

CDC Public Forum on  
Community Health Needs Assessment and  
Implementation Strategies:

Comments on Institutional  
Governance and Oversight

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1. In nonprofit hospitals and health systems, board oversight of community benefit policy and programs is a basic responsibility and an ethical imperative.

## 2. Benchmarks of good governance include:

- Board adoption of a policy statement regarding their organization's role and obligations in providing community benefit.
- Collaboration with other organizations in on-going community needs assessment.

- Board adoption of a community benefit plan, including priorities and clear objectives.
- Reporting and accountability mechanisms to enable monitoring of progress.
- Regular reports to the community(s) that the organization serves.

3. A large and growing proportion of American's nonprofit hospitals are now integrated into multi-unit systems, and there are numerous organizational models. Regulations and reporting requirements should recognize and honor this diversity.

4. There is some evidence that communications and relationships between public health agencies and hospitals and health systems are improving – but there are great opportunities for more collaboration in meeting the needs and improving the health of the communities we jointly serve.

# Questions and Discussion