

METROCARE:

ADDRESSING HEALTHCARE ACCESS DISPARITIES IN CINCINNATI, OHIO

The **METROCARE** initiative, led by medical students in Learning Community 11, addresses inequities that stem from **transportation barriers** faced by vulnerable populations. These barriers delay or prevent care, disproportionately affecting **low-income individuals, people with disabilities, Medicaid recipients, and ethnic minorities**.

Key Issues

- Many people in Cincinnati struggle to access transportation when trying to receive medical care.
- Current solutions such as Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation and the Fare Deal Program are **difficult to utilize, provide a limited benefit, and do not address long-standing health disparities in certain communities**.

Solution

METROCARE: Metrobus for Equitable Transit and Reliable Opportunities for Care

A simple system where patients receive barcodes to access **free Metrobus services** to and from their healthcare appointments.

Strategy

- Collaborate with healthcare systems and government officials to create and promote this allocation of resources.
- Develop protocols for hospitals to seamlessly provide free bus passes to patients seeking care.

Conclusion

METROCARE creates practical, equitable solutions to transportation challenges, **ensuring access to healthcare for underserved populations**.