

Eureka Community Health Services

Avera 

2019

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 90 years and is committed to responding to the community's ever-changing health care needs.

Eureka Community Health Services Avera is a four-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. Hospital discharge totals range from 55 to 95 annually at the Eureka hospital and approximately 93 percent of the hospital's admissions are from McPherson County. The service area includes the towns of Eureka, Leola, and Long Lake. The hospital also serves a portion of Campbell County, in which the community of Herreid resides. Although predominately Caucasian, there are subgroup populations of Native Americans, Blacks, Filipinos, and Hispanics. There are also three Hutterite Colonies within the county as well. McPherson County also holds the distinction of being one of the South Dakota counties with the highest population over the age of 65. This in itself presents a few unique challenges.

Implementation Strategy Process

Data collection for the Eureka Hospital's community Health Needs Assessment began in the fall of 2018. 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, business owners, farmers/ranchers, clergy members, school teachers, law enforcement, medical providers, and hospital board trustees.

Questions used for the primary data collection were as follows:

- What do you view as strengths of your community?
- What are some of the things you see lacking in your community?
- What challenges have people you know faced in getting or staying healthy?
- Which of these challenges/needs is the most important?
- In what ways 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?
- Any additional health care comments from 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:

- Recruitment of Providers
- Heart Disease prevention/education
- Recruitment of EMTs

Action Plans

1. Recruitment of Providers

Recruitment will begin for another MD and/or PA due to both current physicians are past retirement age and one has semi-retired while the second would like to retire within the next year. 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.

2. Education and prevention of Heart Disease

Offer more and/or host preventive screening opportunities (Screening America: Stroke screening and Young Hearts screening) in the community about heart disease. Articles on heart disease will also be included periodically in the Health Happenings section of the local newspaper. Information regarding heart disease will be presented on the radio "Eureka Show". The Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase 2 and 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. Continued recruitment of EMTs with First Responder Classes and EMT courses via video conference

in the hospital conference room.

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 Pres.
By Name and Title

4-23-19
Date