Implementation Plan
Community Health Needs Assessment
2016-2018
Introduction

Riverside Medical Center partners with the Kankakee County Health Department, Presence St. Mary’s Hospital, The United Way, and representatives from multiple other service lines within the community to provide leadership, staffing, and funding in the Partnership for a Healthy Community. For this most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), this group began its work in 2014 and continued through 2015 to develop a refreshed plan for 2016-2018. The Partnership for a Healthy Community contracted with the Illinois Public Health Institute to facilitate the assessment and development of action plans. The purpose of this document is to articulate Riverside Medical Center’s specific support for these community-identified priorities.

Broadly, Riverside supports the community in many ways. Annually our Community Benefit Report documents the impact of measurable benefit in our community. In addition to being a not-for-profit organization, Riverside employees give significantly every year to the United Way campaign, a member of the Executive Leadership Team serves on the United Way board of directors, and Riverside continues to be the top sponsor of the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, which raises the most funds in the state of Illinois.

Addressing the community’s health needs is Riverside’s highest priority and has our full commitment. The following document lays out numerous new and expanded initiatives to improve the quality of health in the communities we serve, as aligned with the current Community Health Needs Assessment.

Mission and Vision

The Mission Statement of the Partnership is as follows:
*We are committed to creating a healthy community through comprehensive assessments and the implementation of effective action plans.*

This coincides with the Vision Statement of the Partnership:
*Building a strong, healthy, and safe Kankakee County.*

MAPP Overview

The Partnership utilized the standardized process termed ‘Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships’ (MAPP) to gather data and develop a strategic plan. This planning process utilized four formal assessments from which to identify the top strategic priorities for the CHNA. Those four processes are:
Riverside Leadership and Participation

More than ten representatives from Riverside participated in the assessment and planning process including Matt McBurnie who serves on the Steering Committee to guide the partnership. (Dr. John Jurica and Maggie Frogge served initially on the Steering Committee, but as they transitioned away from Riverside in late 2014 and early 2015 respectively, Matt McBurnie took their place through the remainder of the assessment process).

Six Prioritized Strategic Areas

The MAPP process allowed the community partners to identify six areas of issues, listed in alphabetical order. Since the community has identified these as the most pressing to improve its residents’ health, the remainder of this document will articulate Riverside’s implementation plans to address them.

I. Access to Care
II. Chronic Disease
III. Education and Employment
IV. Mental Health and Substance Abuse
V. Teen Pregnancy, Infant Mortality, and STDs
VI. Violence and Safety

I. Access to Care

Though Riverside has made great strides in recent years to continually improve access for all residents, there are key steps to be taken to further accessibility. These include:

- Epic Systems Implementation
  - Beginning in 2016, Riverside patients will have increased access to their health information through MyChart, available through a web portal. In addition, MyChart access can be permitted by the patient for his or her care giver(s).
• **Riverside Immediate Care Sites** (7 days/week and extended hours)
  In addition to the current and growing list of access sites, Riverside launched a mobile app for patients to easily access locations of Immediate Care sites, current wait times, addresses, directions and phone numbers.
  o FastCare at Bourbonnais Wal-Mart
  o Coal City Campus
  o Monee
  o Gilman
  o East Court Street in Kankakee (November 2015)
  o Dwight (December 2015)
  o Manhattan (2016)
  o Bradley/ Bourbonnais (2016)

• **Emergency Room Enhancements**
  o Expand provider triage coverage to 12 hours per day (2016, 2nd Quarter)
  o Redesign of triage space to maximize efficiency

• **Ambulance Services and Partnerships:**
  In addition to the 13 ambulances in our current Riverside fleet, Riverside ambulance partners with rural and urban municipalities to increase coverage of emergency services. Current partnerships include:
  o Ashkum Station serving: Ashkum, Danforth and Chebanse Township (Clifton) Fire Departments and Donovan (Beaver Township)
  o Bradley Station
  o Chebanse Station/ Otto Fire Department
  o Herscher/ Pilot Township Fire Station
  o Momence Station
  o St. Anne Station serving: Pembroke, Papineau and Beaverville

  Implemented in late 2015, through a grant from Verizon Wireless, Riverside outfitted all 13 ambulances with enhanced wifi connectivity to allow for clearer image communication for diagnosis and treatment preparation to begin while a patient is still en route to the Emergency Room.

• **Riverside Accreditations:**
  Riverside prioritizes the quality of care for all patients. We believe that our residents deserve not only access to care but access to the highest *quality* of care. As a result, we maintain key accreditations listed here:
  o Magnet® Recognized Hospital for Nursing Excellence by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
  o Primary Stroke Center Certification by DNV Healthcare
  o Chest Pain Center, Full Cycle II with PCI Accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPS)
• Full Heart Failure Accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPS)
• American College of Radiology and Obstetrical General and Vascular Ultrasound and Mammography Services
• American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Program
• American Diabetes Association
• American Medical Association through the Accreditation Committee of the Illinois State Medical Society for Continuing Medical Education
• American Osteopathic Association
• College of American Pathologists (CAP) for Laboratory Excellence
• Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
• Accredited Hospital by DNV Healthcare

• **Transportation:**
  Transportation for patients to follow-up appointments post-discharge or even to get home upon discharge continues to be a barrier within the community. The bus system is the first option utilized for patients to comply with follow-up appointment schedules. The organization continually assists IPH patients in gaining access to First Transit transportation assistance. To increase access to transportation, Riverside utilizes MediCar transport services. This service is available for non-emergent transportation for patients within most of Kankakee County. These services are economical but still pose a barrier for those patients unable to pay for service. Riverside has a list of transportation services which can be billed to Medicare that is utilized by staff to provide assistance in transportation arrangements upon discharge to home and for follow-up services. A need for further transportation assistance is still identified at this time and will continue to be explored during the coming year.

• **Physician Recruitment:**
  Riverside continues to grow its employed medical staff (Riverside Medical Group/ RMG) to provide better access to healthcare within the Kankakee and surrounding communities. Riverside’s medical practice visits have grown by over 50% within the last year with over 265,000 patient visits during 2015. To provide increased access to care throughout the region and to accommodate this growing patient population, Riverside has increased the employment of primary care physicians and specialists throughout the organization. There are currently over 60 primary care providers in RMG. With identified specialty provider gaps in the community, Riverside also employs physicians in many specialties including cardiology, ENT, rheumatology, pulmonology, neurology, psychiatry, urology and podiatry. In total, the Riverside Medical Group has grown to over 130 care providers. We will continue to partner with independent physicians to support recruitment efforts while exploring possible partnerships to locally secure highly specialized medical professionals and services.

• **LanguageLine Solutions System:**
Riverside has implemented the LanguageLine Solutions system to address the interpretation needs within the system. Each unit within the organization has a dual headset phone and/or a tablet that provides translation services for the patient populations in need. In the past, wait times for interpretation services were unsatisfying for both the patients and the care providers. This new system enables immediate interpretation services for patients who do not speak English as a first language or have need for medical sign language. The interpreters available through LanguageLine Solutions are certified to translate medical information ensuring accurate relay of information from provider to patient and vice versa. Riverside has 5 employed physicians who speak Spanish. These translation services close the gap in communication for the providers and the patients ensuring better care within the community.

- **Early Out Program:**
  Riverside’s Early Out Program provides a limited supply of free prescription medications and durable medical equipment or supplies to discharged patients who do not have the resources to purchase needed medications or supplies.

- **Healthcare Education and Training:**
  Riverside affiliates and collaborates with more than 30 organizations to grow future workers in both clinical and nonclinical professions across the region. To address the ongoing need for nursing professionals, Riverside collaborates with many colleges and universities including, but not limited to Olivet Nazarene University’s Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing degree programs, Illinois Institute of Technology Registered Nurse program and Kankakee Community College’s entire continuum of nursing programs—from Certified Nursing Assistant, to Licensed Practical Nurse, to Associate Degree – Registered Nurse Program. Riverside trains nursing students throughout the system in medical-surgical, telemetry, pediatrics, critical care areas, perioperative services, behavioral services, emergency services and obstetrics/labor and delivery. Riverside also develops the skills and advances the training of other healthcare degree-seeking professionals from a variety of colleges and universities including Governors State University Master’s in Health Administration and Behavioral Health or Doctorate in Occupational or Physical Therapy, and Eastern Illinois University’s Master’s in Communication Disorders or Master’s in Dietetics. Educational affiliation experiences provide for undergraduate and graduate degree work in: laboratory, radiology, social work, medical assists, pathology, echocardiography, health information technology, speech pathology, audiology and pharmacy. Half- and full-day shadowing and mentoring experiences are also provided to local high school students and adults in any clinical or nonclinical position within the organization to assist with career exploration, career changes for dislocated workers and career planning. Riverside has worked to develop outstanding staff.

We realize the healthcare environment does not stand still. There is always new knowledge to acquire, new technology to learn, and new techniques to assimilate. With an aging patient population, there is a need to educate and develop more healthcare workers in the United States. In support of our region’s ongoing healthcare needs, the Riverside Healthcare
Foundation sponsors annual scholarships made available to community members and Riverside employees to provide for college education in nursing and allied health professions.

- **YWCA Kankakee Clinic launch**
  Set to open in February 2016, Riverside will support a new five-day/week nurse-staffed pediatric specialty clinic, providing trusted access to primary care for community children in the YWCA Kankakee facility. This will include a walk-in health clinic with support, education, screenings, first-time visits, medical and wellness exams and general healthcare. In addition, this new service provides community-based access to primary care resources.

II. **Chronic Disease:**

Riverside believes that with proper treatment, people can live productive, fulfilling lives even with heart disease, cancer and other chronic illnesses. They help patients to understand and manage the symptoms of chronic illnesses, and have an array of services that monitor and treat illnesses, while also helping to build skills and behavior to support a balanced, healthy lifestyle.

- **Rush-Riverside Cancer Institute:**
  Riverside established the Rush-Riverside Cancer Institute in collaboration with Rush University Medical Center. In 2004, Riverside Healthcare opened the Betty Burch Bridgewater Center for Radiation Therapy, a freestanding radiation treatment facility located on Riverside’s Bourbonnais campus in addition to the medical oncology center in the Pavilion on the main campus in Kankakee. In 2013, Riverside expanded its radiation oncology services to include the state-of-the-art TrueBeam® Linear Accelerator. This technology is not only the most sophisticated, precise system available to treat complex cancers including those in the brain, prostate and spine, but the addition of this technology also increases the number of radiation patients able to be treated. The program addresses the high cancer death rate of Kankakee County residents. According to the preliminary analysis of community health needs conducted by the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, age-adjusted cancer deaths per 100,000 standard population exceed the national average by 219.8 to 190.1 deaths. In November 2015, Riverside united and expanded medical oncology services with radiation therapy at the Betty Burch Bridgewater Center with an 8,300 square foot addition, nearly doubling the capacity for infusion services. The expansion also provides for a dedicated lab and pharmacy onsite to serve the increasing demand for treatment. The cancer center’s free cancer resource library is available onsite as well. The library consists of information, books and videos and has convenient computer access for members of the community looking for information. Ultimately, the expansion allows for a simpler, more patient-focused approach to care while reducing treatment times.
• **Rush-Riverside Cardiovascular Institute:**
  Cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of deaths in Kankakee County. Since opening in November 1999 to meet this critical need in the community, the Rush-Riverside Cardiovascular Institute has provided a full spectrum of services - prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Kankakee County residents now rarely need to travel to Chicago or other cities for open-heart surgery or catheterizations.

• **Riverside’s Heart Failure Clinic:**
The Heart Failure Clinic at Riverside Medical Center is an outpatient clinic with the goal of helping individuals with heart failure improve their quality-of-life and extend their life according to their goals. Staffed by an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN)/Certified Heart Failure Nurse, the Clinic works with patients, their families, and their physicians to customize treatment plans to meet their unique cardiovascular needs. As of December 2015, 92 patients are actively followed in the Clinic. Visits are made by the APN to Miller Rehabilitation and patients’ homes if they are unable to find transportation to the Clinic.

  During the outpatient visit, the APN will:

  1. Do a focused physical assessment;
  2. Provide cardiovascular and heart failure education;
  3. Obtain lab work or diagnostic testing as appropriate;
  4. Adjust diuretics as appropriate;
  5. Collaborate with the patient’s cardiologist & other healthcare providers.

  A Heart Failure Support Group is held monthly March-November. Cardiovascular and heart failure education is provided in many venues throughout the community on a quarterly basis, working with local faith-based organizations and other community organizations.

  The APN rounds in the hospital, educating patients regarding self-management of heart failure, coaching nursing staff and working with physicians and the interdisciplinary team to ensure smooth transitions along the continuum of care.

• **Home Health Care:**
Home Health Care staff has been trained in chronic disease management. The majority of patients cared for by home health have multiple chronic diseases, with issues related to orthopedic/functional problems and heart disease representing the highest volume.

  - Home Health Care has designated the Peotone site conference area as a “Community Event” center and has arranged for monthly presentations by Riverside providers and partners. This began in July of 2015 and will continue in 2016. The educational events focus on community needs—primarily related to chronic disease management.
  - Event examples include: Healthy Summer Salads, Management of Heart Failure, Osteoarthritis versus Inflammatory Arthritis, Management of Diabetes, Joint Replacement Surgery—what to expect, and Alzheimer’s Disease.
Planned events for 2016 include—Cancer, Wound Treatments, COPD, Coronary Artery Disease, and Palliative Care.

In January, the Home Based Chronic Disease Management Program was issued licensure by IDPH. This program admits patients with chronic illnesses who benefit from being followed by a nurse, but who no longer meet the strict criteria for third party (Medicare and other) reimbursement.

- **Diabetes Wellness Center:**
  Learning as much as one can about nutrition, exercise, medication and monitoring is critical to managing and controlling diabetes. The Center staff accesses Riverside Healthcare’s system continuum through collaboration efforts and offers ongoing community outreach education. Examples include the following:

  **Riverside Healthcare**
  - The partnership with Riverside’s employee wellness program (REACH) provides employees free education and diabetes management resources for those identified with either pre-diabetes symptoms or a diabetes diagnosis. The REACH program has witnessed engagement by high numbers of employees, with successful outcomes demonstrated. There are plans in place for expansion in 2016, with the development of a program to address obesity, as well.
  - The inpatient nursing diabetes educator (at Riverside Medical Center) has been in place since late 2014. In addition to visiting patients, this educator has become actively involved in several quality projects within Riverside including:
    - Development of a decision tree for addressing blood glucose levels >125 for non-diabetic patients
    - Development of policies for insulin administration, insulin teaching, and management of insulin pumps
    - Working with cardiovascular operating room team to develop insulin protocols for this population (to reduce risk)
    - Training of diabetes “clinical champions” on nursing units
    - Presenting to new Medical Residents on insulin and hypoglycemic medication management.

  **Community Education**
  - Offering educator training to 8 schools on management of children with diabetes.
  - Supporting Riverside’s Workforce Health requests for diabetes education sessions to business clients and their families.
  - Hosting an *Annual Diabetes Fair* at the Riverside Health Fitness Center each November. The event is very popular with community and vendors from across Illinois. In 2015, the event featured celebrity chef Tiffany Derry (seen on the television show “Top Chef”) sponsored by Novo Nordisk.
    - In 2015, the Center’s two Staff Dieticians attained *Life Style Coach* designations, and the Program Coordinator received certification as a Chronic Care Professional: Health Coach.
• Complex Care Program:
A Complex Care Program has been developed to facilitate longitudinal care planning with both primary care and specialty physician practices. The Complex Care Program serves the most complicated and high risk patients that have agreed to engage with clinicians to manage their illness as they are discharged from Riverside Medical Center. These patients have diagnoses of Heart Failure, Pneumonia, Diabetes, COPD and/or Coronary Artery Disease. The readmission rate for this population has been lowered from baseline of 13.3% to (as of October) 6%.

• Outpatient Infusion Services:
The Riverside Ambulatory Infusion Center manages patients in need of ongoing intravenous treatment for the chronic diseases of:
  o Rheumatoid Arthritis
  o Chronic Kidney Disease
  o Sickle Cell Disease
  o Neuromuscular Disease (MS, ALS)
  o Anemias
  o Heart Disease
  o Genetic Disorders
  o Crohn’s disease/Colitis

The Home Infusion Pharmacy manages patients with eating, nutritional and/or absorption disorders of the gastrointestinal tract through enteral and parenteral nutrition therapy.

• Other Activities Related to Chronic Disease:
  o Home Care, Diabetes Center and Outpatient Infusion have participated in a variety of community screening events in Kankakee, Iroquois and Will counties. Staff have either offered blood pressure, glucose, pulse oximetry screenings or have provided educational information.
  o The Director of Transitional and Home Based Care is a participant in Illinois Home Care Council MOOC Maximizer Team. The Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is designed to address re-hospitalizations through the utilization of palliative care, home care and hospice. The effort is in collaboration with the Illinois Hospital Association, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and the University of Illinois Springfield.
  o Two of the Diabetes Center staff dieticians earned designations for “Life Style Coach” in December 2015
  o Program Coordinator was awarded certification as Chronic Care Professional: Health Coach
• **Childhood Obesity:**
  
  o **Fit 4 Life:** In 2016, Riverside will expand the *Fit 4 Life* program to include parental/family education regarding exercise/fitness and healthy food choices. This expansion entails speaking at churches, civic clubs, town hall meetings, etc. The goal is to educate all who care for the children and give a base of knowledge regarding staying healthy from childhood through adulthood. The goal will be to host at least 8 speaking engagements per year and Riverside will offer at least 8 bilingual *Fit 4 Life* programs per year.

  o **YWCA collaborative:** In November 2015, the YWCA Kankakee Executive Director reached out to Riverside to identify specific age-appropriate physical fitness activities the YWCA Kankakee staff could add into their daily childcare curriculum. Using *Fit 4 Life* and 5210, a program launched in the previous CHNA, Riverside’s *Fit 4 Life* team in 2016 will develop a train-the-trainer and age-appropriate modification module designed to help YWCA Kankakee staff integrate action-oriented, age-appropriate exercises into their curriculum.

• **Riverside Walking Paths:**

Riverside is developing a network of walking paths at both its Kankakee and Bourbonnais campuses to allow the community, staff, patients, and their loved ones an easy opportunity for regular exercise, stress reduction, and reflection. By December of 2015, the main campus in Kankakee included a .5 mile continuous walking loop. Riverside has collaborated with the City of Kankakee and the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley’s *Trails Initiative* to extend the community’s walking path continuously from the east to the west side of the River, utilizing Riverside’s campus to do so. Over the next three years, the plans will continue to complete the paths across the entire Kankakee campus.

### III. Education and Employment:

• **CHEE:**

Launched in 2015 by the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County, the Coalition for Hope and Excellence in Education (CHEE) is formed to bring together numerous community stakeholders to connect the unemployed, underemployed, and future workforce to meaningful living-wage jobs in Kankakee County. The CHEE Board consists of representatives from local industry, higher education, K-12 public education, and healthcare to develop a new approach to increasing the available skilled workforce in the local community. To promote the initiative, the *Opportunity 3000* campaign was launched to further help the community know the 3000+ job opportunities that exist right now in Kankakee County. Riverside Healthcare is helping to lead this initiative with
one of its Vice Presidents serving as Vice Chair of the CHEE and with sponsorship, in-kind and financial support.

- **Riverside as Employer:**
  In addition, as the County’s largest employer, Riverside continued to be an employer of choice. Since 2009, annual applications to Riverside for employment have increased 48% reaching 25,000 applicants in 2015 alone. Riverside employs 2800 staff currently and continues to grow each year.

- **Riverside Employment Awards (2015):**
  - Riverside Healthcare was named as *the* healthiest employer in the nation by Healthiest Employers, LLC from over 5,000 applicant organizations
  - Riverside was named by Becker’s Hospital Review in the 150 Great Places to Work in Healthcare.
  - Riverside was named in Illinois’ Healthiest Employers
  - Riverside Medical Center is the area’s only Magnet Designated Hospital, the highest distinction in healthcare for nursing. The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has awarded fewer than 400 such institutions in the world.

**IV. Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

Riverside’s goal is to increase awareness and education, and provide mental health and substance abuse services in Kankakee County. Riverside has continued to advance its community behavioral health network to serve patients while sustaining behavioral health collaborations with key resources. These services and partnerships will continue into 2016 and beyond, while Riverside Healthcare addresses emerging needs identified below.

**Riverside Healthcare**

- **Senior Behavioral Health Unit:** Since the last CHNA, Riverside opened a new geriatric unit to focus on the special needs of elderly patients. Riverside has created treatments that concentrate on enhancing the mental stability and independent functioning of each patient. Staff partner with medical physicians to identify a relationship that may exist between the elderly patient’s mental state of mind and any physical illnesses or disease.
- **Outpatient Medicaid Clinic:** In 2015, Riverside implemented an outpatient clinic to help provide medication and therapy services to the underserved Medicaid population for adolescents and adults.
Community Collaboration

- **School-Based**: Outreach services are provided to area schools by Riverside’s Hospital School Liaison including follow-up coordination meetings with educators, group therapy and child assessments held at the school.
- **Education**: Riverside annually facilitates three educational series for community agencies and consumers on behavioral health problems prominent in our community. Riverside clinicians actively assist with Mental Health First Aid Training, provided twice annually to the community.
- **Inpatient Acute Adolescent Treatment**: Collaboration with Indian Oaks Academy to provide gender-specific, inpatient treatment to the most acute adolescents in the community and Illinois.
- **Psychiatric Services** contracted to area agencies include: Helen Wheeler, Thresholds, Kankakee County Training Center, Bourbonnais Terrace and Kankakee Terrace.
- **Other Partnerships**:
  - The Kankakee County Mental Health Council
  - Drug Court in Kankakee County
  - Child Network (social service agency)
  - The Hispanic Partnership Council

Riverside plans for 2016 and beyond are to increase services, education, and awareness as follows:

- Expand outpatient substance abuse services for the 17-23 year old population
- Launch education and support groups for adolescents, their parents, and adults in the Medicaid Clinic
- Implement an outpatient behavioral health geriatrics program
- Develop a Riverside Intake Team to decrease related visits to the Emergency Department and provide appropriate access to care.

V. **Teen Pregnancy, Infant Mortality, STDs**

Over the next three years, Riverside is committed to reducing teen pregnancies, the infant mortality rate and incidence of sexually transmitted diseases in Kankakee County.

- **Decrease Infant Mortality**:
  Riverside will seek to decrease low birth weight babies, decrease adverse maternal conditions, and decrease the number of reportable infant injuries by:
  - Educating patients about risks of Early Elective Deliveries
  - Partnering with physicians to not deliver a baby before 39 weeks without a maternal or neonatal indication
Increasing access to care so patients can have better access to prenatal care so maternal conditions are identified and treated earlier. Riverside now has four Obstetricians/ Gynecologists and a certified nurse midwife.

- Educating patients about the causes and prevention of low birth weight babies
- Providing community education on SIDS and Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois State Police to offer car seat classes at Riverside
- Securing 24/7 Pediatric Hospitalist coverage starting by Quarter 3, 2016.
- Maintaining the current two, dedicated lactation nurses and several other staff nurses who are certified in lactation

- **Teen Pregnancy Reduction:**
  In order to decrease teen pregnancy rates Riverside will:
  - Host community / parent educational /speaking engagements with different community groups. Partner with Kankakee County Health Department, schools, churches and Presence St. Mary’s Hospital
  - Maintain its four Obstetricians/ Gynecologists and a certified nurse midwife to increase access to care so patients can have better access to prenatal care
  - Partner with OB/ GYNS and Pediatricians to provide community education
  - Develop a teen support group
  - Continue Women’s Wellness Clinic’s disbursement of limited free condoms.
  - Offer Women’s Wellness education appointment with a nurse to talk about STI’s/teen pregnancies
  - Offer Women’s Wellness confidential services for minors seeking contraception
  - Offer presumptive treatment for sexually transmitted infection exposure

- **Decrease Sexually Transmitted Disease Incidents:**
  In order to decrease sexually transmitted diseases, Riverside will decrease Chlamydia rate with community education; partnering with schools and the Kankakee County Health Department.

### VI. Violence and Safety

- **Parent Education:**
  In November 2015, Riverside launched *Step Ahead: Parents Awareness Program*, a monthly educational series in conjunction with the YWCA Kankakee. This initiative connects the medical, childcare and faith communities together to help parents navigate community systems and access resources. For no cost parents are offered topical education, access to health and child development professionals, a safe forum (group or one on one) to ask health, development and wellness questions, a family meal and childcare.
• **Domestic Violence:**
The Kankakee County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, locally known as Harbor House, provides emergency shelter, crisis intervention and community support services in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. The nonprofit serves more than 400 clients and 3,200 nights of emergency shelter annually. Riverside’s Grant Administrator is a member of the Board of Directors and currently serves as the Board President through June 2016. Through United Way giving, Riverside employees contribute annually to Harbor House and other key agencies that serve our community’s human service needs.

• **Sexual Assault:**
Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault (KC-CASA) provides education and professional training in the area of sexual assault. They offer counseling and support to survivors and their significant others, assistance throughout the medical and criminal justice process, and have a 24-hour response support network. This network provides trained medical advocates at Riverside’s emergency room when a victim seeks support.

**Conclusion**

Riverside continues to make great strides and touch many lives within the community to fulfill the mission of the Community Health Partnership. There has been significant progress in improving access to healthcare services, addressing chronic diseases, expanding employment and education opportunities, providing for those dealing with mental health and substance abuse, reducing teen pregnancies, infant mortality and sexually transmitted diseases and addressing violence and safety in the community. The vision to create a strong, healthy, and safe Kankakee County is a work in progress. The outreach to the community regarding these issues cannot and will not lapse. Riverside will continue to commit resources to further the work of the Partnership as we launch this 2016-2018 implementation plan.