

Wagner Community Memorial Hospital

Avera 

A Critical Access Hospital (CAH)

2013

Implementation Strategy

By

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Accessibility and affordability of healthcare services:

In view of the communities' satisfaction with the breadth of direct healthcare services in combination with Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera's continued adherence to our mission "to provide care and treatment of sick, to provide care and support of the aged, disabled and indigent, and to provide for those in need of hospitalizationregardless of race, color, creed, or ability to pay" as demonstrated by our extremely high rate of uncompensated care, the hospital will focus on two areas, primary care provider availability and financial sustainability thereby assuring accessibility and affordability to health care services in our community.

Primary Care:

With the ever increasing demand and shortage of primary care physicians and 11 of the last 12 physicians leaving in less than four years of employment, Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Avera has adopted a provider plan to "home grow" our provider base. In 2011 the administration, with board acknowledgement, embarked on a recruitment and retention program for certified mid-level providers. The hospital inquired of its RN's to see if any were interested in obtaining an advanced practitioner's degree to become a nurse practitioner. Three RNs accepted the challenge and Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Avera has agreed to support them financially and programmatically while they are obtaining their degree and licensure with the agreement that the providers return to the hospital and establish a practice for a minimum of three years. Considering that all three are "married to the land" (that is they have very strong ties to the community) the success rate is expected to be great.

Financial sustainability:

Over the past three years, Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera has operated with a negative margin. Considering the current state of health care and the majority of the hospital's payers being governmental entities the level of reimbursement will continue to be under stress. The previously mentioned provider plan will decrease provider costs, in both the ER and clinic at an estimated combined savings of \$500,000 per year (50%). These savings will move Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera from a deficit to a minimally positive operating margin and thereby help solidify the financial stability of the hospital.

Healthy lifestyle choices and health promotions activities:

Southern Charles Mix County health care and community leaders have united in many ways to improve their communities, and they have already been instrumental in developing other health education programs such as the *Wagner Area Health and Wellness Consortium* whose mission “is to combine resources of each entity to maximize the health and wellness opportunities for Wagner and surrounding communities.” The consortium emphasizes youth education and activities to promote improved health and wellness now and in the future.”

Members of the consortium include the following:

- Yankton Sioux Tribe Department of Health Education
- Wagner Community Memorial Hospital – Avera
- Boys and Girls Club of the Yankton Sioux Tribe – Wagner and Marty Units
- Wagner IHS Diabetes Prevention Project
- Wagner Community School Nurse
- Marty Indian School nurse
- Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Avera
- Yankton Sioux Tribe Alcohol Treatment Program – Canku Teca
- Wagner I.H.S. Healthy Heart Project
- Tewahe Wakan – Yankton Sioux Tribe System of Care
- YST Head Start
- Prairie Health Clinic
- Yankton Sioux Tribe Community Health Representatives

The consortium has met monthly for the last five years, their activities have included:

- Community health fairs
- Kite Days
- Diabetes Awareness Pow Wow
- Informational booth at Wagner Cancer Walk
- Preventing Diabetes the Traditional Way – A special diabetes awareness activity funded through grants funds from the Association of American Indian Physicians. Sessions were held in Lake Andes, Wagner and Marty. In each session, local experts presented traditional methods of wellness regarding diet, exercise and spiritual customs.
- Earth Day Clean Ups
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Medicine drop (for outdated prescription meds)
- “The Best Dam 5K Run/Walk” at the Ft. Randall Dam

Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Avera will continue its support and participation in the consortium as their program continues to grow.

Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera will review the opportunity to advance the consortium by supplying and supporting a consistent healthy food diet and preparation educational sessions.

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention:

As the lead organization for the Southern Charles Mix County Healthcare Collaborative, Wagner Community Memorial Hospital Avera will continue to advance the vision and values of the collaborative through the use of administrative and limited financial resources.

The anticipation is that the emphasis given to the recent increased awareness of methamphetamine will be used to drive the collaborative to address the escalating problem. It is believed that a multi pronged approach to include prevention of production and use, educating the community both adult and youth in conjunction with treatment and aftercare services to take care of those already consumed by the drug is the only way to attack the crisis. It is believed that failure in any of these areas will hinder if not sabotage the remainder of the efforts.

Currently the collaborative is searching for any programs to emulate that have successfully addressed drug and alcohol abuse with specific emphasis on methamphetamines. Once a program has been identified, reviewed and approved, the collaborative will need to support the program. Resources and support will need to be requested from both governmental and private foundations as the resources needed to address the problem are far too great for the collaborative entities.

Board Approval:

This report was prepared for, reviewed and approved at the June meeting of the Wagner Community Memorial Hospital – Avera, Board of Directors.



Ken Thaler, President



Date