



COLORADO
SOCIAL EMERGENCY MEDICINE
— C O L L A B O R A T I V E —

April 2023

Executive Summary

Founded in 1860, Denver Health is a nationally recognized safety-net and anchor institution for the City and County of Denver, Colorado. The acute care hospital, Denver Health Medical Center, is home to the Level 1 adult and Level 2 pediatric Ernest E. Moore Shock Trauma Center at Denver Health, and the Denver Paramedics, the principal advanced life support Emergency Medical Services agency for the City and County of Denver.

Denver Health also encompasses many community- and school-based health centers, the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Safety Center, and the Public Health Institute at Denver Health. As such, Denver Health serves the diverse communities within the City and County of Denver across all aspects of the healthcare spectrum.

The Department of Emergency Medicine at Denver Health (DHED) has a long-standing history of providing exceptional care, training generations of clinicians and leaders in the specialty, and conducting impactful interdisciplinary clinical research. The Denver Health Residency in Emergency Medicine (DHREM) was founded in 1977 by Peter Rosen, MD, a founding father of the specialty. Faculty and residents work at Denver Health largely because of the institution's mission and commitment to our patients and communities.

In an effort to coalesce our expertise and passion in this area, we have created the Colorado Social Emergency Medicine Collaborative (CSEMC).

Mission

To improve the lives, well-being, and health equity of our patients and communities by understanding and leveraging the interplay between social forces and the emergency care system.

Vision

To advance the practice of social EM we will:

1. Foster and sustain interdisciplinary collaborations between Denver Health and our local, regional, and national partner institutions and organizations.
2. Combat social epidemics.
3. Conduct original high-impact program evaluation, outcomes research, and implementation science to advance the practice of social EM.
4. Develop programmatic and thought leaders and scientists through training, mentorship, career development, and career advancement.
5. Build fiscally responsible and sustainable programs.

Strategy

The CSEMC will focus on the following six core areas:

1. Clinical Care: Provision of holistic, trauma-informed care and integrated preventative services in the ED, including identification of patients' social needs and subsequent specific and efficient processes to connect them with resources and referrals to address those needs.

2. Discovery: Programmatic evaluation, research (particularly health services and implementation sciences), and scholarship focused on outcomes as they impact our patients and communities at large.
3. Education: Partnerships with the DHED Research Fellowship, DHREM, and the University of Colorado School of Medicine to provide education across the spectrum of disciplines and educational levels, inform socially conscious curricula, and train future leaders in social EM. The DHREM Social EM Interest Group activities are ongoing within the residency and help expose faculty and residents to existing programs and interventions within our community
4. Outreach: Provide centralized resources and opportunities for collaboration for other institutions, communities, and community-based organizations throughout Colorado, the Rocky Mountain region, and nationally.
5. Philanthropy: Establish dedicated philanthropic initiatives, partnering with the Denver Health Foundation, to support development of a future Center and Endowed Chair.
6. Policy and Advocacy: Advocate for systemic change to improve the health of both the individual and populations by contributing to the creation and evaluation of health policy.

Initiatives

In 2022 we completed the following:

1. Identification of key stakeholders and establishment of a steering committee.
2. Development and finalization of our mission, vision, and strategy.
3. Development of strategic and budget plans, including detailing roles and needs of administrative support, a program manager, and research assistants.
4. Naming and branding of the CSEMC, including acquisition of www.denversocialem.org and www.coloradosocialem.org

Three-year Plan

The major focus of 2023-2025 will be to:

1. Conduct a detailed, multi-tier needs assessment of clinicians, ED staff, social workers, and departmental research staff to identify specific and effective ways the CSEMC can function best for all who are involved in the care of our patients.
2. Conduct and maintain a comprehensive inventory of the existing resources and assets of the DHED, Denver Health, and community-based organizations.
3. Create, pilot, and evaluate a screening tool that can effectively and sensitively identify the social needs of our ED patients.
4. Integrate the social EM framework into the DHED research fellowship and the DHREM didactic curriculum.

5. Integrate existing departmental programs that address social needs (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment [SBIRT], At-risk Intervention and Mentoring [AIM], etc.) into the CSEMC.
6. Establish partnerships within the hospital and with community-based organizations that share similar goals and visions for our patients and community.

Future Directions

With thoughtful, deliberate alignment of resources, leadership, and strategy, the Colorado Social Emergency Medicine Collaborative will mature into a nationally-recognized leader of social emergency medicine. The CSEMC will foster best practice, evidence-based and effective integration of social needs care into the clinical setting, while acting as a source of much needed education, scholarship, and innovation. Long-term success in this area will be evidenced by:

- Integration of effective processes to address the social needs of our ED patients into the daily operations of the clinical environment.
- Establishment of a vigorous, mentored process to conduct original high-impact program evaluation, outcomes research, and implementation science to advance and innovate the practice of Social EM.
- Educational programs that integrate social EM into training for all those that care for our patients, and establishment of a fellowship in social EM to train future leaders in this field.
- Partnership with community and hospital organizations that de-silo and synergize efforts to address social needs, allowing patients to access resources efficiently and successfully.