

SOUTH COUNTY HEALTH COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2019-2022

BACKGROUND:

South County Health is the preeminent resource for health in Washington County, RI, and beyond. Supporting community-based initiatives that improve health, it encompasses four healthcare entities: South County Health, South County Home Health, South County Medical Group, and South County Surgical Supply.

Accredited by The Joint Commission, South County Health is an independent, non-profit, acute-care hospital offering a comprehensive range of advanced inpatient, outpatient and home health services delivered by highly trained professionals. Quality care is our primary goal.

At South County Health, we are stewards of your health. We want you to maintain or achieve optimal health so together; we can create a healthier, more vibrant community. South County Health is committed to its community and guided by the values of caring, respect, integrity, collaboration, stewardship and excellence. Our commitment to these values ensures you receive the highest quality healthcare in a setting designed with your comfort, convenience, privacy and well-being in mind.

Promoting wellness in the community is a key component of our vision. We believe the health of our community begins with education. Our goal is to provide you with accessible healthcare information, whether it is through the variety of programs and lectures we offer or this website.

Since 2011, South County Health has participated with the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and other member hospitals across Rhode Island in an effort to conduct a statewide comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The 2019 CHNA builds upon the 2013 and 2016 studies to monitor health status across the state and in local hospital communities. CHNA includes a mix of statistical research and stakeholder input to collect and analyze health trends that impact the health of our community.

This report outlines findings from the 2019 CHNA and highlights strengths and opportunities across Washington County. The findings will be used to guide services at South County Health, as well as to serve as a community resource for grant making, advocacy, and to support the many programs provided by our community health and social service partners.

To learn more about South County Health's work to improve the health of our community, visit their website SouthCountyHealth.org or contact Lynne Driscoll, Assistant Vice President, Community Health at South County Health.

CHNA RESEARCH COMPONENTS

The 2016 CHNA was overseen by a Steering Committee of representatives of HARI and each member hospital. Baker Tilly, a consulting firm with extensive experience in conducting CHNA's, assisted in all phases of the CHNA, including project management, quantitative and qualitative data collection, report writing, and development of implementation strategies. Baker Tilly's expertise ensured the validity of the research and assisted in developing a CHNA Plan to address the highest health needs across the Hospital's service area.

The CHNA Steering Committee actively sought feedback and coordinated research and planning efforts with the Rhode Island Department of Health ("RI DOH") to ensure statewide efforts for community health improvement were aligned. Coordination also occurred with the RI DOH Health Equity Zones, including partner forums, focus groups and planning.

Community engagement was an integral part of the CHNA research. In assessing the health needs of the community, input was solicited and received from persons who represent the broad interests of the community, as well as underserved, low income and minority populations. These individuals provided wide perspectives on health trends, expertise about existing community resources available to meet those needs, and insights into service delivery gaps that contribute to health disparities. Research and planning was conducted in coordination with the RI DOH and the local Health Equity Zones (HEZ) to promote collaboration across existing initiatives and reduce duplication of activities.

The CHNA was conducted in a timeline to comply with IRS Tax Code 501(r) requirements to conduct a CHNA every three years as set forth by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The findings will be used to guide South County Health's community benefit initiatives and engage local partners to collectively address identified health needs.

SERVICE AREA

SCH defined its service area based upon an analysis of the geographic area where individuals using their health services reside. The following zip codes reflect SCH's defined service area:

Zip Code	Municipality
02804	Ashaway
02807	Block Island
02808	Bradford
02812	Carolina
02813	Charlestown
02816	Coventry
02817	West Greenwich
02818	East Greenwich
02822	Exeter
02832	Hope Valley
02833	Hopkinton
02835	Jamestown
02836	Kenyon
02582	North Kingstown
02873	Rockville
02874	Saunderstown
02875	Shannock
02877	Slocum
02879	Wakefield
02881	Kingston
02882	Narragansett
02891	Westerly
02892	West Kingston
02894	Wood River Junction
02898	Wyoming
06379	Pawcatuck

Focus of the Community Health Implementation plan 2016-2019 addressed Mental Health and Substance Abuse collectively referred to as Behavioral Health with the following achievements:

- Incredible years: Implementation of 3 group courses throughout Washington County
- Suicide Prevention: During this time 1,000 people were trained in education for Suicide Prevention
- Question, Persuade and Refer: There were 12 instructors trained in the QPR method to detect and respond to anyone emitting suicide warning signs
- Mental Health First Aid: A minimum of 100 people per year were trained in youth/adult mental health first aid

- ED Hold Time for Behavioral Health: Reduced holding time in the Emergency Department from baseline of 12.29 average hours per patient (2016 data)
- Increased utilization of Anchor Recovery Coaches: Improve patients' acceptance rate of referrals to Anchor Program (25% acceptance rate based upon 2016 data from the RI Department of Health)
- Information on mental health literacy and behavioral health awareness was included in 10 publications within Washington County (i.e. newsletters and handouts within Washington County)
- Training was conducted for PCPs on the utilization of behavioral health screening tools for young children
- External funding was secured for collaborative efforts to improve behavioral health services

PRIORITIZATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

In line with the CHNA Steering Committee recommendations, South County Health will focus on the following health priorities for the 2019–2022 reporting cycle. Specific resources and services to address these priority needs are outlined in South County Health’s Implementation Plan.

South County Health Community Health Priorities for 2019-2022 Implementation Plan

Behavioral Health: improve access to behavioral healthcare and reduce stigma for those experiencing mental health and substance use disorders

Indications:

- Mental and behavioral disorders death rate increased by 6.1 points over the last 6 years
- Drug induced deaths are 50% higher than the national average
- 21.4% adults in Washington County report excessive drinking which is 2nd highest in RI
- 50% of driving deaths are related to DUI which is the highest in RI
- Drug induced death rate is 26.1 per 100,000 which is 4th highest in RI
- Westerly and Hopkinton are in the top ten towns in RI for overdose death rates

Chronic Disease: meet the growing health and social needs of seniors to ensure equitable health outcomes regardless of socioeconomic status

Indications:

- 35% of the population of Washington County are 55 years or greater
- 1 in 10 seniors live alone and report isolation
- Limited transportation available for seniors impacts care, therefore at high risk for behavioral health or chronic disease outcomes
- Asthma and COPD are more prevalent in Washington County than the state and national average

Maternal and Child Health: improve the well-being of families

Indications:

- Washington County’s Neonatal Abstinence Rate is 133.9 per 10,000 births which is higher than RI state average
- 19% of RI youths age 6-17 years have a diagnosis of mental health
- More than half of RI youths age 3-17 years who need mental health services had difficulty obtaining care due to lack of resources
- Hopkinton and Westerly are among the top ten cities or towns in RI for investigation of child abuse or neglect
- 52% of the victims of child abuse and/or neglect were young children under age 6 and one-third (34%) were ages 3 and younger.

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

In support of the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment, and ongoing community benefit initiatives, South County Health plans to implement the following strategies to impact and measure community health improvement.

I. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

GOALS:

- A. Collaborate with partner organizations to facilitate access to a full continuum of behavioral health services from prevention to aftercare available in Washington County.**
- B. Implement systems to improve awareness of mental health conditions, reduce stigma, and strengthen community capacity to care for people with behavioral health needs.**

Strategies:

Improve Access to Behavioral Health Care and remove stigma

- 1. In conjunction with Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds Washington County (HBHM), lead a process to develop a long-term strategic plan/roadmap for improving the behavioral health system in Washington County that is guided and driven by robust engagement of residents with lived experience.**

Action Steps:

Feasibility of Diversion Unit in Washington County

- Collaborate with partners engaged with HBHM's Washington County Behavioral Health Planning Committee to establish a planning process to focus on behavioral health to include consumer input committees
- In partnership with committee members, review existing data, needs assessments and action plans and work with external data teams responsible for qualitative data collection (focus groups, surveys, interviews) to generate one comprehensive needs assessment.
- Develop a shared strategic vision for behavioral health services in Washington County.
- With input from committee members and residents with lived experience, develop a strategic plan with measureable goals and potential funding sources which will serve as a blueprint for improving behavioral health services in Washington County.

Outcomes: In Collaboration with HBHM BH Subcommittee

- Develop a community outreach strategy with a data collection team and core staff to include focus groups, listening sessions, and key informant interviews.
- Establish a Consumer and Family Advisory Council to guide the Behavioral Health Planning Committee, and to provide a voice of residents with lived experience.
- Work with internal and external partners to assess feasibility of a diversion unit.

- Complete the Opioid Prevention component of the planning and assessment process and incorporate finding and recommended action plans into the broader Plan.
- Complete long range strategic plan for Behavioral Health Services in Washington County by May2020.

2. Implement the Zero Suicide Initiative at South County Health

Action Steps:

- Offer QPR (suicide prevention) trainings to all new hires and to key SCH personnel, including providers per the established timeline (Year 1 Emergency Dept., Year 2 Inpatient Units, Year 3 Home Health, Year 5 SCMG)
- Host community QPR trainings
- Convening Zero Suicide Leadership Team Meetings to operationalize programs
- Conduct routine PHQ-9 screening of all patients (ages 18+) per planned roll out (Year 1 Emergency Dept., Year 2 Inpatient Units, Year 3 Home Health, Year 5 SCMG)
- Connect patients to peer recovery specialist and to appropriate Behavioral Health treatment and recovery services

Outcomes:

- At least 10 QPR trainings per year conducted for suicide prevention during new staff orientation
- At least 2 community QPR trainings held
- At least 9 meetings of the Zero Suicide Leadership Team
- PHQ-9 screening implemented for SCH patients according to roll out plans (Year 1 Emergency Dept., Year 2 Inpatient Units, Year 3 Home Health, Year 5 SCMG)
- Referral process for Behavioral Health and recovery services established

3. Engage in activities to raise awareness and understanding of behavioral health issues

Action Steps:

- Continue to serve on HBHM Steering Committee and Washington County Behavioral Health Planning Committee
- In conjunction with HBHM, sponsor and host trainings in Mental Health First Aid (youth and adult)
- Support Crisis Intervention Treatment Teams in Washington County Police Departments
- In conjunction with HBHM, pursue funding to support embedded behavioral health clinicians in Washington County Police Departments
- Support Opioid sparring pathways for surgical patients
- Utilize State Opioid Response money through the Community Health Team to support Peer Recovery Specialist and Analyst

Outcomes:

- Attend at least 9 meetings of HBHM Steering Committee and Washington County Behavioral Health Planning Committee per year

- At least 1 training in Mental Health First Aid held annually for SCH staff and volunteers
- Implementation of Crisis Intervention teams in Washington County Police Departments with goal of training 25% of the Washington County Police Force
- Support sustainability of 1 FTE LICSW ride all program for in Washington County Police Departments
- Elective orthopedic patients will follow a opioid free surgical pathway if medically appropriate which will reduce opioid use during hospital stay and post hospitalization
- 1 FTE Peer Recovery Specialist and Outcomes Analyst dedicated to the Community Health Team

II. SENIOR HEALTH

GOALS:

- A. Meet the growing health and social needs of seniors to ensure equitable health outcomes regardless of socioeconomic status**

Strategies:

Evaluate options to address key elements that impact health and social needs of seniors related to limited transportation, trends in SDOH including substance use

Action Steps:

- Create criteria for Community Health to utilize Circulation transportation platform for community members that require transportation for rides to maximize health promotion and wellness.
- Implement Social Determinates of Health screening intervention created to identify key indicators for referrals to the Community Health Team and other community based support programs
- Collaborate with Rhode Island Transit Authority to expand bus routes
- Collaborate with HARI to leverage RI Healthcare Systems to grow ridesharing options for people seeking healthcare
- SBIRT screening will outreach to senior community to assist with identifying substance use in the aging and support referral to treatment
- Review and update best practice steps for community members with COPD and CHF
- South County Health Development Department will raise money to support Population Health

Outcomes:

- Circulation will be utilized by Community Health Team 10 times per month
- SDOH screening will be utilized on 95% of inpatients, work with IT to create reports to identify trends and share detail with CHT and HBHM for action planning
- Add additional bus routes to South County Health and other community outpatient healthcare locations
- HARI will meet with stakeholders to investigate ride options
- Benchmark data on SBIRT screenings focusing on age and age specific interventions

- Improve chronic disease management in the community
- South County Health will raise 1 million dollars in their capital campaign to support growth in Population Health

III. MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

GOALS:

A. To improve the well-being of families in Washington County

Strategies:

Through family and child focused programming and practice based care there will be a focus on improving the health and development of young children and their families through a model of home and community based outreach, perinatal and early childhood screening, assessments, referrals, and follow up.

Action Steps:

- Align community grant funded programs to address multigenerational care. Review current practices for opportunities for efficiency and reduce duplications
- Support First Connections and NAS/SOR with team approach integrating RN and SW services to enhance medical and behavioral health needs
- Complete Incredible Beginnings training geared toward Teachers and child care providers as well as parents in area schools and early developments centers.
- Continue to support 5-2-1-0 childhood obesity prevention strategies in area schools, preschools, child care sites, afterschool program, summer camps, physician offices, and other community settings
- Develop standard perinatal screenings screening tools and incorporate into the EMR, identify workflow, create reporting and interventions for evaluation and management of Anxiety, Depression and Substance Use

Outcomes:

- Community Health Team expansion into Kent County
- Clients will receive a First Connections visit within one week of discharge. Each Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome(NAS) mother and child will receive a visit from the First Connections Nurse and Peer Recovery Specialist(PRS) on discharge from the hospital
- At least 12 early childhood/home visiting staff will be trained with Incredible Beginnings
- Continue to support 5-2-1-0 implemented in settings serving children and youth
- 90% of perinatal mothers will be screened for Anxiety, Depression and Substance Use.

APPROVAL FROM GOVERNING BODY

The South County Health Board of Trustees met on 1/27/2020 to review and approve the CHNA Implementation Plan and provide the necessary resources and support to carry out the initiatives herein.