



Lawrence Memorial Health Foundation, Inc.

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Lawrence Memorial Hospital

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

Implementation Strategy

June 17, 2024

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Introduction

Every three years, tax-exempt hospitals are required to assess the health needs of their communities and adopt implementation strategies to address significant identified needs. These requirements are imposed by federal law and include, in part:

- Conducting a community health needs assessment every three years.
- Adopting an implementation strategy to meet the significant community health needs identified through the assessment.
- In each subsequent assessment, evaluating the impact of previous implementation strategies on identified needs.

The community health needs assessment must take into account input from persons who represent the broad interest of the community served by the hospital facility, including at least one state or local public health official and members of medically underserved, low-income and minority populations within the community. The hospital facility must make the community health needs assessment widely available to the public.

This community health needs assessment is intended to document compliance of Lawrence Memorial Hospital with these requirements. Health needs of the community have been identified so that Lawrence Memorial Hospital may adopt an implementation strategy to address specific needs of the community.

In this Implementation Strategy, action steps are outlined based on our CHNA's identification and prioritization of health needs for Lawrence County.

Identification and Prioritization of Health Needs

Based on a review of the data gathered during our assessment, factors as well as surveys and interviews were conducted to identify numerous health needs. These needs were prioritized and evaluated to determine which were significant to the community. The criteria included the numbers of persons affected, the seriousness of the issue, whether the health need particularly affected persons that were children, adults, or seniors, and what needs to be done to address these issues.

As a result, the following list of significant health and quality of life issues were identified:

1. Access to primary care and urgent care services
2. Access to women's' healthcare services
3. Food Insecurity

The CHNA and this Implementation Strategy will be made publicly available on Lawrence Memorial Hospital 's website. Public comments on this assessment may be directed to Lawrence Memorial Hospital 's management at 1309 W Main St, Walnut Ridge, AR 72476.

Lawrence Memorial Hospital

Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) is located in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Walnut Ridge is approximately 30 minutes northwest of Jonesboro, Arkansas, one of the closest metropolitan areas in Arkansas.

LMH's mission is to provide compassionate, quality healthcare to the communities we serve. Our vision is to be your Healthcare Provider of Choice – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

Since Lawrence Memorial Hospital opened its doors more than sixty years ago, we have expanded our services to provide quality health and wellness services to meet the needs of our community.

The original commitment and foresight of our local physicians and county leaders are still a driving force within our organization today, prompting us to find new and effective ways to improve the overall health of the people we serve.



Our slogan is—and will continue to be—“People you know caring for the people you love” because, as with most small communities, our physicians, employees and staff are members of the same community as the patients we serve.

That is why Lawrence Memorial Hospital has shown a commitment to implementing state of the art equipment, services, and community programs that improve the quality of life for Lawrence County families. We feel it is necessary to take these extra steps towards making our “home” a better place.

Lawrence Healthcare provides Lawrence County and surrounding areas with quality healthcare through Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence Hall Health and Rehabilitation, Family Medical Center, and our Specialty Clinic. The flagship facility, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, serves as a 25-bed, critical access hospital, complete with a full-service laboratory, radiology department, 24-hour emergency department and a Swing Bed program, while also offering cardiac rehabilitation and rehabilitative services. Lawrence Hall Health and Rehabilitation serves as a 125-bed long term care facility, offering 24-hour skilled nursing care, in-house dialysis, both long term and short term rehabilitation, specialty programs include cardiology, wound care, behavioral health, and a secured female only memory care unit.

2024 Community Health Needs Implementation Strategy

The Community Health Needs Assessment for Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) is now complete. The next step is development of an Implementation Strategy to address each of the identified health needs. The Implementation Strategy below outlines actions and activities LMH will pursue, in cooperation with other organizations, throughout the following years.

This section will discuss the 2024 CHNA prioritized health needs implementation strategies. The list of identified prioritized health needs were:

1. Access to primary care and urgent care services
2. Access to women's healthcare services
3. Food Insecurity

Access to Primary Care and Urgent Care Services

Strategies to address access to Primary Care and Urgent Care services:

- Recruit additional Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatric providers to better serve our community.
- Increase education of community members regarding existing primary care services.
- Increase primary care service access points by expanding existing telehealth services.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing primary care clinic services during "off hours" or weekends.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing urgent care/fast track clinic services.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing primary care clinic services at off site locations in the county.

Anticipated impact of these actions:

- Increase the number of primary care providers in our community resulting in more primary care access points.
- Expand primary care services offered via extended hours or through telehealth resulting in more primary care access points for the community.
- Increase preventative screenings for community members resulting in better community health outcomes.
- Increase overall communication to our community as to the existing services provided at LMH.

Access to Women's Healthcare Services

Strategies to address access to Women's Healthcare services:

- Identify specific Women's Health needs in our community.
- Identify existing community Women's Health partners and resources.
- Increase education of community members regarding existing Women's Health services (i.e. Pregnancy clinic, Mammograms, and primary care offerings).
- Increase and expand existing Women's Health services at LMH.
 - Expand our Pregnancy clinic by adding more coverage.
 - Expand availability of Mammogram services.
 - Explore the feasibility of establishing Gynecological services at LMH.

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- Increase education of community regarding Women's Health issues (i.e. health screenings, breast care, prenatal care, reproductive health).

Anticipated impact of these actions:

- Increase the number of Women's Health access points in our community.
- Expand Women's Health services offered via extended hours or through telehealth resulting in more Women's Health access points for the community.
- Increase annual Mammograms and other preventative screenings for community members resulting in better community health outcomes.
- Increase overall communication to our community as to the existing services provided at LMH.
- Increase overall knowledge of Women's Health through education events on Women's Health topics.
- Eliminate our prenatal desert and improve prenatal health outcomes resulting in better birthing outcomes and healthier pregnancies.

Food Insecurity

Strategies to address Food Insecurity:

- Open a LMH Community Food Pantry.
- Form a community working group to address food insecurity.
- Partner with working group members to identify existing food insecurity resources in community.
- Partner with working group members to identify and expand healthy food options in Lawrence County.
- Partner with working group members to explore feasibility of opening a community Farmer's Market.
- Increase education of community regarding the impact of healthy eating habits and food preparation on one's overall health.

Anticipated impact of these actions:

- Reduce food insecurity in our community by tracking data provided by state and federal agencies.
- Increase communication and collaboration between LMH and our community partners to create a better community network and address food insecurity as a whole.
- Increase the number healthy food options available for our community.
- Expand healthy eating and wellness education programs offered resulting in better health outcomes for our community.