

Eureka Community Health Services

Avera 

2016

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

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Summary

Eureka Community Health Services Avera has been meeting the needs of the residents of Eureka and the surrounding rural area of McPherson County for 87 years and is committed to responding to the community's ever-changing health care needs.

Eureka Community Health Services Avera is a six-bed critical access hospital located in north central South Dakota. Approximately 90% of the hospital's patients are from McPherson County and the remaining 10% are from surrounding counties.

The Eureka Community Health Services Avera mission is "to provide quality, accessible healthcare to the residents in our region". The Eureka hospital recognizes the elements of compassion, respect, justice, and hospitality in carrying out this mission. Our vision is "to become recognized as the facility of choice in assisting citizens through the various levels of care our region offers to meet their healthcare needs".

Although conducting a community health needs assessment is an IRS requirement, the awareness of needs, through data collection and collaboration with community leaders and members, aligns with the hospital's mission and vision of improving the health of people in McPherson County and the surrounding areas. This process provides direction for prioritizing our future strategies in developing community driven goals.

Community Served

Eureka Community Health Services Avera defines its primary service area as McPherson County and the service area includes the towns of Eureka, Leola, and Long Lake. Eureka Community Health Services Avera also serves a portion of Campbell County, in which the community of Herreid resides. McPherson County holds the distinction of having the highest percentage of its county population over the age of 65 in the state of South Dakota due to the outmigration of young people and the larger aging component of the population. This statistic creates unique challenges for a community.

Implementation Strategy Process

Data collection for the Eureka hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment began in the spring of 2015. Our objectives are:

- To recognize health related concerns of community leaders and members.
- To identify common themes that can be prioritized for follow up.
- To develop strategic plans that can be undertaken with action from Eureka Community Health Services Avera and community partners.
- To take steps that will improve the health and lives of members of our community.

Focus groups were utilized for primary data collection. Each group was asked a series of questions and the information was tabulated by a recorder. Careful consideration was taken when establishing the focus groups to ensure the hospital's community needs assessment included input from persons who

represent the broad interests of the community. Focus groups included community leaders, county law enforcement and emergency officials, healthcare providers and the hospital Board of Trustees.

Questions utilized for the primary data collection were as follows:

- What health care services are most important to you?
- What is the most pressing health care related need facing you/your family?
- What is the most pressing health care related need facing our community?
- If you do use healthcare services in McPherson County, why?
- In what way(s) is the hospital and/or health care in McPherson County serving the community well?
- In what ways could the hospital and/or health care services in McPherson County improve the way in which it serves the community?
- If you could add one aspect of health care in McPherson County, what would it be and why?
- Any additional health care comments from today's participants?

Secondary data collection included the research of McPherson County demographics and health related statistics and obtaining reliable data through internet search.

Prioritized Needs Identified

All data was compiled, analyzed and prioritized by Eureka Community Health Services to develop its findings and recommendations which are as follows:

- New, updated facilities
- Heart Disease
- Recruitment of Providers

Action Plans

1. New, updated facilities

PLAN: Floor plans have been completed and estimated costs for a new hospital, assisted living and clinic total \$8.1 million. Funding for a new facility has been secured through USDA as well as two loans through Rural Electric Economic Development and Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program. After the loans were secure, a community capital campaign began in November 2015 to raise a minimum of \$1 million dollars for the new hospital, clinic and assisted living facilities. As of May 2016 the campaign has raised well over \$1 million dollars and we are awaiting on the final approval of the floor plans by the USDA engineer. Once the floor plans have been approved, bids for the project will be obtained and the Hospital Governing Board will make the decision to move forward with the project or not. New and updated facilities will ensure that the community will have access to quality healthcare for the future.

2. Education and prevention of Heart Disease

PLAN: Offer more and/or host preventive screening opportunities (Screening America: Stroke screening and Young Hearts screening) in the community about heart disease. Community Health Nurse, Nursing staff and EMTs will display and present heart disease information at community meetings, community events, etc. Continue to educate community on Nu-Val point system used at the local grocery store to assist in making healthier eating choices. Articles on heart disease will also be included periodically in the Health Happenings section. Information regarding heart disease will be presented on the radio "Eureka Show". The Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase 3 program offered at ECHS Avera will be advertised in the local paper and on the radio "Eureka Show". The Direct-to-Consumer lab testing which includes tests that are indicators of heart disease will continue to be offered on an annual basis. All of these efforts conducted by staff will ensure that the community is aware of ways to prevent heart disease.

3. Recruitment of Providers

PLAN: Recruitment for a PA/NP began in March 2016. Once a PA/NP is hired and established, recruitment will begin for another MD or PA/NP due to both current physicians are past retirement age and both have expressed they would like to retire within 2-3 years. Recruitment will be aided since the facility participates in the South Dakota Office of Rural Health Recruitment Assistance Program and the National Health Services Corp programs. The facility qualifies for both programs since it is located in a Health Professional Shortage area as well as a Medically Underserved Area. Recruitment of new physicians or mid-levels will ensure the continuity of health care for the community.

Board Approval

This report was prepared for the Eureka Community Health Services Avera Board of Trustees and approves the Implementation Strategy for addressing findings and recommendations identified in the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment.

Eureka Community Health Services Avera Board of Trustees Approval:

Wayne Lutz President
By Name and Title

May 31, 2016
Date