

# Co-Designing Change

## Innovation Summit Highlights

### REGION 5

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin



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 Emphasize Structural Alignment Across all Organizational Levels

- Create feedback loops to elevate front-line insights into executive decision-making.
- Provide criteria to define meaningful collaboration across the organization, with incentives such as team member recognition or awards.
- Conduct staff roundtables to identify top priorities and inform organizational strategic plans.

#### 2 Spotlight External Voices in Outcomes Improvement Efforts

- Designate seats in board-level meetings for external stakeholder voices.
- Establish cross-sector task forces to focus on priority issues (maternal and childcare, early development, chronic disease, disability).
- Coordinate education forums with community leaders to promote public understanding of disparities in health outcomes.

#### 3 Empower Hospital Staff as a Force for Change

- Develop health literacy training programs focused on plain-language communication and teach-back methods to support effective communication with community members.
- Facilitate partnerships among staff and community partners to strengthen networks and foster collaboration.
- Combine qualitative and quantitative data in reports and dashboards to offer an expansive picture of community strengths and needs.

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

### Call to Action:

- **Consider:** How can executive presence in community initiatives promote trust?
- **Engage:** How can we create meaningful opportunities for community members and local leaders to actively influence organizational planning and decisions?
- **Integrate:** What processes could be improved by including the perspectives of community members?