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Southcoast Health is a community-based health delivery system offering an integrated continuum of health services throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and parts of Rhode Island. Southcoast Health is comprised of three hospitals—Charlton Memorial in Fall River, St. Luke's in New Bedford and Tobey in Wareham—two Centers for Cancer Care and six Urgent Care Centers, and has partnered with Acadia Healthcare to provide behavioral health services at Southcoast Behavioral Health in Dartmouth. With a comprehensive network of more than 600 employed and affiliated providers, Southcoast is the largest provider of primary and specialty care in the region. A visiting nurse association and numerous additional ambulatory facilities help to round out the services provided to more than 724,000 residents in 33 communities. Southcoast Health is a not-for-profit, charitable organization, and, with more than 7,500 employees, is the largest employer in Southeastern Mass., and the 18th largest employer in the Commonwealth according to the Boston Business Journal.

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Community Health Needs Assessment

In 2017, Southcoast facilitated six discussion groups with community partners to gather feedback regarding the findings of the 2016 health needs assessment. This information was used to frame community conversations and engage residents for their perspectives. Southcoast Health will be working with community partners to develop a regional health improvement plan to address issues of concern and health disparities.

Community Impact Grants

Southcoast Health completed its second Community Benefits Impact Opportunity grant program in 2017—a competitive grant process focused on addressing unmet health needs on the South Coast region. Grant proposals must align with the nine health priority areas as identified by the community health needs assessment. Southcoast Health received 35 applications and awarded 32 grants for a total of \$132,500 plus in-kind donations. The average award ranged between \$2,500 and \$7,500 with a limit of \$10,000. An awards ceremony held for grantees provided an opportunity for networking and collaboration.

Collaboration & Coalition Building

Coalition building is an important activity that promotes coordination and collaboration through the effective use of

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limited community resources. In 2017, Southcoast Health staff led and participated in more than 30 community coalitions across the region. These coalitions are comprised of various stakeholders from the community including health providers, teachers, law enforcement, businesses, religious leaders and others who come together with a shared goal to make communities safer, healthier and drug-free.

Community Benefits Programs

Throughout the year, Southcoast Health collaborates with a number of community partners to implement community benefits programs. During 2017, Southcoast Health administered 10 programs that addressed the following issues: youth risk behaviors, smoking cessation and prevention, health equity, maternal/child health, health access, behavioral health and substance use, healthy system and environment change, food security, chronic disease and homelessness.