

Stamford Healthcare System
Response to Community Health Assessment- Jones County
March 2014

Purpose

In 2011, Jones County was selected to undergo a community health needs assessment to assess what the community understood about their healthcare needs and available resources and to identify what community members felt were priority health concerns. This assessment serves as a check-up on the public health conditions in a community. After reviewing the Community Health Assessment for Jones County, the Stamford Healthcare System Community Health Needs Assessment Committee has developed the following response and strategy for addressing these needs.

Needs Response

Health Care Access

-In response to the need for additional primary health care access, SHCS opened the Stamford Walk-in Clinic in 2013 to make primary care available to patients without an appointment. In addition, SHCS expanded on-site imaging technology in 2013 with a state-of-the-art CT scanner and ultrasound machine making imaging more convenient and readily available for patients.

Transportation

-In response to the need for transportation, SHCS hosts monthly specialty clinics in order for patients to see specialists locally rather than having to find transportation to Abilene. Country Elegance has recently purchased a van to help with transportation of assisted living patients. Double Mountain Coach is a rural transportation service that is also addressing this need.

Chronic Disease Burden and Health Promotion

-In response to chronic disease burden and health promotion, SHCS opened Stamford Health Club in October 2012 to help promote health and wellness within the community. The facility is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week and offers a variety of fitness classes as well as a Certified Personal Trainer on staff. Memberships are affordable and discounts are available for seniors. An annual weight loss challenge helps members set goals for better health.

Mental Health Services

-In response to the need for mental health services, staff from the Betty Hardwick Center in Abilene, TX come to Stamford Memorial Hospital on a bi-monthly basis to provide mental health services for the community. Valorie Cadoo, a licensed counselor, has recently opened a practice in Anson and is helping to address this need. SHCS also refers patients to Oceans Behavioral Hospital and Abilene Behavioral Health.

Specialty Care/ Lack of Specialists

-In response to the need for specialty care and lack of specialists, SHCS hosts monthly specialty clinics inside the hospital. Specialists include a podiatrist, a physiatrist, a dentist, a cardiologist, an ophthalmologist, an oncologist/hematologist, an orthopedic surgeon, and a general surgeon. A weekly VA clinic is also available. SHCS is working to make sure that the public is aware of these services through quarterly "Did You Know" ads in the local newspapers, as well as information on the website.

Attracting Doctors

-In response to the need to attract all types of doctors, SHCS is currently fully staffed with three family practice doctors and three nurse practitioners. In addition, the emergency room has a provider in the hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

-In response to the need for assisted living and nursing homes, SHCS operates Country Elegance, a 14 room assisted living facility located in Stamford. This need is also being met by Community Care Center nursing center and Sagebrush Living Center. A large van has recently been purchased to transport Country Elegance residents throughout the area. More publicity in the newspaper is also planned in order to raise awareness for the availability of assisted living in Stamford.

Education and Awareness on Healthcare in the Community

-In response to the need for education and awareness on healthcare in the community, SHCS created a Community Health Awareness Program. Current activities include a monthly disease awareness education ad in the local newspapers and a health fair in October which provides free screenings and education to the public as well as ongoing efforts to enhance Community Health through various initiatives.

Retail Pharmacy in the Hospital

-In response to the need for a retail pharmacy in the hospital, SHCS rates this as a relatively low priority since this need is already being met locally by Country Drug and Wal-Mart.

Low Income Levels, Increased Unemployment, and Need for Indigent Care

-In response to low income levels, increased unemployment, and need for indigent care, SHCS created a Community Outreach Program in April 2013 to help patients identify resources to help them receive the care and benefits they need. SHCS also helped create the Bread of Life Food Ministry which provides supplement food supplies regularly to those in need of such assistance.

Future Plan of Action

Primary Care Access

-In response to need for primary care access, SHCS will implement a nurse help line in 2014 to help provide appropriate care in an appropriate setting. The Stamford Walk-in Clinic is also planning to offer extended hours during the weekend starting in mid 2014.

Education and Awareness on Healthcare in the Community

-In response to need for education and awareness on healthcare in the community, SHCS plans to further expand the Community Health Awareness Program with the addition of monthly events in the community to provide education and raise awareness for health issues. Through this program, SHCS will work closely with the schools to provide health education resources to students and teachers. Event ideas include screening events, a diabetes education workshop, a health and wellness event for young girls, and a smoking cessation program through the Hendrick Cancer Center. The Program also plans to create programs around men's health initiatives and provide education at the Texas Cowboy Reunion, sporting and hunting events, as well as agricultural venues.

Sustaining Quality of Care

-A Community Health Needs Committee has been created and will meet quarterly to assess and address community health needs. The committee will meet annually with a Community Focus Group and provide an annual assessment of needs. The committee will lead a formal review every three years. The Community Health Needs Committee consists of Stamford Healthcare System's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Community Outreach Liaison, and Marketing Consultant.

Adopted by the Community Health Needs Committee on March 25, 2014.