

Allen County Regional Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan

2022

◆ Allen County Regional Hospital



Allen County Regional Hospital CHNA Implementation Strategy

Adopted by the Allen County Regional Hospital Board of Directors on November 19, 2021.

This implementation strategy describes how Allen County Regional Hospital (ACRH or the hospital) plans to address significant needs described in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) published by the hospital on November 19, 2021. See the CHNA report at <https://www.saintlukeskc.org/community-health-needs-assessments-implementation-plans>. ACRH plans to implement the initiatives described herein during calendar years 2022 through 2024.

Conducting the CHNA and developing this implementation strategy were undertaken by the hospital to assess and address significant health needs in the community served by ACRH, and in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations in Section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This implementation strategy addresses the significant community health needs described in the CHNA report. This document identifies the significant needs the hospital plans to address through various strategic initiatives and also explains why the hospital does not intend to address certain other significant needs identified in the CHNA report.

This document contains the following information:

1. About ACRH
2. Definition of the Community Assessed by ACRH
3. Summary of Significant Community Health Needs
4. Implementation Strategy to Address Significant Health Needs
5. Significant Community Health Needs ACRH Will Not Address
6. Adoption of the Implementation Strategy by ACRH's Authorized Body

1. About ACRH

Allen County Regional Hospital is a critical access hospital located in Iola, Kansas. The hospital operates a Level IV Trauma Center and offers a state-of-the-art emergency department, advanced imaging, general surgery, inpatient care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, senior life solutions, and wound care. The hospital's specialty clinic offers access to specialists in a wide variety of specialty areas including cardiology, ENT, podiatry, and urology. Family medicine practitioners care for patients in the hospital, at primary care offices nearby, and in rural clinics located in Humboldt and Moran. Because ACRH is part of the Saint Luke's Health System, patients have streamlined access to Saint Luke's expansive network of resources and experts in 65 specialty services. Additional information about ACRH is available at: <https://www.saintlukeskc.org/locations/allen-county-regional-hospital>.

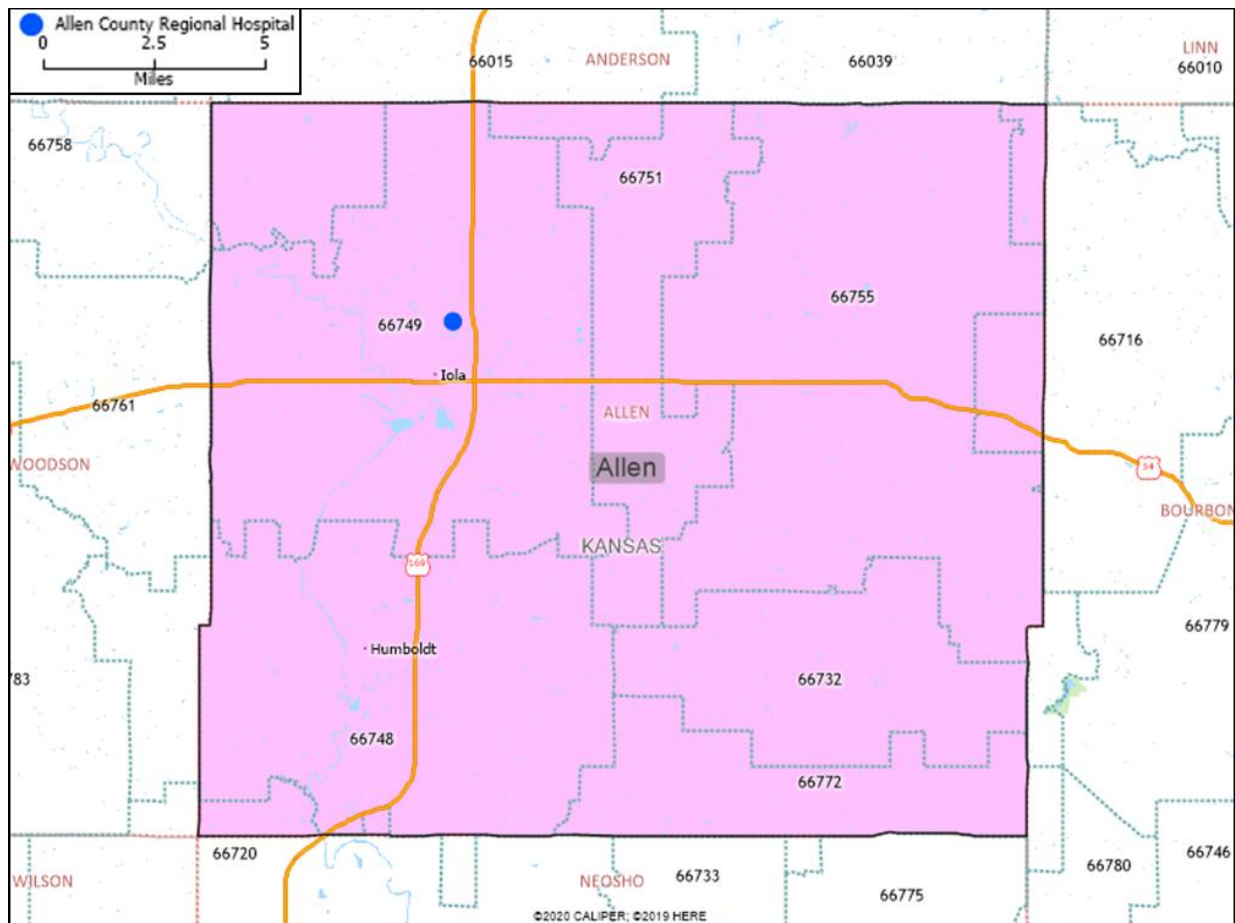
Saint Luke’s Health System (“SLHS”) is a faith-based, not-for-profit health system committed to the highest levels of excellence in providing health care and health-related services in a caring environment. The system is dedicated to enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the diverse communities it serves. Saint Luke’s Health System operates 18 hospitals and campuses across the Kansas City region, home care and hospice services, behavioral health care, dozens of physician practices, a life care senior living community, and additional facilities and services. Additional information regarding SLHS is available at: <https://www.saintlukeskc.org/about-saint-lukes>.

2. Definition of the Community Assessed by ACRH

For purposes of this CHNA, ACRH’s community is defined as Allen County, Kansas. The community was defined by considering the geographic origins of the hospital’s inpatient discharges and emergency room visits in calendar year 2019. Allen County accounted for approximately 77 percent of the hospital’s 2019 inpatient and emergency room cases.

The total population of Allen County in 2019 was 12,556.

The following map portrays the community assessed by ACRH and the hospital’s location within Allen County.



Source: Caliper Maptitude, 2020.

3. Significant Community Health Needs

As determined by analyses of quantitative and qualitative data, the significant health needs in the community served by Allen County Regional Hospital are:

- Access to Care
- COVID-19 Pandemic and Effects
- Mental Health
- Obesity, Physical Inactivity, and Access to Healthy Food
- Poverty and Affordable Housing
- Substance Use Disorder and Smoking
- Transportation

The CHNA report for ACRH describes each of the above community health needs and why they were determined to be significant.

4. Implementation Strategy to Address Significant Health Needs

This implementation strategy describes how ACRH plans to address the significant community health needs identified in the 2021 CHNA report. A committee comprised of ACRH staff, ACRH board members, and community representatives who are unaffiliated with ACRH or SLHS reviewed findings in that report and identified significant community health needs that the hospital intends and does not intend to address during calendar years 2022 through 2024.

As part of that decision-making process, the committee considered criteria such as:

- Whether the need is being addressed by other organizations;
- The extent to which the hospital has expertise or competencies to address the need;
- The availability of resources and evidence-based interventions needed to address the need effectively;
- The frequency with which stakeholders identified the need as a significant priority; and
- The potential for collaborations with other community organizations to help address the issue.

By applying these types of criteria, ACRH determined that it will implement initiatives to address the following three significant health needs:

- Access to Care (Including Access to COVID-19 Treatment and Testing Services and Transportation)
- Mental Health
- Obesity, Physical Inactivity, and Access to Healthy Food

The following pages describe the actions ACRH intends to implement to address each of the above needs, including planned collaborations between the hospital and other organizations.

Access to Care (Including Access to COVID-19 Treatment and Testing Services and Transportation)

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

1. Support SLHS advocacy efforts to expand Medicaid eligibility in Kansas.
2. Provide assistance to patients with the Medicaid application process.
3. Help patients enroll in general insurance programs including Medicare.
4. Expand virtual visit options for all community members including low-income communities.
5. Support SLHS efforts to update the Financial Assistance Policy and include coverage for Telehealth (virtual visit) services.
6. Formalize the hospital's partnership with Thrive Allen County.
 - a. Help expand Thrive Allen County's transportation program for residents of Allen County.
 - b. Support Thrive Allen County's transportation services that help patients travel to specialty services.
7. Enhance the existing pool of funds set aside to help patients pay for transportation after discharge.
8. Continue providing vaccine and immunization services for adults and children and support providing flu vaccines in area schools.
9. Continue providing (and expanding access to) physicals for students in K-12 schools.
10. Continue providing sports physicals at Allen County Community College in Iola.
11. Conduct community blood drives.
12. Enhance partnerships with area community health centers (FQHCs) – including efforts to streamline access to ACRH services for uninsured and Medicaid FQHC patients.
13. Continue helping patients apply for Medication Assistance Access Programs offered by pharmaceutical companies.
14. Develop and implement a medication history program (with medication history technicians) to provide accurate information across SLHS.
15. Continue screening patients for transportation needs and making referrals for those in need to appropriate community resources.

16. Continue providing staff to address COVID-19 vaccine safety and benefits, social distancing strategies, masking and PPE, and patient education during discharge planning.
17. Continue providing access to COVID-19 vaccines at primary care clinics.
18. Continue providing pandemic-related community health education through social media and marketing initiatives.
19. Provide community health education for prevention and recognition of cardiac illness.
20. Provide CPR training in off-site settings.

Principal Collaborators. In implementing the above Access to Care initiatives, ACRH intends to collaborate with other SLHS entities (including Anderson County Hospital), the Kansas Hospital Association, Thrive Allen County, area school districts, and area community health centers (FQHCs).

Mental Health

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

1. Continue connecting patients with Senior Life Solutions, a group counseling (mental health services) program for seniors.
2. Actively recruit mental health providers to serve diverse populations.
3. Support expansion of Crittenton’s Trauma Smart program into area schools.
4. Explore partnership opportunities with the Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center:
 - a. Social workers
 - b. Therapists placed in schools
 - c. Mental health first aid training
 - d. Advocacy for state support of mental health services
 - e. Other services
5. Screen students for mental health issues and risks when conducting physicals.
6. Collect unused medications through community-based drop boxes and a collections service.

Principal Collaborators. In implementing the above Mental Health initiatives, ACRH intends to collaborate with other SLHS entities (including Crittenton and Anderson County Hospital), the Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center, Senior Life Solutions, and area school districts.

Obesity, Physical Inactivity, and Access to Healthy Foods

To address this need, ACRH will implement the following initiatives:

1. Continue screening patients for food insecurity and providing referrals to appropriate community resources.
2. Develop community walking trail in partnership with Thrive Allen County.
3. Continue participating in health fairs that help identify and manage risks associated with obesity and associated chronic conditions.
4. Continue providing support for on-site community outdoor fitness area.
5. Provide Eating Healthy During Pregnancy nutrition education.
6. Expand access to (and better promote) SLHS on-line support groups, including Gilda's Club.
7. Establish in-person support groups, in collaboration with Thrive Allen County.
8. In partnership with Thrive Allen County, collaborate with local government on healthy trails and sidewalk initiatives.
9. Begin offering free or sliding fee scale group exercise ("Stay in Shape") programs for children and teens.

Principal Collaborators. In implementing the above Obesity and Physical Inactivity initiatives, ACRH intends to collaborate with other SLHS entities (including Anderson County Hospital), and community agencies focused on access to healthy food.

5. Needs ACRH Will Not Address

No hospital organization can address all of the health needs present in its community. ACRH is committed to serving the community by adhering to its mission, using its skills and capabilities, and remaining a strong organization so that it can continue to provide a wide range of community benefits.

ACRH plans to address the following significant community health need as part the above strategic initiatives that focus on access to care, mental health, and obesity , physical inactivity, and chronic conditions:

- Substance Use Disorders and Smoking

ACRH does not intend to address one of the eight significant community health needs identified through its 2021 CHNA, namely poverty.

Poverty. While the hospital's 2021 CHNA identified poverty and affordable housing as significant community health needs, the committee charged with developing this implementation strategy identified other needs as higher priorities for the 2022-2024 ACRH implementation strategy. The hospital's Financial Assistance Policy provides discounts for eligible, low-income households and for those with catastrophic medical bills. The hospital also is a major employer and recognizes its role in enhancing the area's economy. This implementation strategy includes several initiatives designed to ensure that community members living in poverty have access to preventive services and efforts to collaborate with community organizations that assist low-income residents.

6. Implementation Strategy Adoption

The Board of Directors for ACRH reviewed and adopted this implementation strategy at its November 19, 2021 board meeting.

› **Contact us**

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