

children'shealth

Implementing Social Determinants of Health in Hospital Systems

Barry Owen, MBA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC
Ambulatory ACNO

Brittney Saldierna, MSN, RN, CPN, EBP-CH
Program Director Ambulatory Clinical Programs

Forest Melton, M.S., M.H.A.
Program Manager Health Equity

1

Conflicts of Interest

Barry Owen, Forest Melton and Brittney Saldierna have no actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest.

2

Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the Concept
Define SDOH and explain its significance in influencing health outcomes and reducing disparities.
2. Implement Screening
Learn best practices for integrating SDOH screening into routine nursing assessments, including practical tools for clinical settings.
3. Apply in Care Delivery
Identify and evaluate the impact of SDOH on patient care and develop strategies to improve engagement and outcomes.
4. Identify Resources
Access tools to identify organizational resources that support implementation, maintenance, and future sustainability of SDOH initiatives.

3

agenda

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
1 Introductions	Key Stakeholders	Data Development, Usage, and Design of Resources
2 SDOH Background	Nursing Professional Governance Structure	Dashboards and Outcomes
3 Workflows	Biases and Barriers	Future of Industry SDOH
4 Activity / Break	Activity / Break	Q&A

PROFESSOR AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth.

4

top pediatric health system

- More than 100-year history providing care to children from birth to adulthood. **1,143,308** Patient visits
- Two world-class hospitals (848 licensed beds in Dallas, 212 in Plano) and 40 locations offering specialty care in North Texas. **Magnet Recognized**, first achieved in 2009, with redesignations in 2013, 2018, and 2023.
- More than 11,000 team members care for more than 350,000 children a year. **Partnerships with 267 School-Based Telehealth sites.**

PROFESSOR AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth.

5

Social Determinates of Health

Foundational Understanding

PROFESSOR AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth.

6



Health Equity

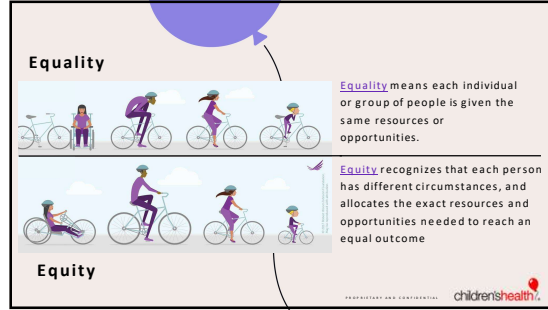
Health Equity is the fair and just opportunity for everyone to achieve their highest level of health.

At Children's Health, this means we ensure our patients have access to the resources, tools and high-quality care they need to thrive today and in the future.

By recognizing health disparities, we can continue our mission to "Make Life Better for Children."

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth

7



Equality

Equity

Equality means each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities.

Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances, and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth

8



"Equality is giving everyone a shoe. Equity is giving everyone a shoe that fits"

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth

9

Social Determinants of Health

- Conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, play, worship and age that influence health, functioning and quality of life health outcomes and risks
- These conditions are shaped by economics, social policies, and political will
- Impact health outcomes much more than biological factors
- Key to addressing health disparities
- Important for improving health for all

40% Socioeconomic Factors: Income, Education, Health Insurance, Employment, Housing, Food Security

10% Physical Environment: Air Quality, Noise, Safety, Crime, Access to Nature

30% Health Behaviors: Diet, Physical Activity, Tobacco Use, Alcohol Use, Stress Management

20% Health Care: Access to Care, Quality of Care, Patient Engagement, Health Literacy

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL childrenshealth.org

10

Why is SDOH Important to the Care of our Communities?

45-70% SDOH Barriers

30-55% SDOH Barriers

Financial Insecurity, Food Insecurity, Education, Housing Quality & Insecurity, Transportation Insecurity, Social Support

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL childrenshealth.org

11

Cumulative SDOH Burden on Organizations

- Patients/families with higher SDOH risk are associated with higher usage of the health care system
- Studies
 - "Three or more SDOH needs were associated with an increased incidence of ED and inpatient visits" Jones et al. (2022)
 - "Hospitalized participants reported greater educational deficits (67%), economic instability (33%), food insecurities (14%), lack of community (14%), less access to healthcare (6%), and more social isolation (34%) compared to nonhospitalized individuals. Wray et al. (2021)

Education, Employment, and Income; Health and Social Policies; Wellness and Nutrition; Race, Ethnicity, and Gender; Health Care; Neighborhood and Environment

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL childrenshealth.org

12



13

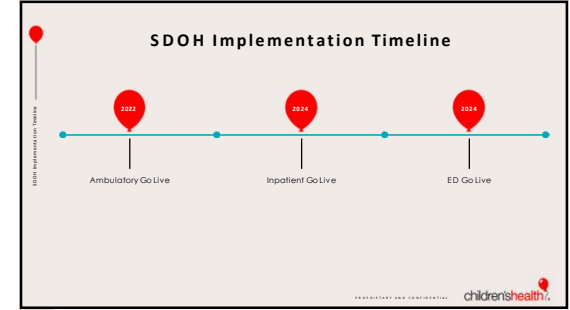
why does SDOH matter?

- 30.6% more Dallas County students didn't have a permanent residence in 2024 than in 2020
- 1 in 5 Texas kids suffer from food insecurity
- Almost 40% of Dallas County students are English language learners
- 21% of Texas youth have seriously considered suicide
- Kindergartners' immunization rates are dropping regionally
- More than half of pediatric ER visits in Dallas and Tarrant County were considered avoidable

[2025-26-ENG-ExecutiveSummary_FINAL.pdf](#)

PROFESSORS AND COLLABORATORS childrenshealth

14



15

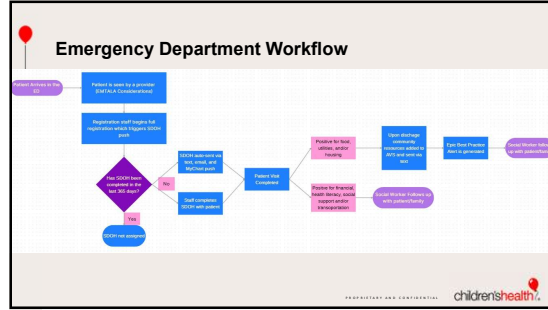
16

How Does It Work?

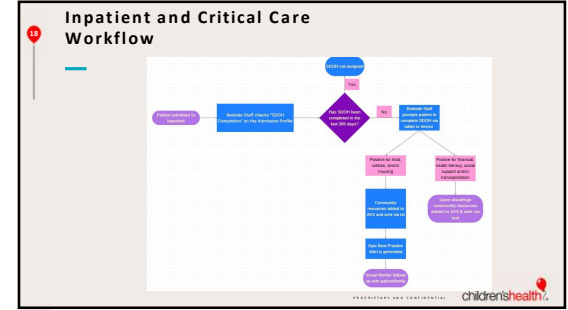
Workflows and Screening

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL

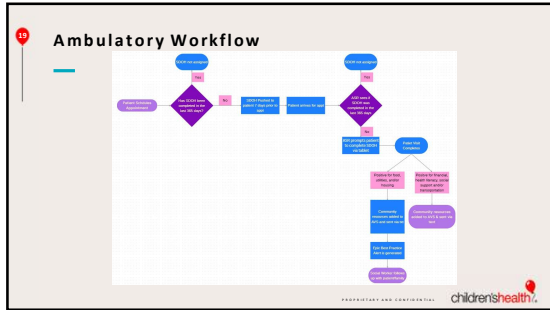
16



17



18



19

SDOH Screening at Children's Health

At Children's Health, we screen for:

1. Financial Insecurity
2. Food Insecurity
3. Health Literacy
4. Housing Quality & Insecurity
5. Social Support
6. Transportation Insecurity

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. Do you have a job that pays enough to cover your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
35. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
37. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
44. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
50. Do you have enough money to pay for your needs for yourself and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PROFESIONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL childrenshealth.

20

6 Workflow-Completing the Screening

PROFESIONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL childrenshealth.

21

22 Workflow- Assessing the Screening

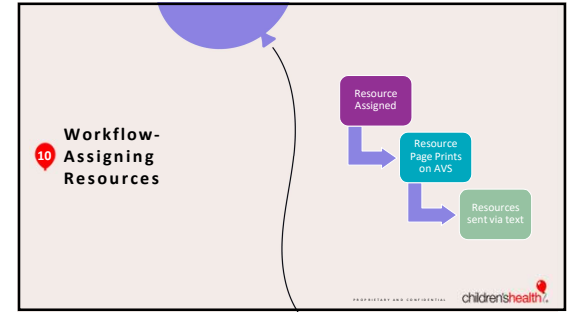
The screenshot shows a software interface for assessing screening. At the top, there are tabs for 'Check Status', 'Review', 'History', 'In Review', and 'Summary'. The main area is divided into several sections: a central circular dashboard with colored segments (red, orange, yellow, green, blue), a left sidebar with 'Recent Items' and 'My Recent Items', and a right sidebar with 'Check Status' and 'Summary'. The bottom of the interface has a 'children'shealth' logo and 'PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL' text.

22

23 Workflow- Assigning Resources

The screenshot shows a 'Community Resources' search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Home - 2300 N STEWARTS Fwy, DALLAS TX 75207-2100'. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Filter by' (All, My Location) and a list of resources. Each resource entry includes a name, address, phone number, and hours. A 'children'shealth' logo and 'PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL' text are visible at the bottom.

23



24

**I Scream,
You Scream,
We All Scream
For Ice Cream**

**What does Ice Cream Have to do with Health Literacy?
Pfizer Ice Cream Label Tool**

children'shealth.org

25

Nutrition Facts		1/2 cup
Serving Size		4
Amount per serving		
Calories	Fat Cal	120
		%DV
Total Fat 13g		20%
Sat Fat 9g		40%
Cholesterol 28mg		12%
Sodium 55mg		2%
Total Carbohydrate 30g		12%
Dietary Fiber 2g		
Sugars 23g		
Protein 4g		8%

*Percentage Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Ingredients: Cream, Skim Milk, Liquid Sugar, Water, Egg Yolks, Brown Sugar, Milkfat, Peanut Oil, Sugar, Butter, Salt, Carrageenan, Vanilla Extract.

If you eat the entire container, how many calories will you eat?

Answer: 1,000 is the only correct answer

children'shealth.org

26

Nutrition Facts		1/2 cup
Serving Size		4
Amount per serving		
Calories	Fat Cal	120
		%DV
Total Fat 13g		20%
Sat Fat 9g		40%
Cholesterol 28mg		12%
Sodium 55mg		2%
Total Carbohydrate 30g		12%
Dietary Fiber 2g		
Sugars 23g		
Protein 4g		8%

*Percentage Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Ingredients: Cream, Skim Milk, Liquid Sugar, Water, Egg Yolks, Brown Sugar, Milkfat, Peanut Oil, Sugar, Butter, Salt, Carrageenan, Vanilla Extract.

If you are allowed to eat 60 grams of carbohydrates as a snack, how much ice cream could you have?

Answer: Any of the following is correct: 1 cup (or any amount up to 1 cup), half the container.

children'shealth.org

27

Nutrition Facts		1/2 cup
Serving Size		4
Amount per serving		
Calories	250	Fat Cal 120
		%DV
Total Fat	13g	20%
Sat Fat	9g	40%
Cholesterol	28mg	12%
Sodium	55mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate	30g	12%
Dietary Fiber	2g	
Sugars	23g	
Protein	4g	8%

*Percentage Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Ingredients: Cream, Skim Milk, Liquid Sugar, Water, Egg Yolks, Brown Sugar, Milkfat, Peanut Oil, Sugar, Butter, Salt, Carrageenan, Vanilla Extract.

childrenshealth

Your doctor advises you to reduce the amount of saturated fat in your diet. You usually have 42 g of saturated fat each day, which includes one serving of ice cream. If you stop eating ice cream, how many grams of saturated fat would you be consuming each day?

Answer: 33 is the only correct answer

28

Nutrition Facts		1/2 cup
Serving Size		4
Amount per serving		
Calories	250	Fat Cal 120
		%DV
Total Fat	13g	20%
Sat Fat	9g	40%
Cholesterol	28mg	12%
Sodium	55mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate	30g	12%
Dietary Fiber	2g	
Sugars	23g	
Protein	4g	8%

*Percentage Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Ingredients: Cream, Skim Milk, Liquid Sugar, Water, Egg Yolks, Brown Sugar, Milkfat, Peanut Oil, Sugar, Butter, Salt, Carrageenan, Vanilla Extract.

childrenshealth

If you usually eat 2,500 calories in a day, what percentage of your daily value of calories will you be eating if you eat one serving?

Answer: 10% is the only correct answer

29

Nutrition Facts		1/2 cup
Serving Size		4
Amount per serving		
Calories	250	Fat Cal 120
		%DV
Total Fat	13g	20%
Sat Fat	9g	40%
Cholesterol	28mg	12%
Sodium	55mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate	30g	12%
Dietary Fiber	2g	
Sugars	23g	
Protein	4g	8%

*Percentage Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

Ingredients: Cream, Skim Milk, Liquid Sugar, Water, Egg Yolks, Brown Sugar, Milkfat, Peanut Oil, Sugar, Butter, Salt, Carrageenan, Vanilla Extract.

childrenshealth

Pretend that you are allergic to the following substances: penicillin, peanuts, latex gloves, and bee stings

2 Is it safe for you to eat this ice cream?

Answer: NO

3 If the answer is "NO" – why not?

Answer: Because it has peanut oil

30

31

Reflection

What do you want to accomplish from today?
Jot it down for future reference

Share
Turn to your neighbors and share your reflections

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth?

31

children'shealth?

Break

Children's Health - Making Life Better for Children in Texas

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth?

32

33

Share what you want to take away.

Start to think about your barriers.

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth?

33

BUILD THE TEAM OF KEY STAKEHOLDER

Sponsorship
Sought organization buy in, facilitated communications and removed obstacles

Information Technology and Informatics
Incorporated SDOH Screening tool into Welcome Mobile and EHR, built resource In-basket routing, and built reporting tool




PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL 

34

BUILD THE TEAM OF KEY STAKEHOLDER

Social Work
Arranged for patient family resources, direct connection with patients

Professional Governance Structure
Directly influenced displaying SDOH in EHR, designed workflows, and championed implementation





PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL 

35



36

IMPLEMENTATION



Plant the seed early!

- Define the WHY

Design Education

- Presentations
- Computer based training
- Interactive resource guide

Phased Approach

- Every 2 weeks, 2-3 clinics "turned on"
- Began screening via MyChart and WelcomeMobile App

37

"Isn't this someone else's job?"

Staff Perception, Concerns and Fears

- Time
- Bias
- How do I help?
- No resources
- Initiating conversation



PROFESSOR AND CONFIDENTIAL **childrenshealth**

38

SDOH Screening Challenges : Staff Perceptions & Fears

Staff Perceptions

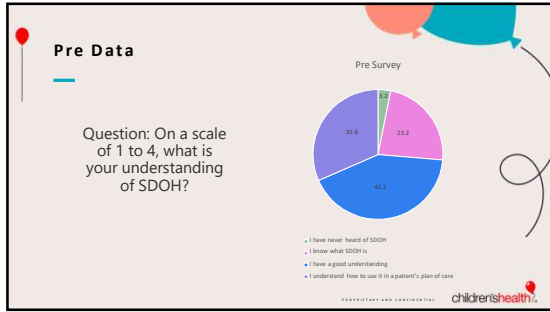
- Increased Visit Length
- Question Interpretation
- Not My Job

Process Improvement

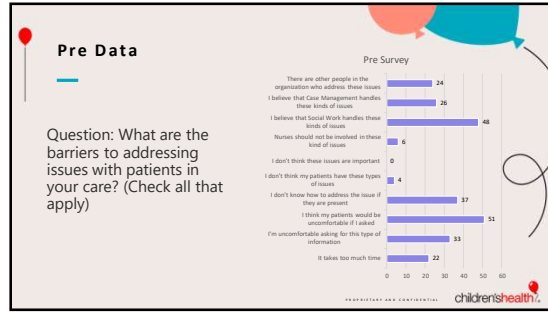
- Staff User Training
- Family History Network
- Patient User Testing
- Retraining

PROFESSOR AND CONFIDENTIAL **childrenshealth**

39



40



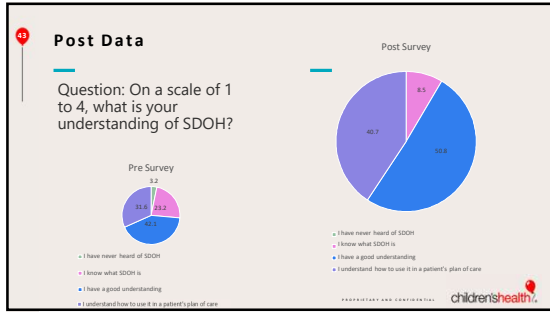
41

Interventions

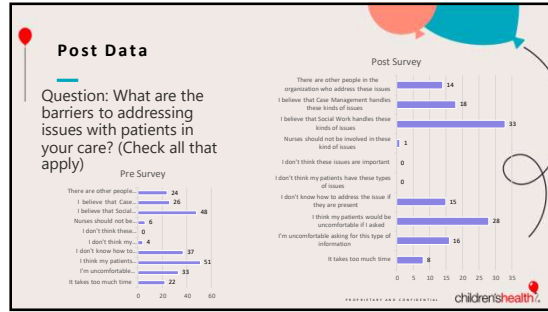
- CBT for every staff member
- SDOH Tea Cart (Road Show)
- Provided SDOH evidence-based literature specific to clinical areas
- Provide additional education in our staff education tool (Cornerstone)
- Nursing Grand Rounds

children'shealth

42



43



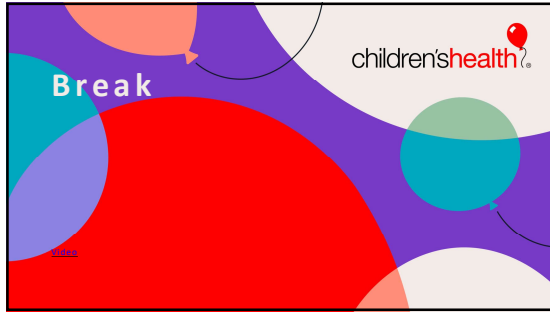
44

Activity:

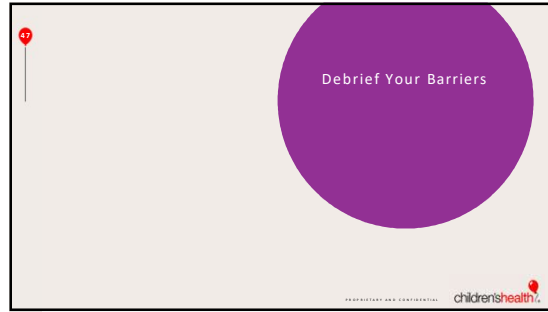
Write a barrier that you anticipate from your unit/organization, crumple it up, and put it in the bag!

children'shealth

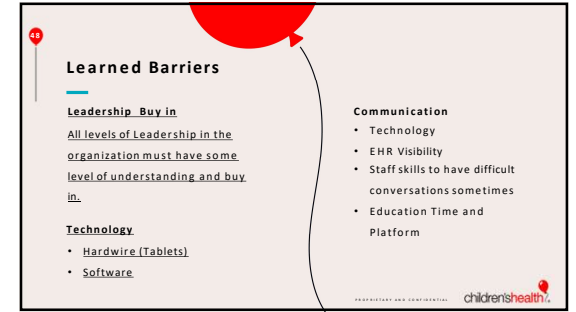
45



46



47



48

Learned Barriers

Leadership Buy in

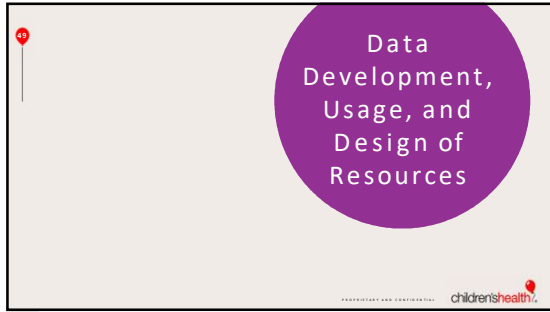
All levels of Leadership in the organization must have some level of understanding and buy in.

Technology

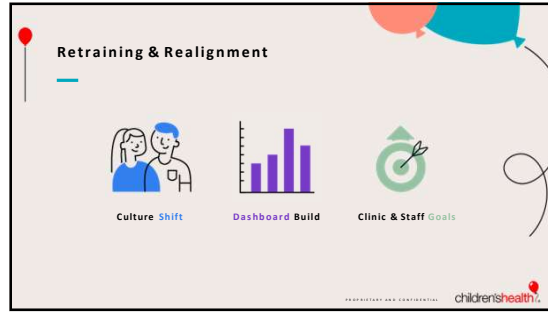
- Hardware (Tablets)
- Software

Communication

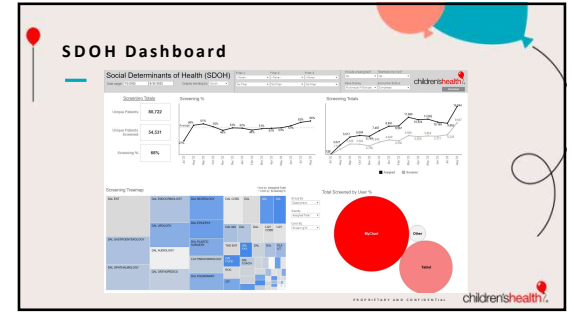
- Technology
- EHR Visibility
- Staff skills to have difficult conversations sometimes
- Education Time and Platform



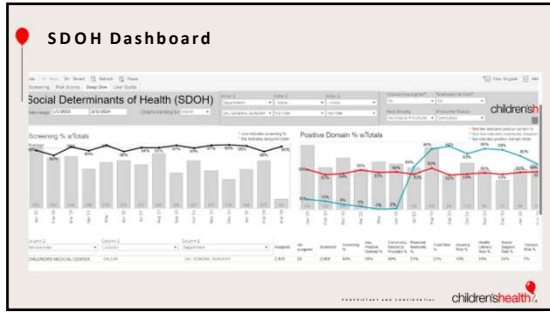
49



50



51



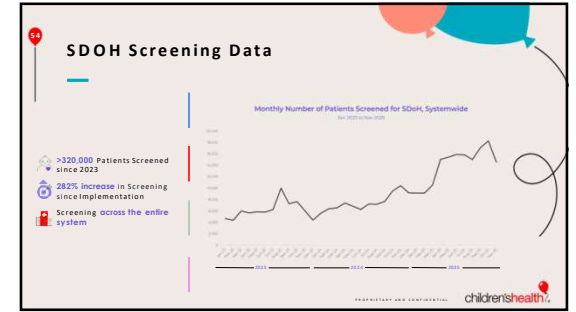
52

SDOH Opportunity Clinics

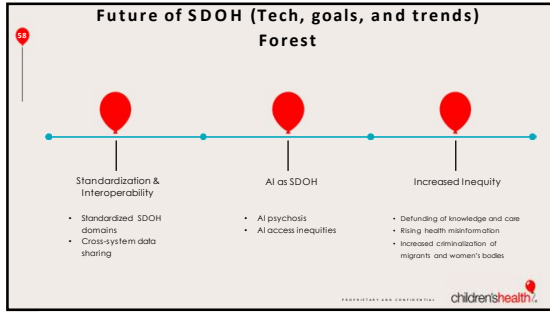
- Identify Areas**
Monthly identification of low-performing clinics.
- Reporting**
Send data reports via email communication to clinic leaders.
- Rounding**
In person rounding to understand barriers.
- Process Improvement**
1:1 coaching for high impact clinics.

The infographic includes icons for each strategy: a building for Identify Areas, a folder for Reporting, two people for Rounding, and a presentation board for Process Improvement. It also features a 'children'shealth' logo at the bottom right.

53



54



58

References

- Adekunle, A., Ferdinandi, F., Haydari, S. T., Gharahani, S., Shahabi, L., & Bagheri, I. (2023). Patient-reported social determinants of health and hospitalization: A scoping review. *Health Services Research, 58*(2), #101999. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hsc.13199>
- Children's Health. (2023). 2023-2024. <https://www.childrenshealth.org/press-releases/2023-04-16-press-release-2023-2024>
- Children's Health. (2023). Beyond ABC: 2023-2024. Insights into the quality of life for children in North Texas. <https://www.childrenshealth.org/press-releases/2023-04-16-press-release-2023-2024>
- Jones, A. C., Smith, S. J., Srinivasan, K. R., & Barzilay, J. M. (2022). Health and health care use strongly associated with cumulative burden of social determinants of health. *Population Health Management, 26*(2), 105-112. <https://doi.org/10.1002/phm2.1425>
- Richardson, K. B., & Hubbard, M. (2011). The newest vital sign: Prioritizing social determinants of health. *Health Affairs, 30*(10), 1811-1814. <https://doi.org/10.1136/hlthaff.2011.015448>
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2021). *The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a path to achieve health equity*. National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17232/2020>
- Wang, C. M., Tang, L., Lopez, L., Roggiani, A., & Rayhani, S. (2022). Association of social determinants of health and their cumulative impact on hospitalization among US adults. *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 37*(8), 1250-1258. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11367-022-02188-9>
- World Health Organization. (2016). *Social determinants of health*. <http://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health>

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth

59

Appendix

- A New Way to Talk about the Social Determinants of Health (www.ahrq.gov)
- Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>
- The Joint Commission (2024). 2024 Hospital National Patient Safety Goals. <https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/jc/files/documents/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/2024/hnp-sg-simple-2024-v3.pdf>

PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL children'shealth

60



61



62
