

*Community Health
Implementation Strategy
For Fiscal Year 2019 CHNA
Implemented in FY 2020-2022*



Mercy Hospital, Inc.

218 E. Pack Street, Moundridge, Kansas 67107

Introduction

From humble beginnings in a white boarding house, Mercy Hospital Inc. has provided healthcare services from Moundridge, Kansas, on the southern edge of McPherson County, for 75 years. The staff and board of the hospital believe their mission statement: "...by love serve one another" should guide their service to the community and direct their actions as they strive to be the best small hospital in Kansas through high-quality personalized care. Mercy is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, licensed as a hospital with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In addition to Moundridge, the hospital service area includes the rural communities of Goessel, Galva, Inman and Hesston. Mercy is blessed to have six family practice physicians on its active medical staff and several other specialties with admitting privileges. In addition to acute care and 24-hour emergency room services, patients come to receive outpatient surgery, physical, occupational, or speech therapy, laboratory services, and skilled nursing care.

Community Needs Assessment

Identifying Health Needs

Beginning in the Spring of 2019, the leadership of McPherson Hospital in McPherson, Lindsborg Community Hospital in Lindsborg, Mercy Hospital in Moundridge, and the McPherson County Health Department collaborated to develop a community health needs assessment (CHNA) for our county. A community-based survey, focus group studies, and consultation with subject-matter experts helped to bring out and confirm the most pressing needs seen in our area.

The survey was conducted primarily through an online platform, but paper surveys were made available in the Moundridge Community at the hospital, the clinic location, and the Senior Center, to ensure that those without computer or internet access were provided access to the survey. The survey was open for two weeks from March 28 to April 12, with some results coming in after the publicized end date. In order to evaluate this information, a workgroup of county representatives from diverse organizations met to prioritize the needs and finalized the findings. The Governing Boards of the three hospitals reviewed and approved the final results of the study in June 2019, and the individual facilities began developing implementation strategies to address the needs of their specific communities.

The public survey together with county data, showed some areas have changed in the county's health needs and concerns since the last assessment was conducted three years ago. However, there was also some concern lifted out that only 33% of the population says they have seen improvement when it comes to activity levels and healthy eating since 2016.

Considering the following list of top-three health concerns, this indicates that there is still progress to be made when it comes to healthy choices in our communities. In order of importance, these items were identified through the survey and focus group as the areas to work on in the next three years:

- 1) Drug Abuse
- 2) Mental Health
- 3) Obesity

Implementation Plan

The Administration of Mercy Hospital has also reviewed the survey results, together with the observations made from our patient care experience. The following strategy has been developed to help address the identified community needs, and continue playing an ever-important role in the overall health of our patient population. Awareness and education play a part in overcoming the health barriers in any community. It can also be argued, however, that certain populations are still at a greater risk for adverse outcomes due to social barriers which preclude them from following treatment plans or obtaining resources to overcome their present challenges. The leadership of Mercy Hospital desires to drive health outcomes in our community to greater heights than ever before through engagement and addressing the social determinants of health which are the roots causes of many individual’s poor quality of life.

By improving the health and wellbeing of some of those in our community who may be most isolated and unable to obtain healthy outcomes, we will contribute to the overall improvement of the Moundridge area, and make life better for everyone. Mercy Hospital is committed to focusing financial resources and efforts toward addressing these priorities in the years of 2020-2022, to meet the community’s health needs. Each strategy will be discussed in more detail below:

MERCY HOSPITAL PRIORITIES	CORRELATED COMMUNITY HEALTH NEED
Provide Free Health Education and Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obesity • Substance Use Disorder • Mental Health
Improve Access to Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Use Disorder
Limit Impact of Controlling Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Use Disorder

Priority 1: Provide Free Health Education and Screening

Goal 1: Increase community awareness of healthy lifestyle choices and ways to monitor their overall wellness through a newsletter and other activities

Strategies:

- A. Mercy Hospital will launch a newsletter during this next Implementation Period. This publication will be distributed free-of-charge to patients in the hospital service area. The content will include information about resources available to patients, healthcare news and information, and tips for healthy lifestyle and wellness. The content will include specific information about mental health and substance use disorders, which may often go untreated due to patients not asking questions or seeking help due to community stigma about these topics.
- B. The hospital will provide free health screenings at the local Senior Center on a monthly basis. This will begin with blood pressure checks, and include a free blood-pressure card for all participants. If there is sufficient interest, Mercy Hospital will consider expanding this effort to include Blood Sugar A1C checks, or other requested services.
- C. In conjunction with health screening events, the hospital will conduct educational sessions at the local senior citizens center, and evening sessions with other community groups such as parents with children. Nurses or physicians on the hospital medical staff will present on topics as disease prevention, vaccines and “when to call the doctor.” Specific pointers about mental health and substance use disorder will be included as part of these events, allowing patients to be more informed about their options and the help that is available to them.
- D. Collaborate with local businesses to provide health screening and testing for employees. The hospital will distribute information in conjunction with such screening regarding local options for weight-loss groups (TOPS club in Moundridge), and ways to eat and live healthier.

Goal 2: Enhance the collaboration between Mercy Hospital and the McPherson County Health Department to increase awareness of this resource for patients and their families

Strategies:

- A. Information for articles published in the Mercy newsletter will be sought, in part, from the local health department. This will increase awareness of the resources available from this organization, and promoting inter-agency collaboration.

Priority 2: Improve Access to Care

Goal 1: Improve access to services and treatment options, for those struggling with substance use disorder and alcohol-related dependencies.

Strategies: A. Mercy hospital is working with their active medical staff, other healthcare facilities, and local law enforcement officers, to improve the availability and accessibility of treatment options for those impacted by dependency on substances including opioids and other prescription medications, alcohol, and other controlling drugs.

Priority 3: Limit Impact of Controlling Substances

Goal 1: Understand the impact of controlled substances in our community, and limit the supply to an amount necessary to treat the acute condition at hand.

Strategies: A. Mercy Hospital's medical staff is committed to a common-sense approach to the number of opioid prescriptions which they write, and the amount of medication prescribed at one time, to limit the impact of these controlling substances in our community.

Next Steps

This Implementation Plan will be rolled out over the next three years, from FY2019 through the end of FY2022. The Hospital will work with community partners on the following for each of the approaches to addressing the identified health needs:

- Develop work plans to support effective implementation for each year
- Create mechanisms to monitor and measure outcomes
- Work together with medical and community leaders to determine the continuing course of action to further the health of the Moundridge community. Appropriate individuals could be included in this meeting such as school health nurse, senior center director and Moundridge city council or clerk

The Hospital is committed to conducting another health needs assessment within three years.

Adoption/Approval

Mercy Hospital's Board of Directors approves the Implementation Strategy that has been developed to address the priorities of the recent community health needs assessment.

Mercy Hospital will utilize this Implementation Strategy as a roadmap to collaborate with their community to address the priorities, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Ronald Koehn

Chairman, Mercy Hospital, Inc. Board of Directors

Aaron Herbel

Chief Executive Officer, Mercy Hospital, Inc.

Questions and/or comments regarding Mercy Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Implementation Strategy should be directed to:

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