ABSTRACT: 2018 ELAM Institutional Action Project

Project Title: Creating a Rush Dashboard of Health Equity: Measuring the impact of our community efforts

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Collaborators and Mentors: Mentors: Ranga Krishnan, MD and David Ansell, MD; Collaborators: Darlene Hightower, JD, Elizabeth Lynch, PhD, and Raj C. Shah, MD

Topic Category (choose 1): Administration

Background, Significance of project: Health equity refers to a state where everyone has the opportunity to attain their full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential by their social position or circumstances. At Rush, we are committed to achieving health equity within communities on the West Side of Chicago, and a number of strategies have been implemented to reduce inequities caused by the social, economic, and structural determinants of health. In order to effectively measure the impact of existing initiatives and facilitate transparency, accountability, and learning, objective metrics of success are needed. It is not clear what metrics should be used to monitor and guide progress. This project is the first step to identify key metrics.

Purpose/Objectives: To create a dashboard of health equity that includes metrics of the impact of our community efforts.

Methods/Approach/Evaluation Strategy: The approach to developing a dashboard for health equity requires the identification and engagement of health equity experts and community advisors, and a scoping review of the literature. Specific steps included the following: 1) a review of health equity models in the literature, and published dashboards from other academic medical centers and social justice websites to catalog existing metrics; 2) Interviews with leaders and stakeholders at Rush and in the community to gather an inventory of what they think our community impact should be; and 3) Using gathered evidence, the creation of a template dashboard that addresses key domains identified in the Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP). The evaluation strategy will include feedback from health disparities researchers and partners within the Department of Community Health Equity assessing usability and acceptability of the dashboard.

Outcomes/Results: To date, I have reviewed several health equity models and interviewed stakeholders. The key outcome of the project is the development of a draft dashboard with indicators of health equity that measure our impact on four broad dimensions of health identified in the CHIP: a) equitable health care, b) quality of education, c) economic vitality, and d) the physical environment. A long-term outcome will include testing the validity of the dashboard in different target communities on the West Side.

Discussion/Conclusion with Statement of Impact/Potential Impact: The Rush Health Equity Dashboard will be a pragmatic tool to measure Rush's progress in achieving health equity on the West Side. Use of the dashboard will ultimately identify targets to decrease inequities and improve health of people within these vulnerable communities.