



Matheny School and Hospital, Incorporated Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2025

Executive Summary

Matheny School and Hospital was founded in 1946 and operates a special hospital, primary and secondary special education schools, day programs, group homes and an arts program, all focusing on its specialty - providing health care for medically complex intellectually and developmentally disabled (I/DD) patients. While the focus of this needs assessment is the hospital, our commitment to our patients, clients and students is multi-focal and interdisciplinary across the continuum of Matheny's services.

Matheny's mission: To provide exceptional care and an optimal quality of life for children and adults with special needs and medically complex developmental disabilities.

Matheny's vision: To be the recognized model of excellence in the field of developmental disabilities.

Our Goal: To deliver exceptionally safe, high quality care to every patient, every day.

Our Core Values: Respect, Compassion, Professionalism and Integrity

The community we serve is the population of people in the State of New Jersey with medically complex developmental disabilities. These disabilities may include: cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disabilities, processing/communication disorders, speech impairments, Down syndrome, rare neurological disorders, mental illness, vision impairments, hearing impairments, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, Lesch-Nyhan Disease, genetic disorders and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

This Community Health Needs Assessment Report [CHNA] describes our processes and findings in assessing our community's needs. We sought to elucidate perceptions of patients, families and other organizations regarding the medically complex developmentally disabled people living in New Jersey. We also sought to build upon previous needs assessments performed by Matheny and explore opportunities that may help meet the unmet needs of our patients and clients.



The majority of people with I/DD live with their families or in a home of their own, estimated to be 72 percent of people with I/DD receiving services, while a smaller proportion use residential services. The population of people with I/DD living in large public institutions tends to be older and are more likely to have profound intellectual disabilities (meaning people with the most significant cognitive impairments) than non-institutionalized populations.

Adults with I/DD experience worse health outcomes than adults without I/DD. While average life expectancy for people with I/DD has increased overall in recent decades, for people with higher impairment severity, additional comorbidities, and increased frailty, early death is not uncommon. During their lifespan, people with I/DD live with more complex health conditions and are more likely than the general population to:

- Have limited access to appropriate health care
- Have a psychiatric disability than the general population
- Experience mental health problems with potential overuse of psychotropic medications
- Be obese or overweight
- Experience a high rate of falls
- Live with undetected vision and hearing loss
- Face health issues associated with aging related to their disability or genetic syndrome

Research demonstrates that people with I/DD experience avoidable disparities in health outcomes beyond the health differences caused by their primary disabling conditions. Health disparities also contribute to excess premature mortality rates.

Medicaid Services for People with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities – Evolution of Addressing Service Needs and Preferences, REPORT TO THE MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION BY SARAH BARTH, SHARON LEWIS, TAYLOR SIMMONS, OCTOBER 2020

Community Health Needs Assessment 2025

I. The Community Served

Matheny serves the population of people in the State of New Jersey who have medically complex developmental disabilities. New Jersey’s Division of Developmental Disabilities defines a developmental disability as a chronic disability which:

- originated at birth or during childhood and is manifested before the age of 22
- is expected to continue indefinitely
- substantially restricts the individual's functioning in several major life activities
- is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments
- results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:

self-care	receptive and expressive language
learning	mobility
self-direction	capacity for independent living
economic	self-sufficiency
- effects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

Disabling conditions may include: cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disabilities, processing/communication disorders, Down syndrome, rare neurological disorders, mental illness, vision impairments, hearing impairments, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida, Lesch-Nyhan Disease, genetic disorders and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

According to 2024 data from the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) there are approximately 28,525 individuals living with developmental disabilities in our State. Somerset County, the county in which our hospital is located, is reportedly home to approximately 1,388 developmentally disabled individuals.

According to the most recent data from University of Kansas’ and University of Colorado’s longitudinal database entitled “The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”, in fiscal year 2023 approximately 18,600 New Jersey residents lived in supervised residential settings, 39,000 lived alone or with roommates, and 154,000 resided with family caregivers. Of those in residential settings, 1,388 lived in residential facilities with sixteen or more persons served, down from 2,554 in 2018. Two hundred fifty seven resided in settings with seven to fifteen persons, down from 689 in 2018; and 16,923 resided in congregate settings with six or fewer residents or other residential settings, up from 13,732 in 2018. The shift from



larger congregate residential settings to smaller group and supervised apartment settings is considerable.

DDD reports that the majority of developmentally disabled people in New Jersey do indeed live at their family home. Among the congregate settings in which others reside are: DCA-licensed homes, developmental centers, group homes, skilled nursing facilities, special hospitals, state psychiatric hospitals, supervised apartments, and other supportive housing.

II. Persons Served

Matheny currently serves inpatients from 18 of the 21 counties in New Jersey, with the largest numbers coming from Essex (18.4%), Union (10.5%), Morris (7.9%) and Somerset (7.9%). Currently, 100 of these clients are inpatients at Matheny’s Special Hospital, which is licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Accredited by The Joint Commission. Thirty-eight adults reside in Matheny’s community residences. As of October 2025, The Matheny School’s total enrollment is 37 students. Nine of those students attend The Matheny School but live at home. We also care for outpatients who utilize our dental services and sub-specialty medical services.

New Jersey Counties of Residence of Matheny’s Inpatients’ Families/Guardians As of September 2025

County	Percentage
Essex	18.4%
Union	10.5%
Morris	7.9%
Somerset	7.9%
Bergen	6.1%
Hunterdon	5.3%
Camden	4.4%
Ocean	4.4%
Passaic	4.4%
Burlington	3.5%
Middlesex	3.5%
Atlantic	2.6%
Monmouth	2.6%
Hudson	1.8%
Mercer	1.8%
Cape May	0.9%
Cumberland	0.9%
Gloucester	0.9%
Out of State	12.3%



As of December 31, 2024, Matheny’s inpatient clients ranged in age from 5 to 53 years of age. Twenty-eight clients were 20 years of age or under. The remainder were adult clients who range in age from 21 to 53 years of age. There were 66 males and 35 females residing at Matheny. Almost 55% of the inpatients were white, 24% were black, 14% were Hispanic.

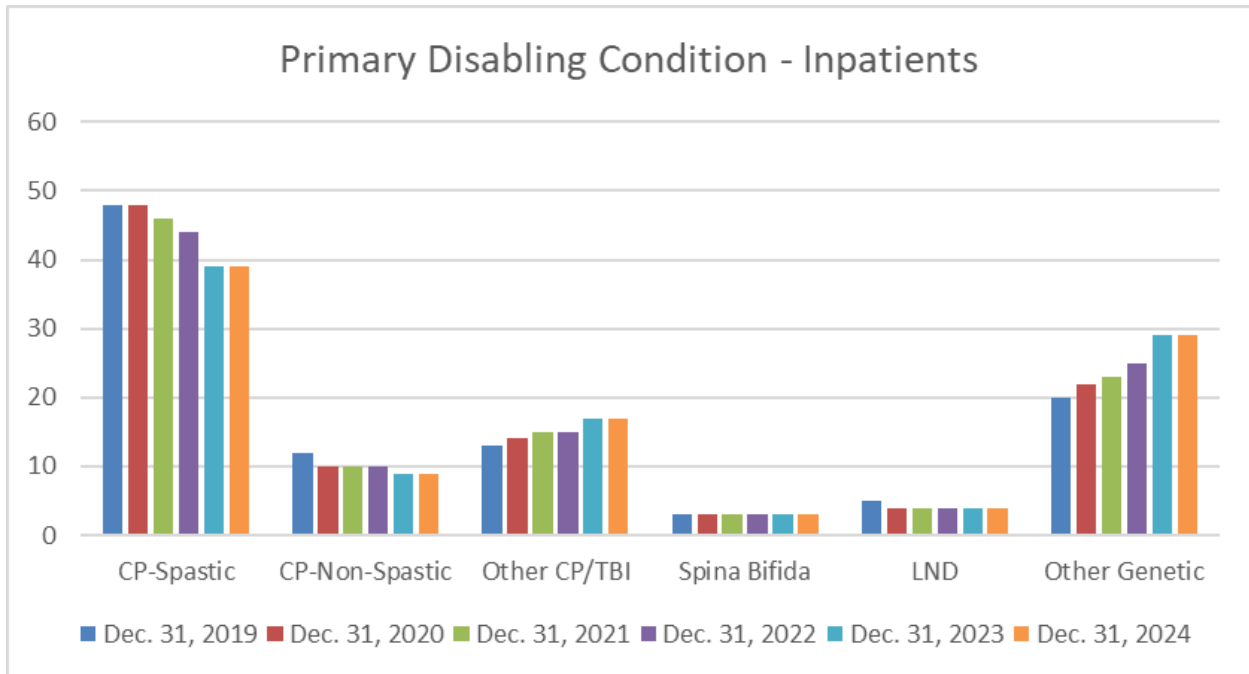
**Ages of Inpatients as of
December 31, 2024**

Age	Count
over 50	1
45-49	4
40-44	9
35-39	9
30-34	18
25-29	14
20-24	19
15-19	12
10-14	10
5-9	4
under 5	0
Total	100

Race of Matheny’s Inpatients

Race	%
White	55%
Black	24%
Hispanic	14%
Asian	3%
Biracial	3%
Unknown	2%

The majority of Matheny inpatients and group home residents have cerebral palsy as their primary disabling condition. In addition to cerebral palsy, our patients may have other associated clinical conditions such as vision and hearing deficits, seizure disorders, intellectual disabilities and dysphagia, with resulting aspiration problems. Matheny also cares for patients with spina bifida, Lesch-Nyhan Disease (LND) and a wide range of uncommon neurological conditions including Rett syndrome, Angelman syndrome, Cornelia de Lange syndrome, Wolf-Hirshorn syndrome, and 4Q deletion syndrome. Lesch-Nyhan Disease is a rare x-linked recessive disorder associated with cognitive impairment, high levels of uric acid in the blood, kidney involvement, and the hallmark symptom – involuntary self-injurious behaviors. Matheny is recognized nationally as one of the leading sources of information on care issues regarding Lesch-Nyhan Disease.



III. Matheny’s Services

Among its array of services, Matheny’s hospital and outpatient program provides both inpatients and outpatients with the following services: primary and specialty medical care, dental care, wound and ostomy evaluation and treatment, seating and wheelchair clinical services, therapy services (audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language pathology therapy), and women’s health care. Matheny’s inpatients and residents also receive Life Enrichment Therapies including recreation therapy and music therapy.

Within the hospital, the Matheny Center for Medicine and Dentistry (MCMD) is the locus of our outpatient services. While our inpatients receive most of their care in their residential rooms, specialty clinic services for our inpatients are also provided in the MCMD. In 2024, the 18 clinics in the MCMD had 872 outpatient visits and 1414 visits by our inpatients for a total of 2286 visits. The dental and adaptive seating clinics had the greatest numbers of visits.



CLINIC	OUTPATIENT	INPATIENT	TOTAL:
PHYSIATRY	12	139	151
GENERAL CONSULTATIVE	59	0	59
OPTOMETRY	6	27	33
NEURO CLINIC	0	48	48
GYNECOLOGY	18	25	43
ORTHOPEDECS	0	42	42
PSYCHIATRY	68	68	136
PULMONARY	3	60	63
PODIATRY	1	64	65
NEPHROLOGY	11	43	54
SEATING	257	226	483
DENTAL	386	543	929
AUDIOLOGY	1	85	86
SPEECH THERAPY	1	0	1
DYSPHAGIA EVAL	3	0	3
NURSE	28	0	28
ORTHOTICS	1	44	45
PSYCHOLOGY	17	0	17
TOTAL:	872	1414	2286

Beyond the hospital and outpatient programs, Matheny provides residential services in seven community residences located throughout north central New Jersey. Each residence provides residential, personal care and nursing services for four to six adults with complex disabilities.

Matheny’s day habilitation program located in Hillsborough and at our main campus in Peapack, NJ provides recreational and pre-vocational programming for adults with complex disabilities. At Hillsborough, participants include individuals who reside in our community residences and individuals who reside in their own homes or residences operated by other service providers. Matheny provides transportation for participants from the hospital and community residences to the Hillsborough day habilitation program. Inpatients at Matheny’s hospital receive day programming at the hospital.

Matheny’s Arts Access program empowers individuals with disabilities to create art without boundaries. Through the use of innovative systems and techniques, clients can take part in the visual, performing and literary arts. Regardless of their disability, clients are provided with the tools and materials needed to produce complete pieces of work. On a daily basis, Arts Access fosters an environment of artistic creativity among the participating clients. The program improves the quality of life for the clients and those around them. In addition, Arts Access programming aids in changing the perception about the capabilities and talents of people with developmental disabilities. Pieces have been shown in major corporate and fine art galleries, including Sotheby’s in New York City, and artists are able to sell their artwork and designed products at Matheny’s online Art Show. Theatre productions and dance performances have been done in collaboration with area arts groups.



Identification of the Community’s Unmet Needs

III. Secondary data

The *Somerset County Department of Human Services Advisory Council Report 2016-2020* published in September 2017, lists the developmentally disabled population as a priority population. Specifically, the report states that areas of consistent unmet needs among that population include:

- affordable housing;
- transportation;
- whole health care services;
- comprehensive services across the lifespan;
- qualified staff for all services; and

- productive employment transitional and daytime services.

While this report is dated (a more recent report of these data has not been made available), these cited unmet needs persist and are pervasive in the developmental disability community.

In their most recent report of special education classification rates (2023-2024), the New Jersey Department of Education reported there were 259,735 students with disabilities enrolled in school, 5730 of those with intellectual disabilities and 1259 (0.15%) with multiple disabilities.

New Jersey Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs Non-Public and Public Data		
Special Education Classification	Special Education Student count by Classification	Classification Rate
Autism	29014	2.05
Deaf-Blindness	23	0
Emotional Disturbance	6680	0.47
Hearing impairment	1326	0.09
Intellectual Disability	5730	0.41
Multiple Disabilities	12059	0.85
Orthopedic Impairment	298	0.02
Other Health Impairment	49335	3.49
Specific Learning Disability	75908	5.37
Speech or Language Impairment	61513	4.35
Traumatic Brain Injury	308	0.02
Visual Impairment	354	0.03
Total	259375	18.34

Additional secondary data sources reviewed for this needs assessment include:

- <https://www.nj.gov/health/chs/njshad/>
New Jersey’s publicly available searchable database of the NJ State Health Assessment data
- <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/assets/documents/Statistics/community-standard-county-icd-20241215.pdf>
New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities Data Report
- <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/about/division/statistics/>
New Jersey Division of Developmental disabilities statistics portal

Primary data

Previously, Matheny surveyed 51 agencies to determine how the health needs of people with disabilities in the state of New Jersey are being met. Fourteen of those agencies (27.4%) responded, but only seven identified themselves. They are:

- Abilities of Northwest New Jersey, Inc.;
- Alternatives, Inc.;
- Center for Family Support New Jersey;
- LADACIN Network;
- North Jersey Elks Developmental Disabilities Association;
- Princeton Child Development Institute; and
- Progressive Comprehensive Services, LLC.

As one part of that survey, participants were asked to rank seven types of services for persons with complex disabilities in terms of unmet need. Their responses resulted in the following ranking in decreasing level of need:

1. Medical and dental services
2. Transportation
3. Living quarters/residential services
4. Occupational/employment training and assistance
5. Therapeutic services
6. Availability of adaptive equipment and devices
7. Recreation

When asked for other important needs not included in the above list, there were five responses:

1. Mental health services.
2. Case management, health and wellness, and mental health therapy and psychiatry.
3. Outpatient psychiatric care.
4. Mental health services for people with physical disabilities.
5. Respite care.

From this survey we learned, based on other providers' estimates of the distance that their clients would travel to receive services, that more than one third would be willing to travel as much as 46 minutes to an hour for medical or dental services. The distances they would be willing to travel for other services (adaptive equipment, day programming, occupational training, therapeutic services or recreation) were somewhat less.

Among the major gaps in services or service limitations that the responding providers reported

1. Funding (general)
2. Transportation funding
3. Behavioral/Psychiatric/Medical needs
4. Housing options
5. Respite care for individuals with complex needs
6. Physicians with specialized training.

In March 2022, four case management agencies serving the I/DD population in New Jersey and an administrator at the New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Council (NJDDC) responded to a survey seeking information about unmet service needs in the state.

Among the three case management agencies that providing rankings of unmet needs, the following were suggested to be among the top concerns:

1. Day programming
2. Transportation
3. Medical / dental services
4. Living quarters / residential services
5. Therapeutic services (OT, PT, Speech, etc.)
6. Availability of adaptive equipment and devices

The NJDDC administrator cited the leading unmet needs from that entity’s perspective as being:

1. Availability of adaptive equipment and devices
2. Special education for those with complex needs
3. Therapeutic services (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, etc.)
4. Occupational/employment training and assistance
5. Recreation

One case management agency indicated that, “Dental services are extremely difficult to locate. Behavioral support services are difficult to locate or not skilled enough to handle challenging behaviors.”

These and other data gathered in that survey have been instrumental in helping us better understand gaps in services for persons with complex disabilities, and they have helped to inform our strategic planning and our efforts described below.

IV. Meeting the Community’s Unmet Needs

In recognition of the identified unmet needs, particularly those in the areas of medical and dental services, residential services, therapeutic services, adaptive equipment and devices, Matheny has attempted to address those needs through: (1) health care education; (2) collaborative alliances and partnerships; (3) organizational transformation and expansion; and (4) awareness of, and engagement with, providers of related and collateral services.

1. Addressing unmet needs through health care education

Recognizing a need to ensure that the health care community beyond Matheny’s walls is prepared to serve this population that, by its nature, has a narrower margin of health, Matheny actively trains future professionals in the field to work with this underserved population. This includes training and education of medical students, nursing students, students in the various therapies, and students in other allied health disciplines.

- ***Undergraduate Medical Students:*** Approximately 170 undergraduate third year Rutgers New Jersey Medical School medical students visit Matheny annually during their pediatric clerkship. They get a 6.5 hour experience, totaling 1,112 “student-hours” of training provided per year. The medical students receive exposure to an interdisciplinary approach to providing care to the medically complex developmentally disabled patient. They meet with Matheny’s medical staff, speech therapists, dieticians, arts program staff, a member of our quality improvement and patient safety team, a social worker, rehabilitation technology staff, adult services staff and a behaviorist. They also receive patient contact, including persons with Lesch-Nyhan Disease. In the context of a standardized patient exercise, the students conduct clinical interviews with patients who communicate in ways other than verbal. The exercise served as a model for the development of similar exercises in medical and nursing schools throughout the United States. A Matheny study published in *Academic Medicine* confirmed the short term impact on students’ attitudes and perceived readiness to serve persons with complex developmental disabilities. Overall medical student evaluations of the one-day Matheny experience have consistently placed our program among the most highly rated pediatric clerkship experiences at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.
- ***Graduate Medical Education:*** Resident physicians in Adolescent Medicine at the Morristown Medical Center rotate at Matheny for exposure to medically complex patients with developmental disabilities. Approximately 10 residents rotate per year, each for about 2.5 hours, totaling 25 hours of residency training. The residents meet with a member of Matheny’s quality improvement and patient safety team, medical staff, and staff from clinical therapies disciplines.
- ***Nursing Students:***
 - Matheny provides training opportunities for two nursing school programs in the Fall Semester and two schools in the Spring. In the Fall, students from the County College of Morris and from Warren Community College do rotations at Matheny; and in the Spring, students from Raritan Valley Community College and Passaic Community College do rotations at Matheny. Over the course of the semester, each school sends three groups of at least 8 students each for 4-6 weeks. Thus, each semester we see roughly 50 students rotate



through the facility. Additionally, this past summer Matheny provided training opportunities for 5 students from St. Paul’s School of Nursing.

- All of the nursing students receive didactics and practical exposure to nursing care on the unit. They learn unique skills such as how to communicate with non-verbal patients and how to dispense medications to people with complex disabilities so that they will be prepared if they later encounter persons with disabilities in any care setting.
- ***Students in the Clinical Therapies:*** Therapy majors from 32 US colleges and universities have performed internships at Matheny in occupational, physical, speech, music and recreation therapies.
 - Participating institutions have included: Bloomsburg University, Boston University, Columbia University, Dominican College of Blauvelt, East Carolina University, East Stroudsburg University, Eastwick College, Elizabethtown College, Florida State University, Immaculata University, Ithaca College, Kean University, Marywood University, Mercy College, Misericordia University, Monmouth University, Montclair State University, Nazareth College of Rochester, Northeastern University, Ohio University, Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, Shenandoah University, Springfield College, Southern Methodist University, Temple University, University of New Hampshire, Touro College, University of Scranton, University of Miami, West Chester University, and Winston-Salem State University.
 - These training opportunities were put on hold at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Matheny resumed providing training opportunities to dietary students from St. Elizabeth’s University and is in the process of rebuilding its structure and processes for providing opportunities in other therapeutic areas.
- ***Social Work Students in Social Services:*** Matheny has provided internship opportunities for student interns in recent years including students from the College of Staten Island, Monmouth University, and Rutgers University.
- ***Students in Biomedical Engineering:*** In 2016, thirteen biomedical engineering students at the Rutgers School of Engineering, Rutgers University–New Brunswick immersed themselves at Matheny to help find ways to improve clients’ independence and quality of life. That program was resumed in 2022 and, since then, Matheny has provided educational opportunities for 180 biomedical engineering students. Some of those students have furthered their exposure to disability issues and concerns through summer or part-time employment at Matheny.
- ***A cross-disciplinary alliance for training health care students:*** Recognizing the lack of disability-related training in medical schools, nursing schools, dental schools and other



health care training programs, in 2007 Matheny convened educators from around the country to explore ways to promote the inclusion of disability-related content in all health care training programs in the United States. That roundtable event led to the establishment of a 501c3 organization dedicated to that purpose. The Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education, initially under Matheny’s leadership, now boasts a membership of over 100 educators from leading universities and advocacy organizations. The Alliance has published papers in major health care journals, has presented at national and international conferences, presented webinars, annually provided research scholarships to students in graduate and professional schools, and in partnership with Ohio State University has published and disseminated a widely adopted and endorsed set of competencies to guide the design of disability-related curricula.

2. Addressing unmet needs through collaboration, alliances and partnerships

- Planning is coordinated with the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities’ plans for the expansion of services across the lifespan, and self-directed services.
- Matheny works with advocacy groups around NJ, such as the Alliance for Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD), to improve the standing of our population with regard to state and federal resources.
- We engage other providers at a national level through the Pediatric Complex Care Association (PCCA). PCCA provides a platform for data benchmarking, information sharing, and conference-based education. Clinical data are collected quarterly and submitted to the Pediatric Complex Care Association; statistical reports are provided and allow us to compare to other organizations. These data assist in helping identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.
- Our Arts Access program coordinates with other similar organizations around the state for collaborative programming and events.
- Matheny represented the Alliance for Betterment of People with Disabilities on the “Money Follows the Person” Direct Support Professional (DSP) Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee convened by the Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Steering Committee guided the development of a competency-based career pathway for Direct Support Professionals employed by providers across the state.
- Matheny engaged the Infection Control Assessment and Response team of the New Jersey Department of Health in the voluntary evaluation of our handling of respiratory illnesses.
- Matheny’s Vice President/Chief Medical Officer is an active participant on New Jersey Hospital Association’s Planning and Development Committee, The Continuing Education Committee, The Physicians Executive Constituency Group and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Health Research and Education Trust of New Jersey.

3. Addressing unmet needs through transformation and expansion

- We continue to transform our hospital into a data driven high reliability organization that delivers exceptionally safe, high quality care to every patient every day.
- We work to develop our community programs' outreach into a coordinated cross-departmental system to embrace more patients in our immediate area and beyond.
- We work with NJ resources to develop group homes for children and adults in the developmentally disabled community. Matheny recently constructed two new community residences in Far Hills, NJ bringing our total number to seven. Each houses four to six residents.
- New Jersey's adoption of the fee for service model has provided individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose the services they would like to receive. Support coordinators contact us regularly looking to find day programs that meet their clients' needs. The day program admission committee reviews all inquiries and enrolls clients when appropriate.

4. Addressing unmet needs through awareness of, and referral to, providers of related and collateral services

Matheny cannot possibly provide the full extent of health care and human services needed by all people with disabilities in New Jersey. Therefore, we have identified and collaborated with other facilities that serve those in the disabled community and have informed our potential inpatients and outpatients about facilities that can provide care that they need.

- The Atlantic Health Developmental Disabilities Centers are part of the Center for Human Development at Morristown Medical Center. The DDC offers diagnostic and treatment services for adults with developmental disabilities. Its staff includes board-certified internal medicine physicians and nurse practitioners who collaborate with developmental pediatricians, neurologists, psychiatrists, clinical nurse specialists, psychologists and licensed professional counselors to provide comprehensive, integrated primary care and behavioral health services. Any adult with a developmental disability is eligible for DDC services but needs to be registered with the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Patients include individuals who live with their families or in their own homes, supervised apartments, skills development homes with sponsors, or group homes with staff. DDC medical developmental disabilities services include: comprehensive medical and neurological evaluations; coordination of care; dental care; hospitalization at Morristown Medical Center or Overlook Medical Center with coordinated follow-up care and discharge services; neurological examinations and testing; primary health care for acute and chronic illness; referrals for genetic counseling

and birth defects diagnosis and counseling; referrals for subspecialists (cardiologists, dermatologists, orthopedists, etc.); workshops and educational programs focusing on the special needs of people with developmental disabilities. The facility also provides behavioral health developmental disabilities services, and, at its child development and autism centers, provides pediatric developmental disabilities services as well.

- The Robert Wood Johnson Department of Family Medicine and Community Health operates the New Jersey Primary Care Research Network, a practice-based research network of nearly 120 primary care practices, more than 300 physicians, and approximately 750,000 patients. Participating practices are located throughout New Jersey in a variety of urban, suburban, and semi-rural settings.
- Matheny has established a strategic collaboration with Children’s Specialized Hospital, a RWJBarnabas health facility. This collaborative relationship is structured to allow Matheny and CSH to share expertise, experience and resources in order to improve access to quality care for people with developmental disabilities.
- Pleasant Run Family Physicians in Neshanic Station, NJ, provides care for patients of all ages, from newborns to geriatrics. It is part of the Atlantic Accountable Care Organization (AACO), a joint venture of Atlantic Health System and Valley Health System that encompasses more than 1,800 physician participants in four regions of northern New Jersey, including Bergen, Morris, Sussex, Union, Hunterdon, and Somerset counties.
- The Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center in Bridgewater, NJ, is part of the Somerset County Department of Human Services (DHS). Its Office on Aging and Disability Services is a designated Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), designed to streamline access to long-term care support services, health promotion, and education. It links seniors, their caregivers, and adults with disabilities to the programs and services needed to remain independent and active in the community.
- Trinitas Hospital Behavioral Health Services is a comprehensive department of behavioral health and psychiatry operated by the Trinitas Regional Medical Center. Services are offered along with a full continuum of care, with specialized services available for adults, children, adolescents, and their families. In addition to operating a 95-bed inpatient facility for the adult, child/adolescent and mentally ill/developmentally-disabled persons, the hospital provides almost 200,000 behavioral health visits in a typical year.

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V. Progress in Addressing Needs and Implementing Strategies Identified in our 2022 CHNA

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)	Evidence of Compliance:
Continue the journey to become a high reliability organization that delivers exquisitely safe, high quality care to every patient every day.	All departments, teams, task forces, etc. continue to utilize data to monitor and improve their processes. Scorecards with key metrics are shared with Quality Improvement, Patient Safety, Environment of Care and Infection Control Committees. Reports are provided to the Board of Trustees. Matheny continues to provide ongoing staff education regarding High Reliability Organizations (HRO).
Maintain our Accredited status with The Joint Commission (TJC).	Matheny successfully completed our triennial TJC survey in December, 2022 and is due for another triennial survey in the Fall or Winter of 2025. Matheny remains accredited by TJC as a hospital and as a Home Care/Durable Medical Equipment (Rehabilitation Technology) provider.
Develop our community programs outreach into a coordinated cross-departmental system to embrace more patients in our immediate area and beyond	On an ongoing basis, Matheny evaluates the need for improvement and expansion of key services and facilities. Matheny expanded the adult services and recreation services department to what is now known as Life Enrichment Therapies. New programs will be available to patients and residents.
Work collaboratively with healthcare educational programs across the state and nation to improve the readiness of health care providers to serve people with complex developmental disabilities	Matheny continues to educate third-year medical students from Rutgers NJ Medical School; we provide a training experience for residents in Adolescent Medicine from Atlantic Health; we provide training to nursing students; and we are re-establishing training relationships with colleges and universities in the clinical therapies.
Continue to work with advocacy groups around NJ to improve the standing of our population with regard to state and federal resources.	Matheny represented the Alliance for Betterment of People with Disabilities on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Competency and Capacity Building Steering Committee convened by the Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Steering Committee guided the development of a competency-based career pathway for Direct Support Professionals employed by providers across the state. Matheny has continued working with the ARC, Association for Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities, New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Council, New Jersey Hospital Association, Pediatric Complex Care Association, Disability Rights New Jersey, and Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education in advocacy efforts. Matheny administrators have advocated



	in both our state and our nation’s capital for health care resources for persons with disabilities.
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Conclusion

This report seeks to identify the unmet needs of our medically complex, developmentally disabled community and plan for how Matheny will meet those needs. We have built upon the goals set in our last CHNA and hope to continue this work into the future as meeting the needs of our community and persons served is truly a work in progress requiring continuous quality improvement and planning.