

Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital

Community Benefit Implementation Plan

2014



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I. Introduction

Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital is a comprehensive health care facility serving Leavenworth County, Kansas. The 74-bed full-service hospital features 24-hour emergency services, Leavenworth's only maternity center and nursery, intensive care unit with eICU, private patient rooms, orthopedic services, cardiology services, oncology services, the city's only digital mammography, outpatient imaging and rehabilitation, Pain Management Clinic, inpatient behavioral health services, diabetes education, and physician offices integrated on campus for optimal patient convenience.

Cushing continues the tradition of providing top-quality health care in a convenient location for residents of Leavenworth, Lansing, Basehor, and surrounding communities. Opened in 1894, Cushing was one of the first hospitals in northeast Kansas. Saint Luke's Health System acquired the hospital in 2006.

Mission: Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital is a faith-based, not-for-profit, locally owned community hospital committed to the highest levels of excellence in providing health care and health-related services in a caring environment. As a member of Saint Luke's Health System, we are committed to enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the communities we serve.

Vision: The best place to get care. The best place to give care.

II. Purpose of Implementation Plan

This Implementation Plan addresses the community health needs identified in the 2012 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) prepared for Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital. This Plan serves as Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital's implementation strategy for meeting those needs including setting the goals and objectives for providing community benefits. The Plan also meets the requirements for community benefit planning as set forth in federal law, including but not limited to: *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010*.

III. How the Implementation Plan Was Developed

This Implementation Plan was developed based on the findings established in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) prepared for Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital, as well as through a review of existing community benefit activities.

IV. Community Health Needs

Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital undertook a structured approach to determine health needs including analysis of public health data, interviews with health care professionals, and input from community members. The Community Health Needs Assessment identified six major health needs:

- Lack of Primary Care Physicians and Specialists
- Lack of Mental Health Providers
- Lack of Safety Net Clinics
- Lack of Urgent Care
- Lack of Public Transportation
- Obesity

V. How Priorities Were Determined

Priority needs were identified based on input and analysis from several groups including hospital representatives and outside agencies providing services in the community. The process recognized four needs identified in the CHNA as primary community health needs which should be addressed by Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital.

Priority Needs:

1. Lack of Primary Care Physicians and Specialists
2. Lack of Mental Health Providers
3. Lack of Safety Net Clinics
4. Obesity

VI. What Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital Will Do to Address Priority Needs

The following section outlines how Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital plans to address priority needs. Along with the specific programs detailed below, Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital will continue to meet community needs by providing Leavenworth and surrounding communities with a broad range of essential health care services.

Priority Needs:

1. Lack of Primary Care Physicians and Specialists
2. Lack of Mental Health Providers
3. Lack of Safety Net Clinics
4. Obesity

1. Lack of Primary Care Physicians and Specialists

Leavenworth County is facing a shortage in primary care services. Primary care shortages are usually seen in Kansas' less populated counties where doctors, dentists, and other providers are likely to be few and far between. Since primary care providers often act as the first point of consultation for patients, primary care often plays a central role in the local community. Without any other resources, patients within the community often seek services from the hospital as a main source of primary care.

Implementation Plan – Lack of Primary Care Physicians and Specialists

Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital will continue to provide access to primary care physicians and physician specialists in Leavenworth County.

2. Lack of Mental Health Providers

Leavenworth County is significantly lacking in mental health providers for their community compared to their neighboring counties. Currently, Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital offers behavioral services including a treatment program for psychiatric and substance abuse diagnoses and provides multidisciplinary mental health care to adult age patients.

Implementation Plan – Lack of Mental Health Providers

Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital will continue to provide access to behavioral health specialists who can address the mental health needs of community members. Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital will enhance collaboration efforts with the Munson Army Health Center, and will work with the Guidance Center to address specific behavioral health needs.

3. Lack of Safety Net Clinics

At this point in time, there is only one safety net clinic operating within the Leavenworth County community, Saint Vincent Clinic. Safety net clinics treat patients who are of low-income status and uninsured. The lack of safety net clinics in this community impacts the volume of uninsured patients seeking treatment in the emergency departments of the two hospitals operating in Leavenworth County.

Saint Vincent Clinic is a safety net clinic providing primary health care, chronic disease management, and medication assistance to residents of Leavenworth County. Prior to accessing services at the clinic, individuals must meet strict eligibility requirements including having a household income below 175 percent of the federal poverty level. Individuals must also be without health insurance, and must be a legal resident of Leavenworth County. As a result of these strict eligibility requirements, a large number of uninsured and low income individuals are unable to access care at the clinic.

Implementation Plan – Lack of Safety Net Clinics

Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital will continue to provide essential health services to the community, including medical care to indigent populations within Leavenworth County. Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital will also continue to support programs aimed at increasing health literacy and promoting preventative care within the community. Collaboration will be increased with community partners including Saint Vincent Clinic, The Guidance Center, and the Leavenworth County Health Department.

4. Obesity

Leavenworth County experiences higher than state average obesity rates, as well as above average rates of diabetes and hypertension. Adult obesity is becoming an epidemic in the U.S. and increases the risk for countless health conditions. Obesity is an energy imbalance due to a lack of physical activity combined with a poor diet. Obesity can ultimately lead to the following: coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, stroke, gallbladder disorders, respiratory problems, and osteoarthritis.

Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital is currently utilizing the services of an endocrinologist through Saint Luke’s Medical Group–Cushing Care Specialists. In addition to endocrine specialists, Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital provides access to a full range of diabetes services through Cushing’s Diabetes Center. The center is the only area program recognized by the American Diabetes Association.

Implementation Plan – Obesity

Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital will continue to address obesity through healthy lifestyle education and community outreach. Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital will continue to provide access to an endocrinologist capable of providing treatment for the full range of diabetes and endocrine disorders. Cushing’s Diabetes Center will also continue to serve the community by offering a range of classes and programs aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle.

VII. Needs Not Being Addressed

Two of the community health needs identified in the CHNA will not be addressed by Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital. Saint Luke’s Cushing Hospital may currently offer services that address these community needs; however, these needs have not been identified as primary needs to be addressed as a part of this Implementation Plan.

Needs Not Being Addressed:

1. Lack of Urgent Care
2. Lack of Public Transportation

1. Lack of Urgent Care

There is a lack of urgent care clinics in the Leavenworth County area. Urgent care clinics deliver ambulatory medical care outside of a hospital emergency department, usually on an unscheduled, walk-in basis. Urgent care centers are primarily used to treat patients who have an injury or illness that requires immediate care but is not serious enough to warrant a visit to an emergency room. Unfortunately, emergency departments are often over-utilized by patients seeking this type of care.

Currently, Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital's Emergency Department sees a constant influx of individuals who could have been properly cared for at an urgent care setting. Cushing believes that Saint John Hospital, Saint Vincent Clinic, and the Leavenworth County Health Department are better positioned to meet the community's need for a more accessible urgent care clinic. With the location of Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital centered primarily in the lower socioeconomic portion of Leavenworth County, Cushing currently provides a substantial amount of charity care to the public and is currently generating a significant operating loss due to this. At this time the focus remains on expanding existing service lines.

2. Lack of Public Transportation

Currently there is not a public transportation system in operation within the Leavenworth County area. In most urban and semi-urban cities, public transport is used to ensure that all members of society are able to travel including: the young, the old, the poor, those with medical conditions, and people banned from driving. Patients who reside in Leavenworth County who are without independent mobility must make travel arrangements in advance. A lack of public transportation is a major barrier impeding residents from accessing health care services within the community.

Lack of public transportation is not generally an issue health care organizations can directly affect, therefore Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital's focus will remain on expanding access to care in other ways. Along with the specific programs detailed in the priority needs section of this implementation plan, Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital will continue to meet community needs by providing Leavenworth and surrounding communities with a broad range of essential health care services.

VIII. Approval

The Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital Board of Directors approved this Community Benefit Implementation Plan on November 29, 2012.

This implementation plan specifies community health needs that Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital has determined to meet in whole or in part and that are consistent with its mission. The Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital Board of Directors reviews the Community Benefit Implementation Plan on an annual basis. Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital reserves the right to amend this implementation plan as circumstances warrant.