



2016 Community Health Needs Assessment

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**2016 Avera Gettysburg Hospital
Community Health Needs Assessment Summary
Potter County, South Dakota**

Executive Summary

Description of Hospital Gettysburg Memorial Hospital was founded in 1952, when community leaders came together to create a vision for the delivery of health care services in central Potter County. The kind gift of \$22,000 from Nicholas Leonardy has long been recognized as the catalyst to move the facility forward. Gettysburg Memorial Hospital was dedicated upon opening, *“To those who have died in our wars”*.

Since then, the 10-bed critical access hospital has undergone various renovations and changes. In addition to its general nursing and emergency services, the hospital offers a swing bed program that includes skilled and intermediate care, plus a number of other services including ambulatory surgery, outpatient therapy, physical therapy, radiology, mammograms, nuclear medicine, short stay observation and respite care.

On January 1, 2013, Avera Gettysburg Hospital became part of the Avera Health System, founded by the Presentation and Benedictine Sisters. Avera Gettysburg includes: Avera Gettysburg Hospital (10-beds), Avera Oahe Manor, and Avera Oahe Villa Congregate Living. Avera Health is the leading health system in the region, at more than 300 locations in about 100 communities. Avera’s unique partnership model makes possible a wide range of medical services through the expertise of specialists, sophisticated technology and cutting edge research to meet the health care needs of local communities and providers. Management and other support services are provided through the Avera Central Office in Sioux Falls, S.D. and its six regional centers: Avera St. Luke’s Hospital in Aberdeen, S.D.; Avera Queen of Peace Hospital in Mitchell, S.D.; Avera St. Mary’s Hospital in Pierre, S.D.; Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center in Sioux Falls, S.D.; Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD; and Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center in Marshall, Minn.

During 2015 and 2016, a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted by Avera Gettysburg Hospital for the approximately 2,340 people of Potter County. The hospital collected both primary and secondary data throughout the assessment process. Based on the results of this assessment, Avera Gettysburg will work to address the following identified significant community health needs:

- New healthcare facility with expanded services
- Wellness options, explore fitness center and biking and walking trails
- Strengthen home care and hospice options

I. Community Served by Hospital

Avera Gettysburg Hospital defines its primary service area as Potter County, with 90 percent of its admissions from Potter County. According to the 2014 Census, Potter County is home to 2,340 residents. Hospital Discharge data from the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations, 2014 Inpatient Origin and Destination Study reveals 90 percent of Avera Gettysburg Hospital’s patients come from Potter County. Hospital discharge totals have ranged between 31 and 49 annually over the past two years.

While Gettysburg is the largest city and the county seat for Potter County, there are three other smaller communities; Hoven, Tolstoy and Lebanon, located in the Gettysburg hospital’s service area. The overall population for Potter County has been declining over the past two decades; however there has been some limited growth along the Missouri River.

The population of South Dakota is aging a little faster than the rest of the country and Potter County is no exception to an aging population. In South Dakota, 15.3 percent of the population is over the age of 65. In Potter County that figure was 28.4 percent in 2014. The majority of Potter County’s population (31.3percent) is between the ages of 45-64.

Population by Age

County Population	Potter County
Total Population	2340
Under 5	126 / 5.4%
Under 18	482 / 20.6%
20-44	465 / 20%
45 - 64	730 / 31.3%
65 +	629 / 26.9%
85 +	129 / 5.5%
Median Age	51.8

U.S. Census Bureau – 2014 Demographic Profile Data

The local economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, tourism, and basic services. The median household income is \$44,931, and home ownership is reported at 82.6 percent. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Potter County’s population is predominately White. The recent increase in diverse population growth, though small, is mostly related to foreign labor recruitment for agriculture and construction jobs.

Population by Race

White	2251 / 96.2 %
American Indian and Alaska Native	42 / 1.8 %
Asian	12 / .5 %
Other	35 / 1.5 %

Gettysburg has the only hospital and nursing home facility in Potter County.

II. Community Health Needs Assessment Process

The Health of Potter County South Dakota: The CHNA was conducted by Avera Gettysburg Hospital. The goal of the assessment was to produce a current health profile for Avera Gettysburg Hospital's service area (Potter County). The CHNA serves to guide Avera Gettysburg Hospital by creating a foundation to build community benefit priorities.

Avera Gettysburg Hospital gathered both primary and secondary data for the assessment. Primary data was collected by conducting focus groups and a number of individual interviews. A survey tool was also utilized to reach the broader community. The survey was distributed to individuals, various businesses and community groups. The primary data was analyzed and compared to secondary health data from local, state and national sources.

III. Community Input

The assessment process was initiated by Avera Gettysburg Hospital in 2015. Careful consideration was given to ensure input was gathered from persons that represented the broad interests of the community. The hospital engaged the general public to include various ages, health status and income levels, along with local economic development leaders and local business owners. The county health nurse was also interviewed to ensure the hospital included input from those with special knowledge and expertise in public health. The county health nurse spoke of the services available through the Rural Health Care Inc. which is a community care clinic offering health care to all ages, from prenatal care to geriatrics. The clinic is an All Women Count provider, state immunization program participant and offers a sliding payment fee schedule. The county health nurse interacts with the most vulnerable in the Gettysburg community on a routine basis and she prides the clinic with especially caring for the children and the underserved in the Gettysburg community. The community is fortunate to have this level of care in the community.

Focus groups and key informant interviews were conducted to ensure input gathered would be representative of the community at large. Two focus groups were conducted in March and April, 2016. The Economic Development Committee and the Rotary Committee served as focus groups for the CHNA. These community service groups are already established and represent a good cross-section of the community. These groups include community leaders from ministerial communities, health care, local law enforcement, governance members-representing a voice of the poor and various business members of the community.

Three common themes emerged related to health and wellness needs facing Potter County: 1. New healthcare facility with added services, 2. Fitness center along with biking and walking trails, 3. Strengthen home care and hospice options in and around Gettysburg; Other related issues of lesser priority were; handicap accessibility, transportation and healthy food choices.

The topic of workforce development was also mentioned by community members. The community recognizes that a declining and aging population creates some unique challenges for Potter County. Avera Gettysburg Hospital has many workforce development strategies already in

place. The hospital uses a multi-pronged approach for workforce development and currently has one lab tech employed from the Philippines. The hospital is focused on local workforce development and has implemented job shadowing opportunities. Avera Gettysburg Hospital has also set up a mock interview process through human resources for students interested in pursuing a health care related field. We also offer post education scholarships for third or fourth year students with return to work clauses. Avera Gettysburg Hospital also sponsors an event that includes a coloring contest and blood typing for young students in Gettysburg and area schools which is a good opportunity to introduce young children and their parents to the local hospital.

The secondary data collected and listed below also aligned with the themes identified through the primary data collection. Key findings centered on obesity, physical inactivity, diabetes rates and access to healthy foods.

Areas noted by respondents as strengths in the county were: fundraising support for health care, eCARE services, serving all individuals in need, collaboration with other health care providers, and the community's ability to support others.

Avera Gettysburg Hospital recognizes that success will be measured by achieving the goals and objectives set forth in the CHNA and Implementation Strategy.

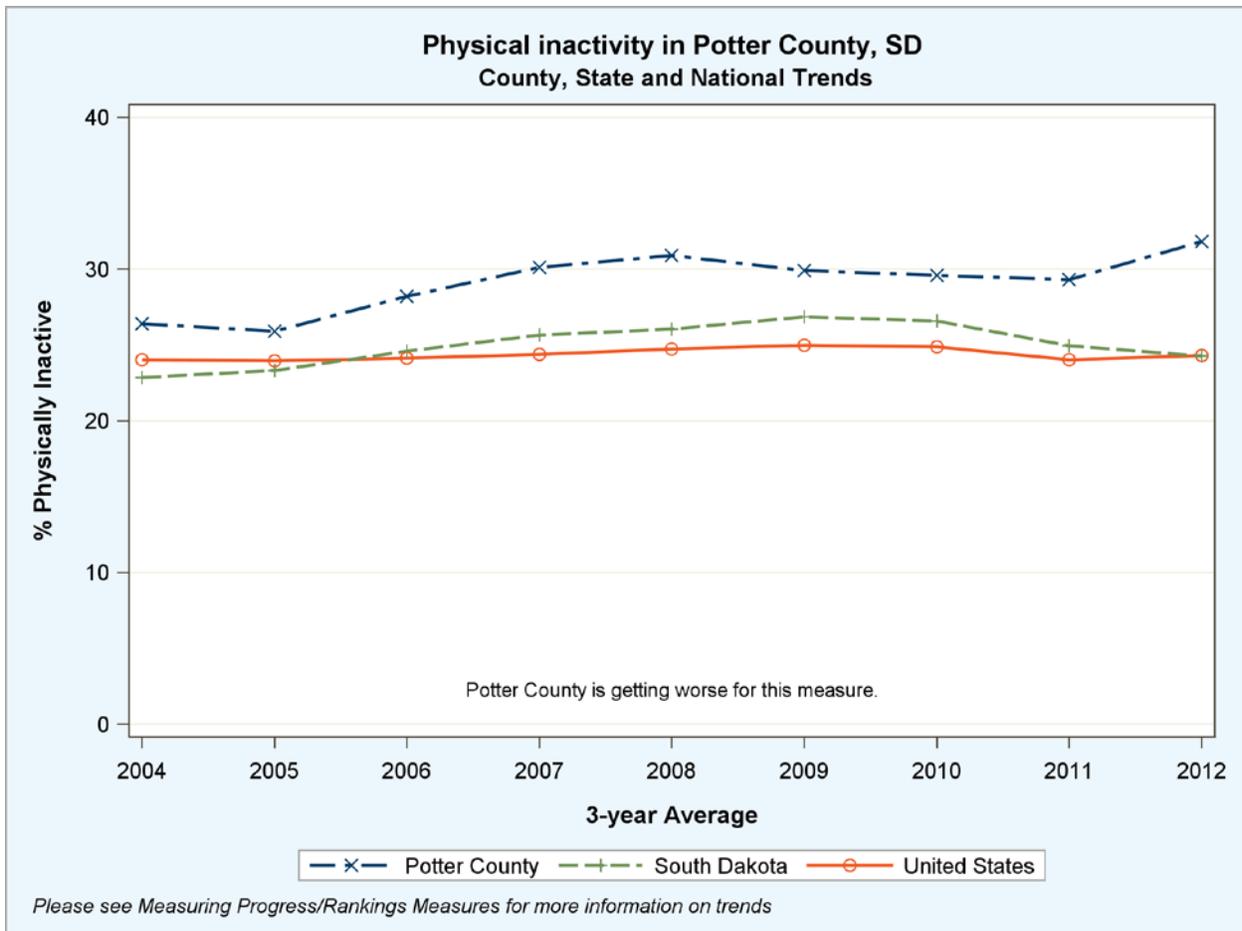
Conducting the CHNA was an important step in improving the overall health of Potter County. Partnerships and collaborations will be necessary as we move forward.

IV. Prioritized Significant Community Health Needs

The prioritization process took into consideration the size of the problem (i.e. how many people does it impact), urgency of the health need, the potential impact for the community, the feasibility of being able to address the concern and the value it would bring to the community. One of the most critical community needs identified in the CHNA surveys, is 1. The need for a new healthcare facility due to infrastructure concerns such as mechanical, electrical, heating and cooling systems. In addition the following two needs were deemed significant in nature. 2, the need for increased organized wellness programs including walking and biking trails, and 3. Another area of concern is to strengthen home care and hospice options in and around Potter County. The inability to access organized wellness opportunities is likely one factor contributing to the slightly higher rates of adult obesity and diabetes reported by the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps.

Potter County
County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

Health Outcomes	Potter County	National Benchmark	Variance
Adult Obesity	30 %	23-37 %	-.56 %
Physical Inactivity	32 %	24-41 %	1.63 %
Diabetic Screening	80 %	53-100 %	0.13 %
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	32 %	5.4 %	.46 %



Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

V. Potential Available Resources

The CHNA identified several community assets, including health care fundraising abilities, eCARE services to extend access to specialized medical providers, willingness to serve all patients and residents, continuum of health care services, successful hospital and nursing home, compassionate health care staff, pharmacy, dental, vision, ambulance services, communities drive to help one another, civic group involvement in community projects, and economic development activities. It was also felt that the school and local fire department could be potential resources and partners to collaborate with to address the need for wellness programs.

VI. Evaluation of Impact

The 2013 CHNA for Avera Gettysburg Hospital focused on developing organized wellness programs, expanding home care and hospice services and expanding clinical outpatient services. It should also be noted here that Avera Gettysburg Hospital has received no written comments in regards to the 2013 CHNA or implementation plan.

Although the hospital and community had made some headway in establishing a community fitness center following the CHNA in 2013, the center has since closed. The hospital had donated fitness equipment for the community center, however the family that operated the center

moved away resulting in the fitness center closing. The hospital will continue to look for opportunities to address this need in the community.

Expanding home care and hospice services continues to be a focus for the Avera Gettysburg Hospital. The Gettysburg hospital will continue working with Avera St. Mary's to address this need. Current efforts are focused on recruiting home health staff.

Clinical outpatient services have been greatly expanded since the 2013 CHNA with the acquisition of a high-quality 64-slice CT scanner through grant funding from The Helmsley Trust. The majority of CT scans completed at Avera Gettysburg are done in trauma situations. In fact, emergencies – stemming from recreational incidents occurring on the nearby Missouri River, vehicle accidents on the two state highways that dissect the county and injuries related to agriculture, the county's biggest industry – constitute 90 percent of its use. The CT scanner is an invaluable piece of equipment in caring for these patients.

CT scans are an important non-invasive diagnostic tool for chronic diseases like heart disease. But Avera Gettysburg's old 4-slice CT scanner couldn't perform the same tests as its state-of-the-art 64-slice scanner can. A 64-slice machine can help determine a patient's risk of heart disease before symptoms develop with calcium screenings, for instance. With the capabilities of the 64-slice CT scanner, Avera Gettysburg also can offer lung screening programs to its patients.

Other clinical outreach services, like those for cancer patients who need regular follow-up scans also can be performed with the 64-slice scanner. Poor quality scans from the 4-slice scanner might have led to misdiagnosis on the progress of a patient's cancer treatment or whether or not the cancer had spread to another area of the body. The hospital also can offer pediatric scans, like CT Abdomen Pelvis scans without contrast, with a better dose reduction set up on the exam with the new scanner, and complete studies that they already do, like CT Chest PE studies, CT Abdomen and Pelvis scans with or without contrast – better.

Next Steps

The CHNA team will work with the committees to develop implementation strategies for each priority. Each priority will have a leader who is responsible for:

- Finding out what other community organizations are doing regarding the priority
 - Organizing or joining a team which include both field professionals and representative community members
 - Guiding the work of the team, including development of a work plan
 - Establishing metrics including measurable outcomes indicators
 - Assuring work is coordinated with other teams, and
 - Communicating appropriately with the community at large

Approval

This report was prepared for the May 19th, 2016 meeting of the Governing Board.

DATE ADOPTED BY AUTHORIZED BODY OF HOSPITAL *July 15 2016 Gov. Board Chair*