

Welcome!

We know you get a lot of e-newsletters into your InBox. You are receiving this first issue of Equity in Action because we identified you as a friend and associate of Wellness West and/or one of its many collaborating partners that work every day to improve health and well-being on the West Side of Chicago.

Wellness West is creating an unprecedented coordination and collaboration between West Side partners. We will use this Equity in Action publication to provide the latest happenings in our effort; what we're learning; what we're doing...and most importantly, the impact we're making. This first issue gives an overview of Wellness West and our work so far.

We hope that you will find the information in this newsletter useful and interesting, but you can unsubscribe at the bottom of this email at any time. We hope you will stay subscribed and be a part of our effort.

Sincerely,

Jose R. Sanchez

Chair, Wellness West | CEO, Humboldt Park Health



Why We Exist

The West Side of Chicago suffers disproportionately from higher rates of chronic disease, acute ailments and mental illness. Wellness West was created to address this health inequity.

Wellness West is the coming together of proven, well-respected health care and social service providers on the West Side. Our purpose is to create an unprecedented and uninterrupted continuity of care among hospitals, out-patient care, the social service network and community residents.



Our Model of Care

Our care delivery model is comprehensive, and our foundational focus is on health equity. A shamefully persistent injustice in Chicago is that race and ethnicity are statistical predictors of virtually every health and well-being metric. At the core of the Wellness West model are four key elements:



Collaboration and Coordination

Wellness West is creating a transformational continuity of care between hospitals, community health centers, community mental health centers, social services, and other critical points of care.



Community Health Workers

Wellness West provider partners provide patients with a dedicated Community Health Worker (CHW). This CHW acts as a personal guide and advocate through the complex maze of resources that are available, but often difficult to navigate and access.



Addressing Social Needs of Health

Wellness West is focused on providing whole person health, which includes all the social determinants of health that contribute to a person's ability to achieve wellness.



Chronic Disease Management and Behavioral Health

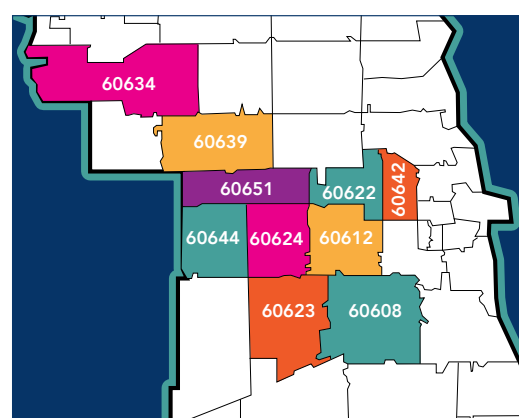
Wellness West, using a collaborative care approach, supports patients in successfully managing chronic illnesses. Behavioral health teams provide concierge services for those seeking treatment.

Our Service Area and Conditions of Focus

We are focused exclusively on the West Side of Chicago, specifically in 10 zip codes, that comprise a total population of 571,902. We work with those on Medicaid or who have no health insurance.

We are focused on the following medical or behavioral conditions:

- Severe mental illness and those struggling with addiction, or a substance use disorder
- Mild to moderate depression
- Hypertension (or at risk for hypertension)
- Diabetes (or at risk for diabetes)
- Adverse childhood experience



Our Progress

4,918 Disease Management Participants (41% enrolled in diabetes, 48% enrolled in hypertension, 11% in depression)	199K Potential attributed lives (44,000 uninsured)	10,768 Total number of Health Risk Assessments (HRAs) performed	98 Total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff hired	42 West Side organizations have joined Wellness West as partners	150+ Clinical leaders and community stakeholders recruited to provide governance and program oversight support
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As of June 2, 2023

Economic Stimulus for the West Side

The West Side of Chicago needs employment and economic opportunity. When community members have good paying jobs with good benefits and good training, a great future is in reach. That's why Wellness West is proud to have funded more than 100 full-time equivalent positions. Most of these jobs are as Community Health Workers (CHWs) at our partner organizations. These CHWs come from the community and often have shared similar life experiences with the patients they help. They are trusted voices and resources. Best of all, these roles can be a springboard to a productive and profitable career in healthcare and community advocacy.

Team Member Spotlight

Josemanuel Rodriguez is a Community Health Worker for Humboldt Park Health (HPH), a Wellness West partner in the West Town community. He works one-on-one with vulnerable and at-risk patients on the West Side of Chicago who are admitted to HPH.

He grew up all over Chicago's Northwest and West Sides, including Humboldt Park and Avondale. This has given him a deep knowledge about the rhythms and challenges that communities face. His family taught him the importance of compassion and helping people.

"I see a lot of myself and my family in the people I work with," he says. "We're all human. Everyone faces challenges and struggles at certain points in their lives."



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As clinicians at Humboldt Park Health work with patients and identify additional needs, they call for Josemanuel to meet the patient and perform a Health Risk Assessment. From there, he helps the patient get in touch with community resources that can make a big difference.

"It is gratifying to see the smile and a sigh of relief from a patient I interact with," he says. "You can see the moment they realize I'm there to help without hesitation or judgement."

Josemanuel emphasizes the compounding benefits of his work. "This is what I love most about my job," he says. "It's about knowing that if I help one person get to a place in their lives where they can help others, I'm making a big difference."

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Our Partners

Community Health Centers
Access Community Health Network
AHS Family Health Center
Alivio Medical Center Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness
Chicago Family Health Center
Community Health
Erie Family Health Center
Esperanza Health Centers
Friend Health
Lawndale Christian Health Center
PCC Community Wellness
PrimeCare Health
Tapestry 360 Health

Hospital Systems
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital
Ascension Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center
Cook County Health
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Community Mental Health Centers
Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center
Habilitative Systems, Inc.
Healthcare Alternative Systems (H.A.S.)
Rincon Family Services

Community-based Organizations
Bethel New Life
Breakthrough
Equal Hope
Erie House
Gads Hill Center
Healthy Hood
North Lawndale
Employment Network
Puerto Rican Cultural Center
Spanish Coalition for Housing
Taller de Jose
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