

March 12, 2024

**ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: 2024 IHA Health Equity Programming Focuses on Peer-to-Peer Learning

As we continue to assist members in advancing health equity, IHA has planned a year of robust programming that centers on peer-to-peer learning and equity strategies to enhance your efforts. Hospital and health system leaders have overwhelmingly emphasized the value in understanding how other IHA members have developed and executed programs so they can replicate that work within their own organizations.

The centerpiece of this year's IHA equity programming will be **Health Equity in Action: Practical Strategies & Shared Learnings**, a three-part webinar series. The program will focus on successful hospital initiatives to advance health equity and will provide IHA members with the opportunity to learn from other IHA members across the state. The webinars will present a quality improvement framework and step-by-step approach that can be used to replicate initiatives. Registration will open soon for three hour-long sessions on May 20, June 6 and June 24.

Other IHA equity programs will provide practical guidance on a variety of topics. More details on each educational opportunity below will be shared when registration opens for individual programs. Additional programs will be added.

- **A webinar on the Joint Commission Health Care Equity (HCE) Certification program** on March 27 with updates on the program, lessons learned from survey experiences of hospitals with HCE Certification and an opportunity for hospitals to ask questions. The program will also provide updates on a funding opportunity for hospitals participating in Meridian health plans. Learn about The Joint Commission's [certification program](#). **Register for the webinar by [clicking here](#).**
- **The Progress Report National Pilot will host a [National Learning Collaborative](#)** open to all Illinois hospitals with five sessions running from April 2 through May 14. The collaborative, facilitated by [DoTank](#), will utilize the same framework as IHA's past programming to translate the *Racial Equity in Healthcare Progress Report* (Progress Report) data into action. It is designed for hospitals in the early stages of their health equity journey or hospitals that previously participated and would like to send different teams and/or work on new initiatives with national peers.
- **A two-part Small and Rural Health Equity webinar series** on addressing social determinants of health in rural communities, an overview of the Rural Health Information Hub's Rural Health Equity Toolkit, and learnings from rural and Critical Access Hospitals, held later this spring.

- **A webinar with the consulting firm [Chartis](#)** on August 21 on how to make the business case for health equity and measure the impact of your initiatives.

For the fourth straight year, IHA will offer the **Progress Report**, a quality improvement tool to track advancement toward health equity within and across hospitals and health systems. **In the Progress Report's first three years, nearly 160 hospitals have taken the assessment with 80% of participating hospitals repeating the assessment on an annual basis.** This level of participation is a testament to the hospital community's dedication to realizing health equity in Illinois.

The 2024 Progress Report will launch in September after Labor Day and will be due in late October. IHA will continue to provide tools and resources to assist hospitals in completing the assessment, as well as a webinar with submission tips.

We have seen through Progress Report data that hospitals across Illinois are making great strides in advancing racial health equity, with steady improvement since 2021. We encourage all hospitals to continue on the path of addressing health disparities and to attend IHA's program offerings for additional insights and tools to strengthen our collective efforts to enhance healthcare for all.

Please contact Lisa Harries at 630-276-5478 or lharries@team-iha.org with questions.