

Reimagining Hennepin Healthcare

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Hello valued community member,

As we welcome the new year, I want to thank you for your sustained efforts to keep yourselves, your families and our communities healthy and safe. I acknowledge the continued hardships that the pandemic is causing locally and globally and I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones feeling well and safe.

Hennepin Healthcare's planning process to advance health equity continues to progress in exciting ways. We have completed the second phase, where the Design Team — a core group of health equity specialists, community leaders, artists, Hennepin Healthcare representatives and other partners — have been creating together during in-person and virtual workshops. Now we're moving into the third phase, where we are actively planning together.

During the Design Team workshops, the focus was on one central question: How do we deepen our understanding of what we learned from you, our community, to disrupt cycles of health inequity in Hennepin County and create an equitable healthcare model?

Strategies to Improve Healthcare Equity: Although a number of innovative ideas emerged, three primary examples stood at the forefront as proposals for how to help dismantle injustices due to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and ableism, and create equitable systems to improve healthcare:

- **Increased access to care:** Design team members described a future where Hennepin Healthcare expands its partnerships to provide care outside the walls of the hospital and into community spaces, work environments and homes.
- **Family-centered care:** Design team members envisioned a model of care that encompasses entire support systems for the patient, including child/dependent care, amenities for visitors, as well as spaces for families to convene and attend to personal needs.
- **Culturally specific care:** Design team members imagined a system of care that cultivates and maintains trust with the cultural communities that make up the patient population. They

suggested collaborating with researchers to explore how anti-racism education and culturally relevant care models can work best to reduce health disparities.

One Comprehensive Healthcare Strategy: We have heard a lot from the community about their needs and vision for Hennepin Healthcare, analyzed the market to corroborate those needs and identified additional opportunities. We are combining this knowledge with what we know about Hennepin Healthcare's capabilities, to chart a path forward for our system.

This [planning process](#) is just the first step in the transformation of Hennepin Healthcare. Once our final vision is identified, we will continue to build a larger plan that will help us to achieve our goal for an equitable healthcare system.

Gratitude to You: Thank you for your continued commitment to support and shape the future vision of Hennepin Healthcare!

Even among the difficulties of the pandemic, I hope that you find and celebrate moments of joy, belonging and community care within this new year. Take care and stay safe.

With respect and gratitude,
Jennifer DeCubellis

