

Hedrick Medical Center Community Benefit Implementation Plan 2014



➤ **Hedrick Medical Center**
2799 N. Washington St.
Chillicothe, MO 64601
660-646-1480



Hedrick Medical Center

Community Benefit Implementation Plan 2014

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I. Introduction

Hedrick Medical Center is a regional health care facility located in Chillicothe, Mo., providing state-of-the-art health care to patients in Livingston County and an eight-county region of North Central Missouri. A city-owned, not-for-profit Critical Access Hospital, Hedrick Medical Center is the only Joint Commission accredited hospital in north central Missouri.

The second-oldest facility in Saint Luke's Health System, Hedrick Medical Center was founded in 1888 as St. Mary's Hospital. In 2014 Hedrick Medical Center opened a new state-of-the-art health care facility which includes an Emergency Department, Maternity Unit, and 21 private inpatient rooms as well as an adjacent physician office building and Women's Center.

Mission: Hedrick Medical Center is a member of Saint Luke's Health System. As a faith-based community hospital, Hedrick's mission is to enhance the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the patients it serves. As part of Saint Luke's, Hedrick partners with patients, physicians, payers, employees, and the communities it serves to provide healthcare services.

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 Hedrick Medical Center. This Plan serves as Hedrick Medical Center'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 Hedrick Medical Center, as well as through a review of existing community benefit activities.

IV. Community Health Needs

Hedrick Medical Center 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 five major health needs:

- Adult Obesity
- Adult Smoking
- Lack of Access to Mental Health Providers and Services
- Children in Poverty
- Lack of Primary Care Access and Physicians

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 all

five needs identified in the CHNA as primary community health needs which should be addressed by Hedrick Medical Center.

Priority Needs:

1. Adult Obesity
2. Adult Smoking
3. Lack of Access to Mental Health Providers and Services
4. Children in Poverty
5. Lack of Primary Care Access and Physicians

VI. What Hedrick Medical Center Will Do to Address Priority Needs

The following section outlines how Hedrick Medical Center plans to address priority needs. Along with the specific programs detailed below, Hedrick Medical Center will continue to meet community needs by providing Chillicothe and surrounding communities with a broad range of essential health care services.

1. Adult Obesity

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 II diabetes, cancer, hypertension, stroke, gall bladder disorders, respiratory problems, and osteoarthritis.

Hedrick Medical Center is currently utilizing the services of an endocrinologist and increasing the amount of patients seen through the endocrinology Tele-health clinic. Hedrick Medical Center also offers diabetes care at the Hedrick Diabetes Center, where specialists provide the knowledge to guide patients through each step of diabetes treatment.

Implementation Strategies—Adult Obesity

Hedrick Medical Center will continue to address adult obesity through healthy lifestyle education and community outreach. Hedrick Medical Center will also continue to provide access to an endocrinologist capable of providing treatment for the full range of diabetes and endocrine disorders.

2. Adult Smoking

Each year thousands of premature deaths occur primarily due to smoking and it is identified as a contributing factor to multiple diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory conditions, to name a few. Alerting communities to the adverse effects of tobacco use can be valuable in assessing the needs for cessation programs or the effectiveness of existing ones.

Hedrick Medical Center treats patients with a variety of health concerns that can be linked to smoking. Pulmonology is a specialty that manages respiratory conditions – including those related to smoking. Hedrick Medical Center offers comprehensive pulmonology services that include diagnosis, treatment, and evaluation. Enhanced education and resources are also offered to patients with increased interest in smoking cessation, including smoking cessation counseling.

Implementation Strategies—Adult Smoking

Going forward, Hedrick Medical Center will continue to offer education and assistance to promote smoking cessation in the community. Hedrick Medical Center will also continue to provide access to pulmonology services to community members via Saint Luke’s Telemedicine.

3. Lack of Access to Mental Health Providers and Services

Livingston County continues to be above the Missouri benchmark and well above the National benchmark in regard to the number of poor mental health days reported. Mental health providers include; psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, psychiatric nurse specialists, and marriage/family therapists who meet certain qualifications and certifications. Livingston County is significantly lacking in mental health providers for their community compared to the state of Missouri.

Hedrick Medical Center currently employs a Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (PMHCNS) who comes to Hedrick once a week via the tele-health program to treat patients with mental health needs. In addition to the weekly visits the specialist is also creating specific days to see new patients only. Hedrick also provides a mental health evaluation for patients who present themselves to the Emergency Department with psychological concerns or self-inflicted injuries.

Implementation Strategies—Lack of Access to Mental Health Providers and Services

Hedrick Medical Center will continue to offer a range of mental health services, including specialist and Tele-health services.

4. Children in Poverty

The health of the youth population is vital to the future health of the overall population. Studies have shown that there exists a strong correlation between childhood obesity and adult obesity. There are also key indications that obesity is more prevalent among the lower socioeconomic population. Livingston County has a higher percentage of families living at or below the federal poverty level. In order to secure the future health of the county, initiative must be taken to counteract the high amount of children in poverty.

Aside from providing medical care to indigent populations in Livingston County, Hedrick Medical Center also provides community health improvement services, financial and in-kind contributions, and community benefit operations. Such contributions are given to programs like Rotary Shoes for Orphans to provide adequate footwear for those children in need or the YMCA to provide services for children such as backpack buddies.

Implementation Strategies—Children in Poverty

Hedrick Medical Center will continue to provide vital services to children living in poverty within Livingston County. Hedrick Medical Center will also continue to support programs aimed at reducing childhood poverty within the community.

5. Lack of Primary Care Access and Physicians

Livingston County is facing a shortage in primary care services. Primary care shortages are usually seen in Missouri’s 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.

A shortage of primary care physicians is always an issue in rural America and Hedrick Medical Center is striving to improve the access for county residents. One such way that Hedrick is achieving this is by increasing the tele-health services offered as well as the capacity of certain specialties in the specialty clinic. Also, we are employing an e-hospitalist program to provide e-consults and increase the number of patients that will have access to a primary care physician. Hedrick is also continually recruiting family practice physicians and nurse practitioners to the area to provide inpatient consults.

Implementation Strategies–Lack of Primary Care Access and Physicians

Hedrick Medical Center will continue to recruit primary care providers to meet community need.

VII. Approval

The Hedrick Medical Center Board of Directors approved this Community Benefit Implementation Plan on October 25, 2012. This implementation plan specifies community health needs that Hedrick Medical Center has determined to meet in whole or in part and that are consistent with its mission. The Hedrick Medical Center Board of Directors reviews the Community Benefit Implementation Plan on an annual basis, and reserves the right to amend it as circumstances warrant.