

Co-Designing Change

Innovation Summit Highlights

REGION 4

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Puerto Rico,
South Carolina, Tennessee



The AHA's Innovation Summits convene community, hospital and health system leaders for a day of collaborative design. Using a human-centered approach, participants listen, learn and co-create solutions to reduce disparities in health outcomes.

This one-page brief highlights the opportunities for action that emerged from the Region 1 convening, where participants identified three priority areas for change.

Priorities:

1 Leading from Within and Beyond

- Support the emotional well-being of leaders by implementing mentorship and coaching programs that provide guidance, peer support and tools to navigate the challenges of leading complex health systems.
- Elevate front-line voices by creating structured and recurring opportunities for staff to share insights, experiences and feedback that inform leadership decisions and organizational priorities.
- Develop standardized dashboards highlighting progress on key commitments and share them with community leaders to monitor outcomes and celebrate successes.

2 Reimagine Health Care as a Community-anchored System

- Establish joint learning sessions between community representatives and care teams.
- Develop joint goals and establish a shared process for measuring progress with community stakeholders.
- Train providers to use comprehensive health assessments that capture key contextual factors when they're evaluating patients.

3 Cultivate a Representative Workforce as a Catalyst for Change

- Define a core curriculum on patient engagement strategies, including actionable tools for building trust, shared decision-making and effective communication
- Provide safety assessment toolkits with checklists, screening tools and improvement guides to help providers and staff to assess and improve care environment
- Develop mentorship programs that pair mentees with cross-disciplinary mentors to broaden knowledge and problem-solving capabilities.

Below are guiding questions designed to shape discussions, inform strategic planning and translate ideas into action to drive impact.

Call to Action:

- **Consider:** What strategies could help us share data more effectively across departments and with external partners to drive better outcomes?
- **Engage:** How do we meaningfully engage community members and groups so we can ensure their insights and experiences inform our work?
- **Integrate:** How can we align clinical priorities with goals and needs identified by the community to effectively coordinate action?