



COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Implementation Strategy

September 2015

The Community Health Needs Assessment conducted for 2015 identified several priority needs for the Illinois Valley area. The following priorities were identified through analysis of the Primary and Secondary data:

- Cost of Healthcare
- Affordable insurance
- Quality of healthcare
- Affordable prescriptions
- Dental
- Aging/elderly issues
- Mental health and Substance Abuse

Based on the Community Health Needs Assessment Illinois Valley Community Hospital (IVCH) will implement strategies to address the priority needs in the following four categories:

- Access to affordable healthcare services
- Access to primary and specialty care
- Aging/elderly issues
- Mental health and substance abuse

Access to Affordable Healthcare Services and Access to Primary and Specialty Care

- Identify and engage third party entities that can assist patients in paying their bills through extended payment programs
- Recruit additional primary care providers to expand staff at the Hygienic Institute, which serves low-income area residents
- Jointly recruit with another regional hospital a board certified pediatrician to ensure access to pediatric care
- Convert primary care practices to Rural Health Status, which requires the addition of nurse practitioners and/or physician assistants to increase access to primary care
- Work with local pharmacies to identify programs for financial assistance for prescription drugs, educate patients regarding such programs and assist with required documentation for programs
- Enhance access to nutritional and diabetic education by adding nutritional services staff and further educating community regarding those services
- While dental issues were identified as a priority need IVCH does not employ dentists and therefore refer patients to local dentists
- Provide additional specialized equipment to aid in the care of obese patients, including two specialized wheelchairs. This will also reduce the risk of injury to staff.

Aging/Elderly Issues

- Develop a follow up survey to more deeply understand concerns regarding aging and elderly issues

- Continue community outreach services that provide physical activities for elderly groups such as Tai Chi
- Continue community outreach programs and health fairs that provide ongoing education and support for prevention of diseases
- IVCH will continue to host various support groups intended to provide comfort to those that attend

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- Identify means of bringing additional mental health and substance abuse services to the community for inpatient and outpatient care to serve pediatric and adult patients
- Continue the P2D2 prescription drug take back program IVCH originated locally in 2009
- Ensure primary care providers address mental health concerns during patient visits
- Provide leadership in local and regional suicide awareness and prevention efforts
- Participate in local mental health and substance abuse awareness efforts through local schools and other organizations