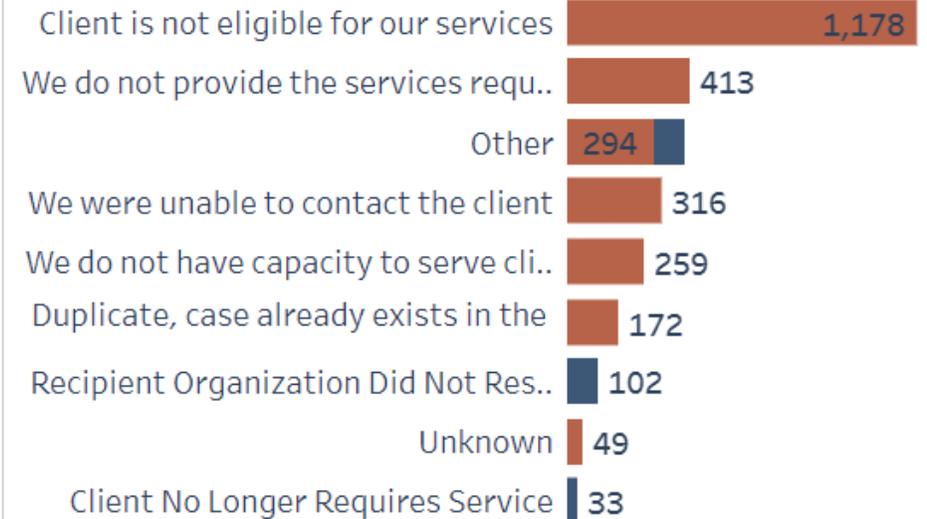
## Referral Status

	Accepted	Rejected	Sent	Recalled	Forwarded	In Review
Benefits Navigation	688	117	24	13	17	7
Clothing & Household Goods	108	119	18	20	5	
Education	797	56	46	6	1	
Employment	365	69	27	34	8	7
Entrepreneurship	3	2	3		1	
Food Assistance	3,524	819	79	35	56	38
Housing & Shelter	824	618	105	24	62	8
Income Support	99	57	11	6	11	
Individual & Family Support	873	159	56	20	12	6
Legal	36	18	2	2		
Mental/Behavioral Health	830	91	42	28		4
Money Management	241	27	2			

## Managed Cases by Outcome



## Referral Rejection / Recall Reason



Rejected

Recalled

# Develop Curated Relationships: Community Health Workers

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are lay members of communities who work in association with local health care delivery systems as front-line public health workers who are trusted members of or have a close understanding of the community being served. CHWs often share ethnicity, language, culture, socioeconomic status and/or life experience with the people or community they serve.

CHWs within the **Institute for H.O.P.E.™** engage with patients in a variety of ways:

- Navigation, advocacy and support to address health-related social needs
- Brief interventions to connect patients with social services
- Longer-term support for patients with multiple and complex needs
- Assisting patients to gain digital access
- Engaging patients in specialty programs like Food As Medicine
- Home deliveries of food
- Addressing wider needs of people served by Economic Opportunity Center
- Connecting families with the School Health Program
- Navigation support for smoking cessation
- Pathways HUB participation



# Workflows To Address Social Needs

At Risk for

- Social Isolation
- Physical Activity
- Stress

Automatic Education Material

At Risk for Intimate Partner Violence

Automatic Trauma Recovery Center Referral

3 Or More Requests

Community Health Worker

Screened at risk for SDOH

Screened at risk and consent to help for social needs

Request for Food

Automatic Referral to Food Bank

Request for

- Finance
- Education
- Housing Stability
- Housing Problems
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Employment

Community Health Worker

Request for Internet

Automatic Referral to Digital Connectivity Partner

ROLE	Patient Population and Link to SDOH Screening	KEY FEATURES
MyChart Navigator	<b>Screened on MyChart</b> Have social needs Request assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High volume</li> <li>• Brief intervention</li> <li>• Immediate response</li> <li>• Social service referrals</li> </ul>
Pathways HUB	<b>Multiple high-risk social needs</b> Chronic conditions Rising risk No care management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated caseload</li> <li>• On-going support</li> <li>• Social service referrals</li> <li>• Addressing care gaps</li> </ul>
Food As Medicine (FAM)	<b>Eligible for FAM program/food insecure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach, enrollment and scheduling</li> <li>• Home delivery of food</li> <li>• Other social service referrals</li> </ul>
Opportunity Center	<b>Screen at risk for Financial Strain</b> Have education or employment needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linked to broader services of Opportunity Center</li> <li>• Brief intervention or on-going support</li> </ul>
School Health Program	<b>Screened on Pre-Visit call for Well-Child</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social service referrals</li> <li>• Connection with School Health Team and care team</li> </ul>

# Making the Connection

## Responding to Requests for Assistance

- Screening results instantly populate into an Inbasket that the CHW reviews for outreach
- Focused outreach based on screening outcome by specialized team
  - For example, patients at risk for Intimate Personal Violence are contacted by our Trauma Recovery Center
- Outreach focused on connecting patients to resources and education
- Resources deployed by use of our e-referral platform
- Outreach interventions documented within EMR to be visible for the patient's care team

Request for Assistance

We may be able to connect you with resources and agencies that can help you by making a referral on your behalf. Would you like help with any of following? Please check all that apply:

- Internet Access
- Housing problems (mold, pests, leaks, lead, smoke detectors)
- Utilities (electric, gas, oil, water)
- Stress

 Mh Social Factors Consent

8/27/2021 7:07 AM EST -  
Filed by Patient

Question  
Please click below to provide your consent to be registered within the UniteOhio network:

Yes

Please enter today's date: 8/27/2021

# Assessing Connections Made

METHOD	CONFIRMATION of CONNECTION
Direct Programming	Varies by program/service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Track volumes</li><li>• EMR documentation</li></ul>
Electronic Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Real-time updates on referral status</li><li>• Data dashboards</li></ul>
Community Health Worker	Varies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outreach encounters documented in EMR</li><li>• Pathways HUB</li></ul>
Emmi Educational Content	Reporting from vendor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number modules distributed</li><li>• Number opened</li><li>• Number completed</li><li>• Customer survey</li></ul>



## Continuing Our Efforts: Emerging Projects

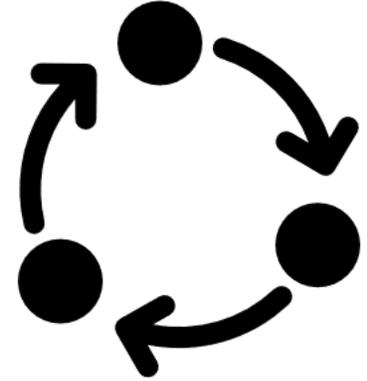
- Text outreach campaign to increase SNAP enrollment among MetroHealth patients
- Food at discharge offered to all food insecure patients with an inpatient stay
- Food as Medicine Clinic expansion to additional patient populations and locations



# Lessons Learned and Recommendations

## Making the Connection from Screening to Services

- Use screening results to drive actions
- Ask patients if they want assistance, and for what
- Identify multiple ways to engage and connect patients with services and resources
- Communicate with patients about these connections and what to expect
- Leverage existing programs with community-based partners
- Assess the level(s) at which you want to intervene
- Dedicate time to build and nurture relationships
- Assess along all points of continuum: Identify, Connect, Close, Resolve



# Thank you!

For more information:  
[InstituteForHOPE@metrohealth.org](mailto:InstituteForHOPE@metrohealth.org)





# Upcoming Webinar

- Wednesday, November 16, 10:30-11:30am CT  
**Part 3–Assess: Building a Data Process for Reporting, Research and More**



*Advancing Health in America*

# Exploring Multi-Sector Collaboration: A Playbook for New Rural Healthcare Models of Investment



American Hospital  
Association™

Advancing Health in America



Build Healthy  
Places Network

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. CST



**Samantha Borow**  
*Program Manager,  
Population Health*  
American Hospital  
Association



**Colleen Flynn**  
*Senior Director of  
National Programs*  
Build Healthy  
Places Network



**Ashley Hernandez**  
*Research and  
Product Manager*  
Build Healthy  
Places Network



**Rebecca Lemmons**  
*Regional Director of  
Community  
Health & Well-Being*  
Saint Alphonse Health System

# ACCELERATING HEALTH EQUITY CONFERENCE

**TOGETHER ON THE QUEST  
FOR HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS**

**MAY 16-18, 2023 | MINNEAPOLIS**

ORGANIZED BY



**DETAILS AT [EQUITYCONFERENCE.AHA.ORG](https://equityconference.aha.org)**

# Follow us on Social Media



@communityhlth



AHA Community Health Improvement (ACHI)