

2019 STEPHENS
COUNTY HOSPITAL
IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGY

For FY 2020-2022 Summary

Stephens County Hospital, a 96 bed, not-for-profit, acute care facility partnered with the following organizations to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for communities they (CHNA Partners) serve in northeastern Georgia:

- District 2 Public Health
- Habersham Medical Center
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Gainesville
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Barrow
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Lumpkin

This Implementation Strategy summarizes the plans Stephens County Hospital has to address the prioritized needs from the 2019 CHNA.

The following prioritized needs were identified by the community and the CHNA steering committee. Particular focus was placed upon these needs in developing the implementation strategy.

- Substance Abuse
- Access to Care
- Behavioral and Mental Health
- Maternal and Child Health

Stephens County Hospital has addressed each of the health needs identified in the CHNA and developed implementation strategies to address each of the health issues identified over the next three years.

Specific implementation strategies for each of the CHNA identified health needs are addressed in the following appendices to this report.

The Stephens County Hospital Authority Board approved this Implementation Strategy through a board vote on November 18, 2019.

Substance Abuse	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Access to Care b. Care Coordination Process c. Lack of knowledge about available resources in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase number of patients enrolled in Addiction Medicine program b. Increase number of patient referrals from community partners to Addiction Medicine program c. Implement program improvement measures based on needs assessment outcomes
<p>Implementation Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify potential access barriers for patients wanting to participate in the program b. Address cost barriers to patients in Addiction Medicine program c. Support and provide easy access to suboxone training for providers d. Collaborate with local substance abuse and social service agencies to increase awareness of Addiction Medicine program services e. Establish robust referral resources for Addiction Medicine patients to access psycho-social supportive programs 	
<p>Possible Collaborators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Arms Clinic • Avita • Stephens County Mental Health Collaborative • Georgia Partnership for Telehealth • Family Connections • The Hope Center • NGPG Toccoa Clinic 	

Access to Care	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Aging population of primary care providers b. There is a lack of specialty care providers and services c. There is lack of free or reduced cost care options in the community d. Over-utilization of Emergency Department for non-emergent services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase number of primary care providers b. Increase specialty care services c. Increase free or reduced cost care awareness and options. d. Decrease unnecessary visits for non-emergent concerns
<p>Implementation Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Expand walk-in clinic hours. b. Recruit primary care providers. c. Partner with more visiting specialists. d. Stephens County Hospital will participate in health fairs within the community to provide free screenings for high blood pressure, cholesterol and obesity. e. Expand low-cost blood draw program. f. Establish community-based health screening partnerships. g. Evaluate financial aid application process to eliminate application barriers. h. Utilize Paramedicine Program by providing and connecting patients to primary care. 	
<p>Possible Collaborators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Arms Clinic • NGPG Toccoa Clinic • Corporate Health Fairs • Stephens County School Systems • Paramedicine Team 	

Mental Health	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is a lack of knowledge about available resources in the community and surrounding area about mental health care. b) There is a need for more substance abuse support and treatment programs. c) There is a lack of placement options in the community for mental health conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase knowledge and awareness of available mental and behavioral health services. b) Increase access to substance abuse treatment and support programs locally. c) Increase awareness of available placement options for mental health conditions.
<p>Implementation Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish tele-psychiatry services with partner organization b. Foster partnerships with community organizations addressing mental health issues by collaborating in community events, participating in advocacy efforts, and offering in-kind support 	
<p>Possible Collaborators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Arms Clinic • Avita • Stephens County Mental Health Collaborative • Georgia Partnership for Telehealth • Family Connections • The Hope Center 	

Maternal and Child Health	
Health Plan	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preventive and primary care services for pregnant women, mothers and infants up to age one b. Preventive and primary care services for children c. There is lack of free or reduced cost care options in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase number of women’s health and pediatric providers b. Re-open pediatric unit at SCH e. Partner with school system to Increase awareness of free or reduced cost care options
<p>Implementation Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participate in free health fairs for women and children combined with educational classes for weight management to decrease risks for type II Diabetes. b. In conjunction with local school system, implement STI education and prevention with school-aged adolescents. c. Evaluate potential Telehealth options to be utilized within the school system. 	
<p>Possible Collaborators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephens County School System • Stephens County Health Department • Local Pediatric Practices 	