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 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 5 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?