



Linton Regional  
Medical Center

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# **2023 Community Health Needs Assessment: Implementation Plan**



A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was performed in 2023 by the Linton Regional Medical Center (LRMC) 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
  - e. LRMC is in the process of contracting with Rural Psychiatry Associates to provide psychiatric and psychotherapy services through telemedicine
  - f. Mental health resources are shared on the LRMC website and Facebook page
  - g. Collaboration with Arkos care management for patients with Next Blue and Medicaid Expansion insurances
2. Strategies
  - a. Complete contract with Rural Psychiatry Associates by the end of June and advertise service availability during Linton's Quasi-centennial
    - i. Explore TV advertising during local sporting events, especially tournaments
  - b. Continue collaboration with Interagency, Social Services, and Emmons County Sheriff's Department
  - c. Incorporate Care Coordinator role from Assess if patients followed through with planned interventions during ER and Hospital follow-up calls
  - d. Utilize new electronic medical record system to track patient mental health referrals and ensure follow-up.
  - e. Mental health speaker at Safe Night for area 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students April 2024

### **Attracting and retaining young families**

Assist in ensuring job availability with living wages, daycare services, and other community-based attributes.

1. Current activities
  - a. Supporting current daycares
    - i. Training/certifications
    - ii. LRMC staff member board member of Little Lion's Daycare since 2019
  - b. Collaborate with ECPH for annual babysitting course for area youth
  - c. LRMC offers life-sustaining wages and benefits to staff
  - d. LRMC staff attendance at Linton Industrial Development Corporation (LIDC) meetings
  - e. Participation and planning of community events



- i. Collaboration with Light Up the Night, Dairy and Ag Days, Linton Quasi-centennial
    - ii. Holding the annual Teddy Bear and Doll Clinic
  - f. Linton City Park was updated in 2023 with new equipment
2. Strategies
  - a. LRMC staff membership on Linton Chamber of Commerce by 2025 annual meeting
  - b. Support and collaboration with future community improvement endeavors
  - c. Advertise addition of Dr. Kathy Anderson, pediatrician to the Linton Clinic visiting providers every other month

### **Depression/anxiety-all ages**

Ensure all community members, including uninsured and working poor have access to mental health services and receive education and resources for depression/anxiety.

1. Current activities
  - a. Same as those for ‘availability of mental health services’
  - b. NDSU Extension Services sponsored speaker with students and parents
2. Strategies
  - a. Same as those for ‘availability of mental health services’
  - b. Mental health speaker at Safe Night for area 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students April 2024

### **Substance abuse-all ages**

Ensure all community members, including uninsured and working poor have access to substance use education and services as well as robust community preventative measures.

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 Detera drug deactivating bags and education on prevention and communicating with children regarding alcohol, mental health, smoking, etc.
  - d. Collection of mental health services created with ECPH and shared with the public.
  - e. Collaborate with local organizations to promote community-building activities
2. Strategies
  - a. Assess if patients follow through with planned interventions during ER and Hospital Follow-up calls
  - b. Include substance abuse session at 2025 Safe Night for area 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - c. Track assessing of patients for substance abuse and providing resources
  - d. Track assessing of patient’s social determinants of health
  - e. ECPH to sponsor a drug take-back event 2024

### **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 LRMC, other organizations within the Hospital system, and other community partners of the



Hospital.

**1. Cost of health insurance**

- a. Collaboration with Arkos care management for patients with Next Blue and Medicaid Expansion insurances
- b. LRMC has a Community Caring Program to assist patient's with cost of medical care

**2. Availability of resources to help elderly stay in their homes**

- a. LRMC collaboration with Innovative Health Services that provides in-home services to our area for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and home assessments
- b. Stepping On program by NDSU Extension Services and Public Health to promote fall safety
- c. LRMC Care Coordinator provides list of services in our area to patients