



Hospital Authority of
**MILLER
COUNTY**

Implementation Strategy for the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
COMMUNITY PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS.....	3
Lifestyle and Obesity	3
Behavioral and Mental Health.....	4
Adolescent Behavior	4
Access to Care.....	4
ACTIONS PLANNED OR TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE 2019 CHNA	4
Lifestyle and Obesity	4
Behavioral and Mental Health	5
Adolescent Behavior	5
Access to Care.....	5



Implementation Strategy for the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

Hospital Authority of Miller County

Executive Summary

The 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was developed to identify health needs in the community, to document community input into resource allocation and program development, to identify networking and collaboration opportunities, and to ensure compliance with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulatory requirements in 26 U.S. Code § 501(r).¹

Based on information gathered from community meetings, stakeholder interviews, discussions with the Community Health Steering Committee (CHSC), review of demographic and health status, and review of the utilization data from the Hospital Authority of Miller County (HAMC), the following priorities were identified.

- ❖ Lifestyle and Obesity
- ❖ Behavioral and Mental Health
- ❖ Access to Care

The Community Health Steering Committee (CHSC) participants include the following:

Robin Rau – Chief Executive Officer, Miller County Hospital
Becky Hudgins – Pharmacy Director, Miller County Hospital
Barbara Means – Pre-K Director, Miller County Board of Education
Dr. Roy Reardon – Physician, Miller County Hospital
Shawn Whittaker, RN – Chief Nursing Officer, Miller County Hospital

Community Prioritization of Needs

Based on the information gathered from focus groups of representatives of the community, feedback from community resources, secondary health data, and the Community Health Steering Committee (CHSC), the following priorities were identified and additional information and considerations for each were discussed.

Below is a detailed list of each priority with a summary of each concern identified by the focus group, stakeholders, and the CHSC:

Lifestyle and Obesity

- a. There is a lack of facilities in the community for physical activity.
- b. There is a need for more education and awareness on the importance of annual well-check

¹ The Implementation Strategy for the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including limitations on resources and limitations on, and cancellation of, community events due to infection control measures.

visits (prevention).

- i. Signs and symptoms of chronic diseases
- ii. Knowledge of knowing your numbers; i.e. blood pressure, cholesterol, BMI

Behavioral and Mental Health

- a. There is a need for more awareness on the signs and symptoms of depression and mental/behavioral illness community-wide.
- b. There is a need for education and awareness for the adolescent population on mental and behavioral health disorders.

Adolescent Behavior

- a. There is a need for sex education to prevent unwanted pregnancies and STDs.
- b. There is a need for educational classes on parenting and parental engagement.
- c. There is a need for education and awareness for the adolescent population on mental and behavioral health disorders (Reference Behavioral and Mental Health).

Access to Care

- a. There is a need for free or low-cost care options for the working poor, uninsured, or underinsured.
- b. Transportation to healthcare providers is an issue for all population groups, especially the young, the poor, and the Senior residents.
- c. There is a need for more access or outreach programs for prevention and wellness education.

Actions Planned or Taken as a Result of the 2019 CHNA

Hospital Authority of Miller County

As a result of the feedback received from the community during the CHNA Assessment Process, consideration of secondary data concerning the health status of the community, and available resources, the Community Health Steering Committee (CHSC) discussed the findings and discussed potential resources. Below is a summary of actions planned or taken by the Hospital Authority of Miller County (HAMC) following completion of the 2019 CHNA. This list does not include events planned or conducted by other community partners. It is important to note that, based on the COVID-19 pandemic, many events were cancelled or were not scheduled due to infection control concerns.

Lifestyle and Obesity

- HAMC sponsors health fairs and blood drives throughout the year. These health fairs and blood drives provide an opportunity to educate community participants on general health and wellness.
- Multiple times throughout the year, HAMC provides families within the community with fruit and vegetables to encourage healthy eating habits.
- All HAMC employees attend an annual wellness visit where healthy eating, exercise, and healthy lifestyles are focal points of the visit.
- HAMC staff volunteer their time throughout the year to assist local schools and community organizations with various events designed to benefit members of the community. Additionally,

HAMC staff volunteer at community events, such as fun runs, to encourage members of the community to exercise and participate in a healthier lifestyle.

Behavioral and Mental Health

- The two rural health clinics operated by HAMC provide primary care and perform a depression screening of every patient over 12 years old as part of the intake process. If indicated, patients are educated about depression or behavioral and mental health and are referred to a mental health provider for further care.
- HAMC and the CHNA identified a need for behavioral and mental health services for the community. There is an Aspire Behavioral Health office located on the HAMC campus in Colquitt for access to care for members of the community. Additionally, there is a Touchstone Dual Diagnosis Residential Program facility on the HAMC extended campus in Arlington. This facility provides residential care for adults experiencing co-occurring psychiatric and addictive disease disorders.

Adolescent Behavior

- HAMC sponsored a fall health fair at a local school and offered free flu shots and health screenings in addition to educating adolescents on relevant health and wellness topics. Health fairs and blood drives are typically scheduled throughout the year to educate attendees on healthier choices and the importance of self-care.
- The two rural health clinics operated by HAMC provide primary care to adolescents, including a depression screening of every patient over 12 years old as part of the intake process. If indicated, adolescent patients are educated on behavioral and mental health wellness and are referred to a mental health provider for further care.
- HAMC and the CHNA identified a need to offer mental and behavioral health to adolescents, so an Aspire Behavioral Health office is located on the HAMC campus in Colquitt to allow access to treatment for adolescents and other members of the community.

Access to Care

- HAMC typically sponsors health fairs and blood drives throughout the year. These health fairs and blood drives provide an opportunity to educate participants on general health and wellness and on the importance of chronic disease management.
- During 2019, HAMC's population health management programs expanded beyond the borders of our Accountable Care Organization. HAMC began a pilot project in partnership with industry to extend employee wellness thru the medium of telehealth. This project presents an opportunity to extend virtual health examinations to more remote areas, and give other CAH hospitals solutions for decreased volume. The project has expanded to include a privately owned company with 900 employees. During 2020, the project has expanded to include a mobile clinic to address underinsured and uninsured people.

- By the fall of 2020, Miller Home Health will open to provide transitional care for a five-county service area.
- HAMC implemented a telehealth program through the two rural health clinics to allow remote treatment of patients with acute illnesses and remote monitoring and treatment of patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and COPD. This telehealth program allows access to care for all patients, especially the most vulnerable patients, while limiting possible exposure to COVID-19.
- HAMC provides access to primary care to all community members through the rural health clinics. The HAMC financial assistance program allows uninsured and underinsured residents to seek care.

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