

# 2016

---

## Washington County Regional Medical Center Implementation Strategy

---

These findings and strategy should be shared with civic groups, churches, and the local media as well as posted on WCRMC website.

Articles addressing each identified health need should be shared on a monthly basis. (Recruiting expertise from healthcare community to produce the articles)

# Washington County Regional Medical Center Implementation Strategy

---

For FY2017-2019 Summary

Washington County Regional Medical Center is a 56 bed, not-for-profit, community hospital located in Sandersville, Georgia. In 2016, the hospital conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify the health needs of Washington County. The Implementation Strategy for Washington County Regional Medical Center was developed based on findings and priorities established in the CHNA and a review of the hospital's existing community benefit activities.

This report summarizes the plans for Washington County Regional Medical Center to sustain and develop community benefit programs that 1) address prioritized needs from the 2016 Washington County Regional Medical Center CHNA and 2) respond to other identified community health needs.

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.

- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Access to Care
- Obesity
- Substance Abuse
- Teen Pregnancy/STDs

Washington County Regional Medical Center has addressed each of the health needs identified in the CHNA. Washington County Regional Medical Center 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 Washington County Regional Medical Center Board approved this Implementation Strategy through a board vote on January 23, 2017.

Please reference additional appendices to this report for the implementation strategy for each of the health priorities.

The following issues were identified as "priority" needs by the community participants. The findings are listed in the order of priority as determined by the focus groups.

1. Mental and Behavioral Health
  - a. There is a lack of local mental healthcare providers.
  - b. There is a need for more mental health resources and education about mental health.
  - c. There is a need for more mental health resources for children or regional networks to help refer these patients.
  - d. There is lack of transportation. Many patients seeking mental healthcare cannot make it to their appointments due to lack of transportation. (See transportation).
2. Access to Care
  - a. There is a need for more primary care providers.
  - b. There is a need for affordable options for prescription drugs.
  - c. There is a lack of local prenatal care options for pregnant women.
  - d. There is a need for more education and screening resources to raise awareness about high blood pressure.
  - e. There is a lack of transportation. Transportation to healthcare providers is an issue for all population groups, especially the young, the poor, and the senior residents. There is a need for more reliable and convenient transportation.
3. Obesity
  - a. There is a need for specific education on how to purchase and make healthy foods on a budget.
  - b. There is a need for a lifestyle intervention program to address improvement of exercise habits in the community. There is a need to provide free exercise resources to individuals who cannot afford access to sports programming or physical activity.
  - c. There is a need for early childhood education and an accountability program that supports good nutrition and exercise habits in school and at home.
4. Substance Abuse
  - a. There is a need for more education and awareness to reduce alcohol and substance abuse.
  - b. There is a need for more education and awareness to reduce prescription drug abuse.
5. Teen Pregnancy/STDs
  - a. There is a need for more education and awareness of available resources to prevent teen pregnancy and STDs.

Community Work Plan for Mental and Behavioral Health	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There is a lack of local mental healthcare providers.</li> <li>b. There is a need for more mental health resources and education about mental health.</li> <li>c. There is a need for more mental health resources for children or regional networks to help refer these patients.</li> <li>d. There is lack of transportation. Many patients seeking mental healthcare cannot make it to their appointments due to lack of transportation. (See transportation).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase recruitment of mental health providers. Increase awareness of nearby mental health providers in other counties.</li> <li>b. Increase education and awareness about common mental health conditions risk factors.</li> <li>c. Increase access to children mental health services through regional networking and referrals.</li> <li>d. Increase awareness of available transportation services through a community resource directory. Implement educational outreach programs to underserved areas where lack of transportation and mental health is a major issue.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The CHNA process identified a need for improved mental and behavioral health services. The community reported the county was lacking mental health services for both children and adults. The community reported a lack of a support system and transportation as two major barriers to addressing mental health.</p>	
<p><b>Implementation Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Continue to use Telehealth and make providers aware of this resource</li> <li>b. Search for other viable mental health resources</li> <li>c. Continue services with Benchmark in evaluating and placing mental and behavioral health patients.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Possible Collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telehealth</li> <li>• Oconee Center</li> <li>• Health Department</li> <li>• School System</li> <li>• Local media</li> <li>• Augusta University</li> <li>• Benchmark</li> <li>• Community Health Centers</li> </ul>	

Community Work Plan for Access to Care	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There is a need for more primary care providers.</li> <li>b. There is a need for affordable options for prescription drugs.</li> <li>c. There is a lack of local prenatal care options for pregnant women.</li> <li>d. There is a need for more education and screening resources to raise awareness about high blood pressure.</li> <li>e. There is a lack of transportation. Transportation to healthcare providers is an issue for all population groups, especially the young, the poor, and the senior residents. There is a need for more reliable and convenient transportation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase recruitment of primary care providers. Increase knowledge and awareness of available primary care providers in the area through the community resource directory.</li> <li>b. Increase awareness of available reduced cost prescription drugs in the community.</li> <li>c. Increase access to local prenatal care. Increase clinical outreach efforts to meet the needs of local prenatal care.</li> <li>d. Increase education and awareness about the risk factors associated with high blood pressure. Increase access to blood pressure screening outreach.</li> <li>e. Increase access to available transportation services in the community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The CHNA process identified a need for better access to care for the community. The community reported a need for more primary care providers and prenatal care services in Washington County. The community also identified a need for more education and screening for high blood pressure and reduced cost prescription drugs. Finally, a need for more reliable and convenient transportation was reported.</p>	
<p><b>Implementation Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hospital continue to be open to professional Physician Recruiters</li> <li>b. Outreach to recruit locals who are medical student or practicing physicians in other locations</li> <li>c. Continue to utilize the Georgia Rural Scholars Program to provide support in educating and recruiting physicians to Washington County and surrounding rural areas.</li> <li>d. Seek recruitment of mid-level health professionals to assist current physicians</li> <li>e. Work with Augusta University providers to offer services in the healthcare community.</li> <li>f. Confirm the availability for blood pressure check through local agencies. (Wellness Center, Family Practice, Health Department, Community Health Services, etc.)</li> </ul>	

- g. Provide residencies and internships through the hospital and local physicians
- h. Support Archway to update Washington County Area Health Resource Directory
- i. Having identified the need for transportation, viable solutions will continue to be explored.

**Possible Collaborations:**

- Professional Physician Recruiters
- Wellness Center
- Family Practice Office
- Health Department
- Community Health Center
- University of Georgia Extension Office - Archway - Health Committee
- Local media
- Augusta University

Community Work Plan for Obesity	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There is a need for specific education on how to purchase and make healthy foods on a budget.</li> <li>b. There is a need for a lifestyle intervention program to address improvement of exercise habits in the community. There is a need to provide free exercise resources to individuals who cannot afford access to sports programming or physical activity.</li> <li>c. There is a need for early childhood education and an accountability program that supports good nutrition and exercise habits in school and at home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase knowledge and awareness on how to cook and purchase healthy foods on a budget.</li> <li>b. Increase knowledge and awareness of available resources to help incorporate physical activity into one's daily life.</li> <li>c. Increase education and awareness of early childhood exercise and nutrition education at home and at school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The CHNA process identified a need for more awareness and education about obesity. Obesity is risk factor associated with heart disease and other chronic diseases. The community reported an overall need for more education and awareness on healthy eating and exercise programs.</p>	
<p><b>Implementation Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Recommend established resources</li> <li>b. Provide weight control support groups through Wellness Works</li> <li>c. Educate patients by referral to hospital dietitian</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Possible Collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School System - Health Instructors, Nurses, Physical Education Instructors and Coaches</li> <li>• Health Department</li> <li>• Recreation Department</li> <li>• Local gyms</li> <li>• Georgia University Extension Office</li> <li>• Annual Community Health Fair (October)</li> <li>• Boys and Girls Club</li> <li>• Family Connections</li> <li>• Local media</li> </ul>	





Community Work Plan for Substance Abuse	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. There is a need for more education and awareness to reduce alcohol and substance abuse.</li> <li>b. There is a need for more education and awareness to reduce prescription drug abuse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase knowledge and awareness of the risk factors associated with alcohol and substance abuse.</li> <li>b. Increase knowledge and awareness on the dangers of prescription drug abuse and risk factors associated with this addiction.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The CHNA process identified a need for more awareness and education to reduce substance abuse, alcohol abuse, and prescription drug abuse.</p>	
<p><b>Implementation Strategy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Support DARE Officer through local sheriff's office</li> <li>b. Support Teen Maze Project (Prom)</li> <li>c. Compile Resource Information to be used by ER, Physicians and Social Services</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Possible Collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheriff's Department DARE officer</li> <li>• School System</li> <li>• Health Department</li> <li>• Local Physicians</li> <li>• Oconee Center</li> <li>• Alcoholics Anonymous</li> <li>• Family Connections</li> <li>• Local media</li> </ul>	

Community Work Plan for Teen Pregnancy/STDs	
Health Problem	Outcome Objective (Anticipated Impact)
<p>a. There is a need for more education and awareness of available resources to prevent teen pregnancy and STDs.</p>	<p>a. Increase education and awareness about available resources to prevent teen pregnancy and STDs.</p>
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The CHNA process identified a need for more education and awareness of available resources to prevent teen pregnancy and STDs. The community reported very high rates of both STDs and teen pregnancies. The teen pregnancy rate in Washington County was higher than both Georgia and the U.S.</p>	
<p><b>Implementation Strategy:</b></p> <p>a. Support Health Department, Pediatricians and Community Health efforts to educate</p> <p>b. Provide established resources information for ER, Inpatient Educator and Social Services</p>	
<p><b>Possible Collaborations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Department</li> <li>• School System Nurses, Health Instructors, Coaches and Counselors</li> <li>• Pediatricians</li> <li>• Family Connections</li> <li>• Local media</li> <li>• Augusta University</li> <li>• Community Health Center</li> </ul>	