

# Report to the Community

## January-March 2023



### SUPPORTING A GRIEVING COMMUNITY

When John Adams College and Career Academy (JACCA) lost a student to gun violence in January, MetroHealth responded immediately, bringing its expertise and resources to comfort and support the school community.

Pierre McCoy, an 18-year-old junior, was shot and killed at a Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority stop near the JACCA campus while waiting for a bus after school. More than 25 people, many of them other students, witnessed the tragedy.

Immediately following the incident, The Institute for H.O.P.E.™ and Behavioral Health mobilized a multi-disciplinary team of representatives from the Trauma Recovery Center, School Health Program, Behavioral Health and Faith Community Outreach to provide trauma support and processing to staff, students, administrators, and families.

Efforts were coordinated directly with Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) administration, community-based organizations, and members of the clergy throughout the community to ensure support was provided to all impacted.

Megen Simpson, M.A.Ed., LPC, Director of the Trauma Recovery Center, said MetroHealth is the only hospital in Northeast Ohio with an embedded Trauma Recovery Center dedicated to supporting patients who have experienced or witnessed a victimization. Normally, the



team works in the hospital setting, but in keeping with MetroHealth's mission to address Social Drivers of Health, the team will mobilize to lend their expertise in the community when possible. This is the first time the team has provided trauma response support for an incident at CMSD.

Previously, the team has provided trauma support to a local congregation and the King Kennedy Boys & Girls Club, with this being the first-time providing support at CMSD. Capacity enhancement to meet survivors where they are, and trauma-focused mental health therapy is an unwavering priority of the Trauma Recovery Center to facilitate whole-person healing from violence and trauma.

## LEADING THE CONVERSATION

The March issue of Catalyst, a digital publication of the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), highlights the work being done by the MetroHealth Institute for H.O.P.E.™ to address Social Drivers of Health (SDOH).



The Institute for H.O.P.E.™ President Sue Fuehrer and others authored the leading “Viewpoints” article in the SDOH-themed issue of the online journal Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery. The article, “Understanding and Addressing Social Drivers of Health: Insights from MetroHealth Institute for H.O.P.E.™,” details MetroHealth’s unique programs – including Calls for HOPE, the Opportunity Center and the Trauma Recovery Center – and their successful outcomes.

“The Institute for H.O.P.E.™ has built a reputation as a leader in understanding the factors in people’s lives that affect their ability to maintain good health and develop interventions to address them,” Fuehrer said. “We were thrilled to have a chance to lend our voice to this topic in a publication of the venerable New England Journal of Medicine.”

## CONNECTING A COMMUNITY

Unite Ohio continues to be a trusted and efficient resource to connect patients with community-based organizations, programs and resources to meet their needs. For



instance, in the first quarter of 2023, our Trauma Recovery Center and School Health Program teams highlighted in our feature story made a total of 150 referrals through Unite Ohio, 39% of which were for behavioral health services.

Signature Health is one of the valued community-based organizations that we rely on to provide a range of behavioral health services. The Trauma Recovery Center staff particularly values their specialized trauma therapies and appreciates their quick response time in accepting referrals.

Libbie Stansifer, MD, Chief Clinical Officer with Signature Health, notes how the Unite Ohio platform supports an efficient referral workflow, which benefits patients.

“Our team is able to respond to referrals in a timely manner and connect new patients with an assessment appointment to determine next steps for their treatment plan. Signature Health counselors and medical providers can offer trauma-informed therapy, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, medication management and more. We’re honored to collaborate with MetroHealth’s Trauma Recovery Center to support individuals in need.”

## RESEARCH & EVALUATION

We’re committed to evaluating our work and sharing what we’ve learned with others. This quarter we presented at nine regional and national conferences, and we published one manuscript. Recent work highlights include:

- Cook, K., Santiago, M. (2023, Feb. 23). Identifying and Addressing Social Needs that Impact Employment [Webinar]. Health Action Council, Cleveland, OH.
- Fuehrer, S., Misak, J., Chagin, K., Cook, K., Jackson, L., Santiago, M., Simpson, M., Seghal, A. (2023) [Understanding and Addressing Social Drivers of Health: Insights from the MetroHealth Institute for H.O.P.E.™](#), NEJM Catalyst.
- Seghal, A., Santiago, M., & Webb, A. (2023, Feb. 9). [SDOH Screening for MetroHealth Employees \[Webinar\]](#). Dialogue, Scottsdale Institute.



## INSTITUTE FOR H.O.P.E.™ PROGRAM UPDATES

● MetroHealth celebrated the opening of the new Heights Wellness Center at Heights High School (Cleveland Heights – University Heights School District) in January. This initiative is supported by funds awarded to the School Health Program from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health. The funding will allow MetroHealth to expand mobile unit services and launch three additional on-site school health clinics within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District in the months ahead.

● Starting in April, residents of Phoenix Village, a Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) community, will have access to affordable internet and digital training services provided by Connected Care Cleveland, a partnership between DigitalC, CMHA, MetroHealth and Dollar Bank. This is the first of six CMHA sites to benefit from the program, which is supported by a recent \$901,000 award from the Federal Communications Commission. Last year, the partnership celebrated connecting 1,000 households and about 2,200 Cleveland residents to low-cost, reliable broadband in the neighborhoods surrounding MetroHealth’s main campus.

