



# Duke Center for Community and Population Health Improvement

## **Duke Center for Community and Population Health Improvement**

### **Overview**

The Duke Center for Community and Population Health Improvement is a multi-disciplinary center that leverages academic, health system, and community partnerships to improve community and population health. Established in 2015, the Center builds from a long-standing history of community engaged programs and partnerships at Duke to (1) establish shared priorities for improving regional health among partners, (2) create a relevant research and academic agenda to address community and population health needs, and (3) enhance capacity within Duke and the community to improve health through multi-sector community engagement. The Center conducts research and pragmatic programs to understand and address key biomedical, behavioral, and contextual health determinants to improve community and population health and well-being. Improving health equity and eliminating disparities in health are a major focus of Center activities.

### **Vision**

Improve community and population health through academic, community and health system partnerships.

### **Mission**

- Develop shared strategies to improve community and population health through multi-sector partnerships
- Conduct rigorous pragmatic studies to identify effective strategies to improve the health of communities and populations
- Implement programs that directly respond to identified needs and influence policy
- Develop a workforce capable of fostering community and population health improvement

### **Key Programs**

Through five key programs, the Center tackles numerous health conditions affecting persons across the life course, while focusing on those needs viewed as most pressing by the community.

### **Multi-sector Community Stakeholder Engagement**

This program engages a range of leaders including those from Durham County and City

Government, Public Health, Commerce/Business, Justice, Safety and Social Services, education, and the Arts to advance shared missions around community and population health. Leaders discuss ongoing local and regional initiatives, addressing common goals and establishing common agendas that can work synergistically to improve health.

### **Policy and Practice Action**

This program leverages Duke leadership in population management and improvement programs sponsored by North Carolina Medicaid as well as Duke engagement in accountable care shared savings programs to identify opportunities to implement established interventions into policy supported initiatives. It also conducts funded demonstration projects to establish novel models of care for future adoption.

### **Population Health Improvement Mapping Program**

This program will provide a comprehensive foundational context for Duke's engagement in population health improvement currently and moving forward. It will provide a sustained resource that will fuel innovation and success in Duke Health Population Health Improvement. We will identify population health improvement efforts occurring across all groups within Duke Health, emanating from all of the major Duke Health activities (i.e., clinical care, research, and education). Using a comprehensive multi-method approach, we will (a) catalog ongoing activities, (b) propose a common taxonomy (i.e., common language) for activities; identify core and allied efforts in population health improvement; (c) review and provide analysis of outcomes of prior and ongoing efforts, (d) identify connectedness of existing programs both within Duke and with community partners in the area, and (e) launch a comprehensive dissemination program to publicize Duke Health efforts.

### **Research**

This research program seeks to identify, measure, and address determinants of poor health and to establish the effectiveness and sustainability of pragmatic programs to improve and sustain community and population health and health equity. Though multiple externally funded projects, academic researchers with expertise in a broad range of methodologies, including clinical epidemiology, geospatial science, biomedical informatics, implementation science, social science, health policy, and precision medicine approaches work in concert to address high priority health needs, established through partnerships with the community. Community engagement undergirds the research program, which features (1) a standing network of established community leaders representing local non-profit organizations, local health sector leaders (including City and County Public Health agencies), local health systems, patients, and their families, (2) a standing community advisory board, (3) a program of ongoing colloquia to bring researchers together with community members to collaboratively engage in research, and

(4) Duke-sponsored education and match-making programs to enhance researcher readiness to engaged with community members and to enhance community readiness for research.

### **Education and Training**

This program seeks to build a pipeline of academic and community leaders in community-engaged population health research through multiple ways: conducting assessment of existing trainings and building a database to match learners with opportunities; developing and disseminating curriculum and advanced seminar series to enhance research readiness of community members and researchers; and growing the practitioner workforce around community and population health improvement. Partners involved in these education and training initiatives could include community members and leaders along with students, residents, clinical and research fellows, and faculty members interested in being involved in community engaged population studies.