



COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE TO SOCIAL ISSUES

Articles by Barbara Ravage

Public hospitals are committed to the communities they serve and offer a range of creative outreach services. But oftentimes, they can't go at it alone. They rely on community groups to help build bridges to area residents in order to identify concerns and reach out to those in need, and to offer support services beyond what the hospital can provide alone. In medically underserved communities—social service agencies, faith-based groups, and other organizations can be a lifeline.

In Flint, Michigan, an alliance among the public hospital, police department, and county mental health agency has been battling domestic violence for more than two decades. In Ft. Worth, Texas, an alarmingly high rate of infant mortality inspired a new collaborative to address a broad range of social, educational, housing, financial, and other needs while increasing access to quality medical care. In both cities, the safety net has been strengthened through community partnerships.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE