LAKELAND REGIONAL HEALTH

has been meeting the health needs of Polk County families since 1916. As a not-for-profit healthcare organization, we are dedicated to strengthening those we serve by providing the tools and resources necessary for people to think differently about their health. We are steadfast in our desire to deliver on our Promises and advance the future of healthcare for our patients, families and care partners, ourselves, our team, and the community at large, in ways that will significantly impact health and enhance quality of life.

Vision
Together, our Promise is YOUR HEALTH.

Mission Statement
We deliver the best outcomes and safest care by placing people at the heart of all we do. We improve lives every day by promoting wellness, education and discovery.
Community Benefit

What is Community Benefit?

Community benefit refers to the initiatives, education, activities, and investments undertaken by not-for-profit hospitals to improve health in the communities they serve.¹

Community benefit includes uncompensated care, research, health professions education and overall community health improvement.

Community Health Needs Assessment

Not-for-profit hospitals and health systems are required by the Affordable Care Act to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) every three years. The 2018-2021 CHNA was conducted as a collaborative multi-stage process that combined broad subjective and qualitative community input, a complete assessment using quantifiable data, consultation with government leaders with current data and/or other information relevant to the health needs of the community served by Lakeland Regional Health, and consultation with those with special knowledge or expertise in public health to determine and subsequently prioritize community health needs.

The 2018-2021 CHNA identified 7 priority health needs:
- Obesity
- Maternal and Infant Care
- Access to Quality, Coordinated Care
- Mental Healthcare
- Cancer Screening and Prevention
- Heart Disease and Stroke Screening
- Injury Prevention

Lakeland Regional Health works to deliver the best outcomes and safest care by placing people at the heart of all we do. We improve lives every day by promoting wellness, education and discovery.

**LAKELAND REGIONAL HEALTH TO OPEN COUNTY’S ONLY HIGH-ACUITY PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT**

Lakeland, FL – Lakeland Regional Health is pleased to now be able to offer families in Polk County and surrounding communities the ease and peace of mind of high-level intensive care for their children right here in Lakeland, beginning September 1, 2020. A 12-bed high-acuity Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is ready to open at the Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children.

"Lakeland Regional Health and its Pediatric teams feel very fortunate to be able to provide children who are critically ill with life-saving medical care close to home," said Timothy J. Regan, MD, President, Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center/Chief Medical. "We want to be here for you and your family when you need us most."

Among the conditions our Pediatric Intensive Care Unit can now treat:

- Acute and chronic respiratory insufficiency (asthma, infection, acute lung injury)
- Circulatory failure (sepsis, shock, heart failure not requiring ECMO)
- Infectious diseases leading to major organ system dysfunction
- Endocrine and metabolic disorders (diabetic ketoacidosis, recognition and stabilization of inborn errors of metabolism and mitochondrial disorders, hypothyroidism, adrenal crisis)
- Neurologic diseases (status epilepticus, encephalopathy)
- Toxic ingestions/exposures
- Hematologic disease

Lakeland Regional Health’s collaboration with Nemours Children’s Health System allows for staffing the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit with highly skilled Intensivist Specialists. In addition, Pediatric Respiratory Therapists, a specially trained Pediatric Nursing team and two Certified Child Life Specialists will provide close monitoring and care for these young patients.

"I am proud to be a part of this exciting new Pediatric ICU, which will help families in the area find the care they need from specially trained physicians closer to home,” said Al Torres, MD, Nemours Children’s Health System Medical Director of Pediatric Programs at the Partnerships and Medical Director of the PICU at Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center.

The PICU is located on the south side of the sixth floor of the Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children, sharing the floor with the Pediatrics Unit. The Pavilion for Women and Children opened in 2018 to serve the women, babies and children of the community.
LAKELAND REGIONAL HEALTH COLLABORATES WITH SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY TO FOSTER STUDENT WELLNESS

Lakeland, FL – Lakeland Regional Health is pleased to announce a new collaboration with Southeastern University to provide medical care for its student population, beginning in fall 2020. Lakeland Regional Health works hard to ensure the health and wellness of local college students, staffing clinics on several campuses in the area.

“Lakeland Regional Health is committed to strengthening the health and safety of our community, particularly on our college campuses,” said Sarah Bhagat, CLSSBB, Lakeland Regional Health Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Lakeland Regional Health Physician Group, Ambulatory Operations and Organizational Effectiveness. “We are thrilled that Southeastern University entrusts us to provide exceptional medical care for its students and peace of mind to their families.”

The collaboration, which begins when classes resume on September 2, 2020, includes a full-time Physician Assistant at Southeastern University’s Health Services Center. Students who visit the Health Services Center will be able to be treated by Lakeland Regional Health’s Physician Assistant for illnesses, injuries, prescription refills, vaccinations and sports physicals.

“We are very excited and grateful to be able to partner with one of the leading hospitals in our state,” said Southeastern University President Kent Ingle. “Lakeland Regional Health has provided many opportunities for our students to gain experience off-campus, so we are looking forward to partnering with them on-campus. This opportunity will help us provide premier health services for our students and enhance our on-campus experience as we look to provide a healthy and safe environment for our community.”

In addition to Southeastern University, Lakeland Regional Health provides an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at Florida Southern College’s Student Health Center and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at Florida Polytechnic University’s Health Clinic.
The City of Lakeland and Lakeland Regional Health are pleased to announce an unprecedented investment in our community aimed to lift up those with behavioral health needs and help lessen their distress and challenges.

Good behavioral health means a thriving community, but behavioral health problems can impede people’s abilities to realize their potential, cope with stresses, work productively, and make contributions to their communities. The burden of mental illness on a community also can create challenges associated with homelessness, poverty and substance abuse that can cause stress on the community’s health, education and public safety systems. Today’s announcement is a community collaboration between the City of Lakeland and Lakeland Regional Health aimed to alleviate the health and social challenges that are inextricably linked to behavioral health in order to make life better in Lakeland.

“We are so grateful to our City Commissioners, Mayor and city leaders for their unprecedented support of Lakeland Regional Health’s efforts to expand behavioral health services for Lakeland and the surrounding areas. We are honored for them to be our partners in this extraordinary community investment,” said Elaine C. Thompson, PhD, FACHE, Lakeland Regional Health President and CEO. “Without their dedication to see each resident of our community lead productive, high-quality and healthy lives, we would not be able to focus on this much-needed area of care that will be transformational for patients.”

Lakeland Regional Health will begin the process toward construction on a free-standing 96-bed Center for Behavioral Health & Wellness on the Medical Center Campus. Construction is expected to be complete in 2022. This behavioral health hospital for adolescents and adults will allow for expanded care and co-location of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services for enhanced continuum of care in a safe, welcoming and relaxed environment.

The Center for Behavioral Health & Wellness will focus on several areas of service:

• Emergency Stabilization
• Adult Inpatient Care
• Substance Abuse Disorders
• Memory Disorders
• Child and Adolescent Inpatient Services
• Adult Outpatient Care
• Child and Adolescent Outpatient Care
• Family Behavioral Health and Wellness
• Non-Residential Intensive Behavioral Health Programs

The design will include three one-story buildings designed around the therapeutic and healing properties of natural light and other visual aspects of the patient environment to reduce stress and encourage healing. According to published research, natural daylight and evening darkness drive circadian rhythm responses that influence emotional and mental state. Research also shows that excessive noise is associated with stress for patients and team members. In addition, the facility design includes secure outdoor space for patients and families, which also has been scientifically shown to contribute to better outcomes.

“Behavioral healthcare needs are growing at a dramatic rate,” said Bill Mutz, Mayor, City of Lakeland. “The demand is far greater than just a decade ago. The City of Lakeland and Lakeland Regional Health partnership will provide progressive care and the capacity to meet these critical needs. Both organizations are committed to improving the quality of life in Lakeland and across Polk County.”

“Our society has traditionally underinvested in behavioral health resources, so it’s fantastic to see Lakeland Regional Health take a proactive approach to address the need in our community,” said Lakeland City Commissioner Scott Franklin. “Citizens of Lakeland are fortunate to have access to such a strong and dynamic healthcare system, and our city’s partnership with LRH is something we should all be proud of.”

In Polk County, the ratio of the population to mental health providers is 1,400:1. In both the 2011 and 2014 Community Health Assessment, conducted by the Florida Department of Health, Polk Vision, other local not-for-profit hospitals and numerous health agencies, Polk County residents reported mental health issues and substance abuse to be critical health problems and urgent risks to their health and safety. About 25% of Lakeland’s population is affected by mental health issues or substance abuse every year, and of that number many of them end up in the emergency room, on the streets or incarcerated.

Currently, Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center has 68 beds for adult and adolescent behavioral healthcare treatments for depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse and memory disorders, and serves as a Baker Act receiving hospital. In 2018 alone, Lakeland Regional Health cared for more than 5,400 Baker Act cases.

“We desperately need proactive, deliberate and comprehensive behavioral and mental health services for our community,” said Danielle Drummond, MS, FACHE, Lakeland Regional Health Medical Center, Lake West President and CEO, Director of Operations. “With the vital support of the City as well as local social service and health agencies, we are so excited to move forward to tackle one of our area’s most pressing needs.”

Lakeland Regional Health leaders and Peace River Center leaders have worked collaboratively to ensure programs and inpatient care that each organization provides to the community are complementary across the continuum of care.

“Often, those with mental illness feel misunderstood,” said Alice Nuttall, MBA, RN, BA, Lakeland Regional Health Director of Behavioral Health. “We need to embrace and encourage those with mental illness, dementia, post-partum depression, anxiety disorders and addictions to seek nearby help, start talking about their struggles and lead them on a journey toward hope and wellness.”