

Appendix G

St. Aloisius Medical Center Community Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy 2017 – 2020

Overall residents, within our service area, want more choice of physicians, access to specialists, and enhancement in behavioral health resources. They are interested in health promotion programs to prevent the onset of chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. We will work in close collaboration with the Wells County District Health Unit on prevention initiatives. Our residents also look to the hospital to increase collaboration with our emergency medical service and local schools.

Tier I Needs

I. Physician Retention and Recruitment

One of the main concerns arising from the community needs assessment is maintaining an adequate medical staff to serve the community. At the time the survey was conducted, Harvey had only one physician (Down from 3 in the prior assessment), one physician assistant and four nurse practitioners (one more NP than the prior assessment). Since the last survey, we've contracted with Avera McKennan Healthcare for e-Emergency services. St. Aloisius is connected continuously via telemedicine to an emergency room physician in Sioux Falls. The arrangement with Avera provides all the benefits we hoped for and improves the operations of our Emergency Room. We've successfully used Mid-levels in the emergency room as well. The e-Emergency initiative is partly responsible for the use of mid-level providers in the ER. Nurse Practitioners and Physicians Assistants are in the call rotation and improved on call coverage for our provider. St. Aloisius Medical Center contracted with Jackson Coker Physician Recruiters and The In-Line Group (Recruiters) to recruit a primary care physician. Interest in our opportunity is low and we were only able to convince one physician to come to Harvey for an interview. University of North Dakota has been a great partner recently. We are working with them to identify medical students willing to choose to work in a rural community. We are in contact with one first year resident and hope to cultivate a relationship resulting in employment.

OBJECTIVE:

- Attract two primary care physicians for the St. Aloisius service area.

TACTICS

- Recruit through UND Center for Rural Health (3RNET) and appropriate professional resources
- Foster relationships with medical students enrolled in the Rural Health Scholar program.

PROGRAM/RESOURCES TO COMMIT

- Sufficient dollars are budgeted for physician recruitment
- Physician employment strategy is in place and competitive compensation is available

ACCOUNTABLE PARTIES

- Greg LaFrancois, CEO

II. Access to Specialists

Our community identified a number of specialty services they felt were needed in our community. Podiatry, Orthopedics, Allergy, and Behavioral Health were often mentioned in interviews and in community meetings. Additionally, access to maintenance chemotherapy and dialysis were important. We've joined sister facilities to include the closest tertiary facility in Minot (Trinity Healthcare) to coordinate resources throughout the Northwest region of North Dakota. The first substantive meetings of the group were scheduled to occur as we completed our Community Health Needs Assessments. This collaboration is a strong first step towards bringing specialists to Harvey on a rotating basis. Additionally, we've met with a tele-psychiatry provider. They currently provide ER coverage to a number of critical access hospitals throughout Minnesota, North and South Dakota. We plan to open clinic hours for tele-psychiatry in Jan 2017. We've met with Dr. Mary Aaland of the UND Rural Surgery Program. Dr. Aaland currently rotates throughout rural hospitals providing clinic visits and minor surgical procedures. We believe we could open two surgical days per month initially and grow the program from that point.

OBJECTIVE:

- Attract specialists, on a rotating basis, to deliver services within the St. Aloisius service area.

TACTICS:

- Collaborate with tertiary facilities and provider groups in Minot and Bismarck ND
- Open tele-psychiatry clinic
- Develop a surgical program in collaboration with the UND Rural Surgery Program

PROGRAM/RESOURCES TO COMMIT:

- Sufficient dollars are budgeted for the above tactics
- Clinic space and administrative support is available for tele-psychiatry
- Our operating rooms are sufficiently stocked to support the Rural Surgery Program

ACCOUNTABLE PARTIES:

- Greg LaFrancois, CEO

Tier II Needs

I. Access to fitness equipment, healthy eating, substance abuse education, and support group

St. Aloisius Medical Center will work collaboratively with the Wells County District Health Unit to address healthy living needs in the community. The two organizations already enjoy a strong relationship and are well positioned to address issues important to the improvement of community health status.

OBJECTIVE:

- Improve health status of the community by addressing fitness, dietary, substance abuse, and education needs.

TACTICS:

- Wells County District Health Unit is performing worksite wellness for county employees
- Wells County District Health Unit is providing nutrition, stress, and time management education
- Wells County District Health Unit and St. Aloisius Medical Center will sponsor physical challenges in the community to promote health. Wells County District Health Unit will be utilizing grant funding to support their challenges.

- In October, Wells County District Health Unit will run an 8 week course on grief support.
- Wells County District Health Unit will address underage drinking through a recently approved grant.

PROGRAM RESOURCES TO COMMIT:

- Wells County District Health Unit has attained funding through grant programs and St. Aloisius Medical Center is prepared to support their initiatives, outlined above.
- St. Aloisius will work collaboratively with Wells County District Health Unit to ensure sufficient clinic space is available for these initiatives.

ACCOUNTABLE PARTIES:

- Wells County District Health Unit
- St. Aloisius Medical Center

II. Collaboration with local EMS and the school system

St. Aloisius Medical Center began working very closely with the local EMS in Early April of 2016. The relationship between the EMS and hospital had been positive but communication needed work. Both entities worked closely to educate the public on the need for a mill levy to support EMS operations. In addition, the hospital assisted the EMS in the development of their first budget. Since the approval of the mill levy, the hospital's Director of Nursing has been appointed as a member of the EMS board.

OBJECTIVE:

- Improve collaboration with local EMS and the school system

TACTICS:

- Improve communication
- Identify opportunities to work jointly on community projects

PROGRAM/RESOURCES TO COMMIT:

- Sufficient dollars are budgeted for the above tactics

ACCOUNTABLE PARTIES:

- Greg LaFrancois, CEO