

NCH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

A History of Community Service

NCH Healthcare System continues to seek innovative solutions to build access to comprehensive health care. Across our 60+ years of service to the citizens of Southwest Florida, NCH has been at the forefront of many advancements in procedures, access, and quality of care. As we move toward the future, NCH is exploring ways we can tackle difficult issues such as addiction, economic diversity in our region, and access to workforce housing; all of which contributes to a more healthy and stable community.

While operating primarily in Collier County, many employees live in Lee County and other communities in South Florida, spreading not only the economic impact, but the positive impact of living a longer, happier, and healthier life.

Over the 2022 session, NCH Healthcare System will actively engage in advocating solutions to numerous issues locally. Whether that is supporting the initiatives of other care providers, our regional higher education partners, or business partners, NCH intends to be an eager advocate for priorities which strengthen our community and our state!



Simulation Center Funding

NCH Healthcare System is building a 21st century medical simulation center which will be an asset for the entire community. Primarily focused on advanced medical education and training, this facility will also be made available to our public partners in law enforcement, first responders, education and the business community.

Seeking \$1,999,998 to purchase major equipment and materials, the simulation center will help reduce medical errors, improve patient outcomes, increase practitioner retention, and access to community participation in life-saving training.

Graduate Medical Education and Directed Payment Program Support

NCH is grateful to the legislature & our Governor for their support in the 2021 session of innovative programs utilizing local funding to draw down supplemental federal funds which benefit all patients in our region.

Please treat these much-needed programs as supplemental funding rather than a replacement!

Behavioral & Mental Health

During the COVID-19 pandemic, increased stresses and isolation contributed to an increase in mental and behavioral health reports

NCH supports initiatives to expand access to services, improve community partnerships, increase access to peer counselors, and other efforts to support our communities and our partners-in-care treating patients

Medicaid Funding

Medicaid presents a much-needed source of health security to thousands of our neighbors in Southwest Florida. Without this program, many would either delay care for a treatable condition or enter our system with no ability to pay, ultimately shifting those costs to other Floridians. Wherever Medicaid patients seek care, this vital safety net program supports the strength of our community through better outcomes, improved health & wellness, and long-term reduced costs on society.

Telehealth

Telehealth has proven to be an effective and necessary delivery method to increase access for many healthcare needs, especially mental health

Not only general medical appointments, but serious medical crises have seen an increase in utilization of telehealth to diagnose & provide prompt access to specialists

NCH supports initiatives to expand service and increase access to telehealth and for those services to be reimbursed at an equal rate to face-to-face office visits

Workforce Housing

NCH recognizes the challenges the current housing market places on families and is committed to working with our regional partners to find market-based solutions to reduce the burdens facing many of our employees.

Affecting our neighbors across all demographics, this challenging policy issue will take a broad effort to make a difference.

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