

OWENSBORO HEALTH MUHLENBERG COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
TAX YEAR 2023

INTRODUCTION:

The Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital (OHMCH) Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted in collaboration with the Muhlenberg County Health Department and the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK). The OHMCH Board of Directors approved the CHNA on May 20, 2024 and the Owensboro Health Inc. Board of Directors approved the CHNA on May 30, 2024. In addition to the CHNA, and in accordance with requirements of Sec. 501(r) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, all nonprofit hospitals must also adopt an implementation strategy which describes how the hospital plans to address the identified health need(s) contained within the CHNA. According to the final guidelines issued by the IRS, hospital facilities have an additional four and a half months to adopt the implementation strategy, specifically requiring an authorized body of the hospital facility to adopt an implementation strategy to meet the health needs identified through a CHNA on or before the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the taxable year in which the hospital facility finishes conducting the CHNA.

BACKGROUND:

OHMCH conducted its CHNA in conjunction with multiple community partners and CEDIK for tax year 2023. For purposes of the CHNA and this document, the defined community is Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. The process by which the CHNA was conducted is thoroughly described in the CHNA and the Executive Summary posted on the Owensboro Health website at <https://www.owensborohealth.org/sites/default/files/documents/ohmch-cna-2023.pdf>.

Utilizing the findings of the CHNA, the hospital's current strategic priorities, and activities in progress, we offer the implementation strategy as a component of OHMCH's efforts to address priority community health needs.

AREAS OF NEED IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY:

The Muhlenberg County CHNA Steering Committee reviewed results from 661 community surveys, 5 focus groups and 11 key informant interview results as well as significant secondary health data. The committee considered existing local, state and national priorities, conducted an open discussion and voted on specific strategic initiatives for the county. The committee selected the following priority areas for action:

- Access to Health Care
 - Primary Care providers
 - Specialty Care providers
 - Mental Health providers
- Access to health education and resource information in the following areas:
 - Substance use including vaping, tobacco use, prescription drug misuse, illegal drug use, and harm reduction
 - Obesity/Diabetes/Physical Activity
 - Relatives raising relatives
- Social Determinants of Health
 - Affordable housing
 - Transportation
 - Food insecurity

OHMCH STRATEGIES TO IMPACT PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE CHNA:

- Provide in-kind staff to lead and serve on the Muhlenberg County Health Coalition.
 - Provide financial support through grants and sponsorships to organizations who seek to impact priority health areas through their projects and programming.
1. Access to Health Care
 - a. Primary Care Providers
 - I. Addition of new Pediatric APRN to make services more easily available for children and teens.
 - II. Continue recruitment efforts for open APRN position in Primary Care.
 - III. Explore the expansion of mobile health clinic offerings in Muhlenberg County.
 - IV. Maintain ongoing relationships for recruitment opportunities for medical students.
 - V. Continue high retention rate of current Primary Care Providers (0 turnover for 2022 and 2023, and only 1 for 2024).
 - b. Specialty Care Providers
 - I. Addition of a new General Surgeon to increase access to surgical procedures available at OHMCH.
 - II. Addition of a full-time Pulmonologist to assist with outpatient visits, sleep studies, and inpatient care for patients.
 - III. Provide increased access to Pain Management services with new physician at OHMCH.
 - IV. Provide increased access to Podiatry services with new physician at Medical Office Building adjacent to OHMCH.
 - V. Recent affiliation with UK Healthcare Gill Heart and Vascular Institute to offer more enhanced care to cardiac patients in Muhlenberg County.
 - VI. Continue recruitment efforts for additional specialty providers.
 - c. Mental Health Providers
 - I. Continue to make mental health treatment services available in Muhlenberg County through Behavioral Health Nurse Practitioner in-person at the Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Healthplex and physician who is available for telehealth appointments.
 - II. Increase the use of telehealth psychiatric consultations available through Owensboro Health Regional Hospital (OHRH) for patients at OHMCH (Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit).
 - III. Increase access for aging community in Muhlenberg County (and potentially residents of our Long-Term Care unit at OHMCH) with the addition of Geriatric Psychiatry in-patient care at Owensboro Health Twin Lakes Medical Center (OHTLMC).
 - IV. Continue to assist and refer patients to appropriate Behavioral Health services including the intensive outpatient program at OHRH.
 - V. Maintain strong referral relationship with local behavioral health care service center.
 2. Access to health education and resource information in the following areas:
 - a. Substance use including vaping, tobacco use, prescription drug misuse, illegal drug use, and harm reduction
 - I. Substance Abuse Hotline information is made available at discharge on After Visit Summary for all Emergency Department patients.
 - II. Consider utilization of Muhlenberg County school nurses and health technicians to increase education around substance use prevention.
 - III. Medical staff at OHMCH and Owensboro Health clinics have opioid stewardship committees whose charge is to ensure safe opioid prescribing and assist in the decrease of opioid abuse and misuse by patients in our care.

- IV. Active participation by OHMCH team members on the Champions for a Drug Free Muhlenberg County committee and continued sharing of information on social media about substance use prevention.
- V. Continue the use of Narcan kit distribution through boxes placed in our Emergency Department, outside Urgent Care, on ambulances, and throughout the community in partnership with the Muhlenberg County Health Department and other community organizations.
- VI. Continued access to Narcan prescription for patients who are prescribed an opioid by a provider at OHMCH.
- VII. Goal to participate in 30 community events annually to support our citizens and share information about prioritized areas.
- VIII. Continue to assist and refer patients to appropriate Mental Health and Substance Use services (OHRH intensive outpatient program and/or OHTLMC medicated assisted therapy for pregnant mothers).
- IX. Continue referrals to our four trained Tobacco Treatment Specialists (TTS) and making Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) available to those attempting to quit.
- X. Continue to educate and advocate for those living with lung disease to attend Better Breathers Club which meets monthly and is led by an American Lung Association-trained facilitator to teach better ways to cope with a patient's diagnosis and live life to the fullest.
- XI. Promote the availability of a mental health virtual resource, CredibleMind, through traditional/social media channels and local community organizations. Owensboro Health partnered with RiverValley Behavioral Health to offer the CredibleMind resource to anyone in our region who has internet access via computer, tablet, phone or any other device. A person can visit HealthyMind.CredibleMind.com to access local resources, articles and assessments on mental health topics.
- XII. Increase promotion of Safe Haven Baby Box made available at the OHMCH EMS/Muhlenberg County 911 building.

b. Obesity/Diabetes/Physical Activity

- I. Food service provider at OHMCH offers fresh, locally-sourced foods each day in our Café as well as vegan and vegetarian options. Their "Mindful" program offers nutritional information to help team members, visitors and patients make healthy choices.
- II. Make information available to promote Dietician and Diabetic Educators who come to the Muhlenberg Healthplex once per month to meet with individual patients.
- III. Provide education to student athletes and coaching staff members through OHMCH-funded Certified Athletic Trainer at Muhlenberg County High School.
- IV. Continued support of running club for elementary school age athletes.
- V. Explore integrating referrals to Muhlenberg County Health Department Diabetes Education support groups.

c. Relatives raising relatives

- I. School nurses and health technicians (funded by OHMCH) make health information available to guardians of their students.
- II. Promotion of existing events for "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" in the community.
- III. Continue to make the Credible Mind online resource available for free access to those needing information about parenting, grandparents raising grandchildren, and grief resources for children and teens.

3. Social Determinants of Health

a. Affordable housing

- I. Our Nurse Navigator will continue to provide community resource information to patients who identify needs to their healthcare provider. Resource directory available to all patients with phone numbers to a variety of community organizations that offer assistance.

- II. OHMCH Case Management team assists patients with temporary housing issues by working with the patients' family and friends to determine possible solutions, providing referrals to the Salvation Army shelters in Madisonville and Hopkinsville and with several shelters in Owensboro, and in some cases paying for a night's stay in a local motel.
- b. Transportation
- I. OHMCH Case Management team assists patients with transportation issues. Solutions include utilizing EMS for patients who qualify for non-ambulatory transport, involving patients' family and friends if possible, Pennyrile Allied Community Services (PACS) transportation service for patients with Medicaid or who have transportation insurance, utilizing Case Management funds to pay for public transportation, or requesting assistance from the Muhlenberg County Sheriff Department.
 - II. Fuel vouchers are provided for patients needing to seek care for out of town appointments-funded through the Owensboro Health Foundation.
 - III. Continue to partner with Pennyrile Allied Community Services (PACS) transportation services to assist with patients needing to return to nursing homes, home, etc.
 - IV. OHMCH EMS is sole provider of services for Muhlenberg County providing 24/7 emergency coverage and non-emergent transport of patients.
- c. Food insecurity
- I. Ongoing partnership with our local food pantry, Hope2All, with an annual food drive for OHMCH team members and also in community with "Fill The Ambulance" event. Non-perishable food items, personal care items, team member holiday gifts (turkeys/hams/fruit baskets), and monetary proceeds from t-shirt sales are donated to this organization to feed those in need.
 - II. Mini grants provided to organizations who are seeking to feed the hungry in our community (food pantry, seed donations).
 - III. Team members at Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Healthplex contribute to an internal food pantry for patients whose food insecurity comes up during their visit, and they are sent home with a bag of staple food items.
 - IV. Holiday baskets are donated to patients identified as having a need through team member donations.
 - V. Consider partnership with organizations offering incentives at local farmers market.

While there is some overlap in many of the identified health issues, Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital recognizes its leadership role in being a catalyst for innovative thinking in addressing these community priority areas for Muhlenberg County. We will continue to partner with other individuals and organizations in the community on their efforts to address each of the named community priority areas. As we continue to refine the health system's strategic initiatives, we will remain focused and determined in addressing the health needs of our population.

Reviewed and approved by the Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital Board of Directors on September 16, 2024.