

Community Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Strategy
May 2016

Identified Health Needs

Issue	Metric	Area
Access to Healthcare Services*	Primary Care Physicians	Cedar
Cancer	Cancer incidence rate	Cedar, Iowa
Environmental Health	Particulates	Iowa
General Health	Self-stated health status	Iowa
Heart Disease & Stroke	Deaths from heart disease Deaths from stroke	Washington Cedar and Muscatine
Injury & Violence	Violent Crime Rate	Muscatine, Washington
Maternal, Infant, & Child Health	Preterm Births Teen Births	Cedar and Muscatine Muscatine
Mental Health*	Depression in Older Adults Inadequate Social Support	Cedar and Iowa Iowa and Muscatine
Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight*	Adult Obesity Limited Food Access	Cedar and Muscatine Muscatine
Sexually Transmitted Disease	Gonorrhea Incidence Syphilis Incidence	Cedar, Muscatine, Washington Johnson
Social Determinants	Single-Parent Households High Housing Costs On-Time High School Graduation	Muscatine Washington Washington
Substance Abuse	Binge Drinking	Johnson

Implementation Strategies

Issue	Response/Expected Impact/Resources
Access to Primary Care physicians	Mercy will continue to operate a primary care clinic in Cedar county. Mercy will also continue to support the Free Medical Clinic in the adjacent Johnson county. This is an important health care access point for those with limited ability to pay. Mercy has a long tradition of having staff members volunteer their time and Mercy will continue to request their services.
Cancer – cancer incidence	Mercy has a cancer committee that strives to deliver patient centered care as measured in the cancer program standards of 2016. With the assistance of that committee, Mercy intends to develop a lung cancer screening program that will promote and administer screenings for at-risk patients.
Environmental Health – particulates	We intend to take no action as controlling the particulate counts are not within the scope of our health care delivery system.
General Health – self reported	We will continue to support the Blue Zone activities as a certified Blue Zones employer.
Heart Disease & Stroke mortality rates	Mercy is certified as a primary stroke center and will strive to maintain that certification. In addition, Mercy has recently hired a cardiologist that will add to our capacity to treat patients with heart disease.
Injury & Violence – Violent Crime Rate	We intend to take no action as reducing the crime rate is not within the scope of our health care delivery system.

Strategies, continued

Issue	Response/Expected Impact/Resources
Maternal, Infant, & Child Health – preterm and teen births	Two indicators were identified in two counties: teen births and pre-term births. Mercy intends to increase the number of family practice providers practicing in a clinic located in one of these affected counties. This should elevate patients’ ability to access health care resources directly or through the referral sources the patient will be directed to from this clinic.
Mental Health – depression and social support	Mercy will maintain and possibly expand an outpatient psychiatric clinic available to patients regardless of their insurance. In addition, Mercy will continue to offer inpatient mental health services at our Johnson county hospital.
Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight – adult obesity and limited food access	Mercy will develop a non-surgical weight loss program open to the public and run by dieticians employed by Mercy.
Sexually Transmitted Disease	Mercy will develop a program aimed at decreasing the incidence of sexually transmitted infections in and around Johnson county.
Social Determinants – single parent households, high housing costs, on-time high school graduation	We intend to take no action as we have no meaningful control of these factors within our health care delivery system.
Substance Abuse – binge drinking	We intend to take no action as we have no meaningful control of these factors within our health care delivery system.

Evaluation of Past Actions

Action	Discussion of past action impacts on the identified health needs
<p>Access to Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate a mobile primary care clinic Evaluate extended office hours in clinics Schedule annual visits more aggressively Advocate for Medicaid expansion 	<p>Our community has expanded the supply of providers after normal clinic hours through the use of Quick and Urgent care sites. Also, Iowa expanded the Medicaid eligibility. These actions should significantly improve access metrics, but the lag in indicators does not allow us to demonstrate that at this time.</p>
<p>Cancer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information to patients on colorectal and prostate cancer 	<p>There are many determinants of cancer mortality and a large population that is affected, and although our education actions have been helpful, they are not yet reflected in a reduced cancer mortality.</p>
<p>Heart Disease and Stroke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase health survey and biometric screening 	<p>Mercy expanded its use of screening particularly in area businesses, and the mortality rates for both heart disease and stroke have fallen. It is likely that our initiative was joined by many others to help reduce the mortality.</p>
<p>Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness for NAMI and participate in the NAMI Walk fundraiser Support United Way agencies focused on crisis intervention and mental health 	<p>Mercy has contributed significant funds to both NAMI and the United Way over the last three years, and also developed an outpatient psychiatric service in the spring of 2014. That clinic alone has had over 2500 patient encounters that are helping to meet the much larger demand for mental health services.</p>
<p>Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Weight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Blue Zones Support community efforts to become a Blue Zone Become a Blue Zone certified employer 	<p>Our community did become a Blue Zone and Mercy has become a Blue Zone employer. These actions should help reduce obesity, but the lag in indicators does not allow us to demonstrate that at this time.</p>
<p>Substance Abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support United Way agencies focused on helping individuals with substance abuse problems 	<p>Alcohol abuse is the major issue within this category. Mercy has contributed significant funds to the United Way over the last three years which helps to address treatment. Although the university in our county dropped in their rank from #1 to #2 party school in the Princeton Review over the last three years, there is no official up-to-date indicator to verify a reduction in overall substance abuse.</p>