

Memorial Health System (MHS) - Abilene, KS

2016 Community Health Needs Assessment

MHS Implementation Strategy 2017-2019

This implementation strategy describes how Memorial Health System plans to address significant needs identified in the 2016 Dickinson County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) completed in December 2016.

The 2016 Dickinson County CHNA was led by the Dickinson County Quality of Life Coalition, Memorial Health System, Herington Municipal Hospital and Dickinson County Health Department to understand and address community health needs, and in accordance with proposed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

The Dickinson County CHNA represents a collaborative approach to identify, assess and prioritize the most important health issues affecting our county. This process provides a foundation for health care providers and the community to collaboratively plan, develop and foster programs to effectively address identified health needs.

MHS reserves the right to amend this implementation strategy as circumstances warrant. For example, certain needs may become more pronounced and merit enhancements to the described strategic initiatives. Alternately, other organizations in the community may decide to address certain community health needs, and the hospital may amend its strategies and refocus on other identified significant health needs. Beyond the initiatives and programs described herein, the hospital is addressing some of these needs simply by providing health care to the community, regardless of ability to pay.

About Memorial Health System

Memorial Health System employs 244 full-time and 80 part-time people. MHS has provided the residents of Abilene, KS, and the surrounding area with high quality health care services since 1922. Over the years, the system has grown into a provider of health care services for all stages of life.

Memorial Hospital is a 25-bed critical access hospital in Abilene, Kansas. It has served people in Dickinson County since 1922 and prides itself on the quality care its staff provides. Memorial Hospital is a modern and well-equipped primary health care institution, with a high degree of sophistication in diagnostic equipment, technology and personnel that is unusual for most hospitals of similar size and type in the state.

Memorial Hospital prides itself on quality patient care provided by both outpatient and inpatient services. The hospital consistently ranks high on patient satisfaction surveys conducted by independent survey companies. Both inpatients and outpatients give Memorial Hospital high marks for quality care and customer service. Its excellent medical staff and dedicated and skilled hospital staff assure delivery of high quality health care in a compassionate, yet individualized manner.

Memorial Hospital offers: 24-hour emergency care; childbirth center; skilled nursing program; diagnostic laboratory; diagnostic radiology and imaging services; rehabilitation services, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and sports medicine services; respiratory care; cardiac rehabilitation; inpatient and outpatient geriatric behavioral health services; general surgery; and an array of visiting specialists who hold clinics and perform surgery at Memorial Hospital.

Memorial Health System Affiliates

Heartland Health Care Clinic and Surgery is staffed with six family physicians, a general surgeon and two advanced practice providers. HHCC specializes in family medicine and obstetrics and also offers sick and well pediatric care, women's health services, acute care, geriatric care, immunizations, general surgery, same day call-in appointments (Community Care Program), and other family medicine services.

Village Manor is an 74-bed nursing facility that provides: private and semi-private rooms and suites; special care unit for those with Alzheimer's disease or other memory-related disorders; skilled care; short-term recovery; respite care; hospice; adult day care; and therapy services. Village Manor is Medicare certified and is run with a resident-centered care philosophy by a friendly and professional staff.

Home Health and Hospice of Dickinson County provides home health services, respite care, and in home hospice care for residents in Dickinson County. They have offices located in Abilene and Herington.

Learn and Grow Depot Child Development Center is a childcare center where their purpose is to make each child's learning experience a positive one, full of hands-on learning opportunities in a safe and happy environment.

Impact Sports and Fitness has state-of-the-art cardio and strength equipment, locker rooms, showers, a spa, workout areas, a classroom and a track. Available services include: massage therapy, personal training, and group fitness classes.

Frontier Estates is an apartment facility for individuals age 62 and above with limited income. Tenants live in an atmosphere of dignity and self respect, have the opportunity to make and enjoy friends, and have the freedom to maintain their own private life-style. To be eligible an individual must be: age 62 or over; be within HUD determined income guidelines; and meet the tenant selection criteria.

Comprehensive Pain Solutions - MHS opened Comprehensive Pain Solutions in 2007 as a multidisciplinary clinic to help patients with acute and chronic pain. The clinic serves patients in the central Kansas area. The patient, physician and staff work together to develop a treatment plan to achieve realistic goals to help the patient manage his/her pain.

Target Areas and Population

The Dickinson County CHNA identified the health needs of the county as a whole. Information was collected from a wide range of county residents representing the underserved as well as the affluent population. As of the U.S. Census in 2000, there were 19,344 people, 7,903 households, and 5,421 families residing in the county.

The MHS Implementation Strategy will focus primarily on the Abilene and surrounding area, as that is where the majority of our patients reside. We will continue to collaborate with our CHNA partners through the Quality of Life Coalition on a regular basis and with Herington Municipal Hospital and the Dickinson County Health Department as needed or upon request. It is in the best interest of Dickinson County that we do our best to work together, as much as possible, to accomplish goals and improve the health of Dickinson County residents.

How the Community Health Needs Assessment Was Conducted

Dickinson County Quality of Life Coalition, Memorial Health System, Herington Municipal Hospital and Dickinson County Health Department led the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process. This year,

a 30-question survey was created and distributed with the goal of collecting “Community Health” opinions and data from Dickinson County residents. The CHNA survey was available in a paper format and it was available online. Paper surveys were handed out at the Dickinson County - Central Kansas Free Fair, and other community events. Paper surveys were also available to pick up and drop off at county senior centers, libraries, hospitals, health departments and schools. To encourage a wide range of participation, special invitations that included a link to the survey were sent via e-mail to key community leaders; large employers; and all educational, governmental, civic and health related organizations within Dickinson County.

To ensure input from persons with a broad knowledge of the community, notice of the available online and paper surveys was announced as a public service announcement on the local radio station, on the Memorial Health System Facebook page, the Quality of Life Coalition Facebook page, and in the local newspaper. In total, 362 surveys were collected.

Once the survey was closed, the results were shared and discussed at the Quality of Life Coalition’s Health and Wellness Committee. The Committee also looked at Dickinson County data from www.kansashealthmatters.org and Health Kansas 2020. Suggestions were made about how to prioritize the information, and create new priorities to lead health care decisions in Dickinson County for the next several years.

CHNA committee members from the Quality of Life Coalition, Memorial Health System, Herington Municipal Hospital and Dickinson County Health Department collaborated and reviewed the data and recommendations from the Health and Wellness Committee, and developed these 2016 CHNA priorities for Dickinson County:

- Substance Abuse Prevention;
- Access to Health Care - mental health, physical health, elder care; and
- Economic Development and Affordable Living.

What Memorial Health System is Doing and Will Do to Address Identified Community Needs

MHS will continue to provide high quality health care services for the residents of Abilene and Dickinson County. All MHS affiliates are encouraged to provide leadership and support for collaborative community efforts to make health improvements in Dickinson County.

MHS is meeting existing community needs through providing community benefits and services including: charity care; Medicaid services; in-kind and financial support for the Women’s Health Initiative for free mammograms for the uninsured in Dickinson county; leading a free Diabetes Support Group; Health Wise 55; Bereavement Support Group; 340b Drug Discount Program; and providing leadership and in-kind support for the Dickinson County Breastfeeding Coalition.

Specific to the needs identified in the 2016 CHNA -

Access to Health Care

MHS will continue to look at ways to expand upon current mental health services. In 2016, Senior Life Solutions (SLS), an out-patient mental health service opened on the MHS campus. SLS is exceeding expectations and believes their services have been very welcomed and will be successful in the community.

MHS will explore opportunities to improve connections between mental health professionals and MHS primary care providers to promote more communication and collaboration for identified patients who may need mental health services.

MHS will continue to recruit and retain medical professionals and physicians to provide health care for the community. Patient access to physicians is important. MHS will work to address concerns regarding appointment wait times and access to physicians.

MHS will educate the community about the availability of the 340b Drug Discount Program, available through Heartland Health Care Clinic. MHS affiliate, Heartland Health Care Clinic, participates in a government program that helps patients save money on their medications and provides resources to strengthen health care in Abilene and Dickinson County. In order to receive a discount on medications, patients may pick up a 340B card at the HHCC front desk, and take it with their prescription to a participating pharmacy in Abilene. At the pharmacy, patients who qualify, can save up to 60% off the cost of their family's medications.

MHS will provide education, support and guidance through teaching the importance of living a healthy lifestyle; encouraging residents to become more proactive when it comes to choosing what they eat, how much they exercise and how they monitor and maintain their own personal health.

Substance Abuse Prevention

MHS will explore the implementation of standardized chronic pain management policies in the hospital, clinics, and emergency department.

MHS medical professionals will make themselves available for community education regarding the health effects of substance abuse.

Economic Development and Affordable Housing

MHS will continue to recruit and maintain health care professionals. Being an employer of choice, providing good jobs, will assist in economic development in Abilene and Dickinson County.

MHS will continue to operate Frontier Estates, which is an apartment facility for individuals age 62 and above with limited income. There are 60 apartments at Frontier Estates, and most of the year, all apartments are fully occupied. Tenants live in an atmosphere of dignity and self respect, have the opportunity to make and enjoy friends, and have the freedom to maintain their own private life-style. To be eligible an individual must be: age 62 or over; be within HUD determined income guidelines; and meet tenant selection criteria.

Next Steps

As part of the CHNA process, Memorial Health System will continue to work with community partners in the implementation of our community health improvement plan (CHIP) based on the hospital strategies outlined in this document. The CHIP will be reviewed annually to assess progress on key community indicators. The next community health needs assessment (CHNA) will be conducted in 2019 for implementation in 2020.

APPROVAL

The MHS Board of Directors, which includes representatives from the business, health, non-profit and community areas of Dickinson County will review and approve this implementation strategy for addressing priorities identified in the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment.

This report was prepared for the December 6, 2016, Memorial Health System Board of Directors meeting, and is approved as signed below by the Board Chairperson and Hospital CEO.

Dr. Steve Schwarting, MHS Board Chairperson

Date

Mark Miller, MHS Chief Executive Officer

Date