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2021 Community Health Needs Assessment: Implementation Plan

A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was performed in Fall/Winter 2020/2021 in collaboration with Emmons County Public Health (ECPH) to determine the most pressing health needs of the Linton area. The steering committee convened to develop the implementation plan which provides an overview of the priority needs for our community, current activities in place, and strategies/goals to address these needs. The Board of the Linton Hospital has approved that the following health needs identified in the CHNA should be addressed through the implementation strategy noted for each such need.

Availability of mental health services

Ensure all community members, including uninsured and working poor have access to mental health services.

1. Current activities
 - a. Avera eCARE Emergency performs psychiatric evaluations and assists in patient placement to treatment facilities via video encounters
 - b. Emmons County Public Health has created ‘Parent Packs’ to hand out at sports physicals, ER visits, and school athletic meetings. Packs include Detera drug deactivating bags and education on prevention and communicating with children regarding alcohol, mental health, smoking, etc.
 - c. Collaboration with ECPH to provide resources to patients
 - d. Linton Public Schools has a counselor that comes to the school
2. Strategies
 - a. Enhance collaboration with ECPH and create ‘mental health services’ and ‘alcohol/substance use and abuse’ collections of resources
 - i. Share resources with public
 1. Provide link on the Linton Hospital website and Facebook page
 2. ECPH Facebook page
 3. Bag stuffers in the food distribution events
 4. Explore TV advertising during local sporting events, especially tournaments
 - ii. Collaborate with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) director for identifying those at need and providing resources
 - iii. Collaborate with Interagency
 - b. Explore feasibility of providing psychiatric health through telemedicine
 - c. Assess if patients followed through with planned interventions during ER and Hospital follow-up calls

Having enough child daycare services

Increase child daycare spots available to allow community members to continue working and raising their families here.

1. Current Activities
 - a. The Rural Childcare Innovation Project was successful in opening Little Lion’s Daycare in May 2019. Linton Hospital staff member is a board member of the daycare

- i. Recent hire of additional full-time worker
 - b. New daycare opened in Hazelton
- 2. Strategies
 - a. Support current daycares
 - i. Training/certifications
 - b. Collaborate with ECPH for babysitting course for area youth

Adult alcohol use and abuse

Ensure all community members, including uninsured and working poor have access to education and services.

- 1. Current activities
 - a. All clinic and hospital patients are assessed for tobacco, alcohol, and drug use
 - b. Collaboration with ECPH to provide resources to patients
 - c. Emmons County Public Health has created ‘Parent Packs’ to hand out at sports physicals, ER visits, and school athletic meetings. Packs include Deterra drug deactivating bags and education on prevention and communicating with children regarding alcohol, mental health, smoking, etc.
- 2. Strategies
 - a. Enhance collaboration with ECPH and create ‘mental health services’ and ‘alcohol/substance use and abuse’ collections of resources
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 - ii. Collaborate with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) director for identifying those at need and providing resources
 - iii. Collaborate with Interagency
 - b. Assess if patients followed through with planned interventions during ER and Hospital follow-up calls
 - c. ECPH to explore option of providing Beverage Server Training again

Other needs identified in the CHNA but not addressed in the implementation plan

Each of the health needs listed below is important and is being addressed by numerous programs and initiatives operated by the Hospital, other organizations within the Hospital system, and other community partners of the Hospital.

- 1. **Youth alcohol use and abuse and smoking/tobacco/vaping use**
 - a. Closely ties in with items included in the implementation plan for adult alcohol use and abuse
 - b. Emmons County Public Health works closely with the schools



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2. **Adult and youth depression/anxiety**
 - a. Included with strategies for mental health services
3. **Not enough jobs with livable wages**
 - a. The Linton Hospital continues to offer life-sustaining wages and benefits to staff. Representatives of the hospital attend Linton Industrial Development Corporation (LIDC) and Linton Chamber of Commerce meetings
4. **Cost of healthcare/cost of long-term/nursing home care**
 - a. The Linton Hospital has the Community Caring Program to assist with those who cannot afford to pay for their healthcare
 - b. Case Manager at Linton Hospital assists patients with services to stay in the home safely
5. **Ability to retain primary care providers and nurses**
 - a. Offer competitive wages and benefits