



2022 Avera Gettysburg DBA Avera Missouri River Health Center

Community Health Needs Assessment

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”.

In December 2020, operations began in the new 7-bed critical access hospital and clinic, made possible by many generous gifts from the community. Of the 12 million dollar project, over 3 million was funded by the local community members. The new healthcare center, now doing business as (dba) Avera Missouri River Health Center (AMRHC), includes both the hospital and clinic. The clinic includes six exam rooms and two procedure rooms, with access to new telemedicine services. Visiting providers offering obstetrical and surgical specialties continued with the opening of the new facility. Since August 2021, pain management and podiatry services have also been added to the list of visiting providers. The hospital offers seven beds, including two private and two semi-private rooms along with one isolation room. The emergency department consists of one trauma room, one treatment room, both with access to Avel eEmergency Care services, and one high level procedure room used for outpatient and specialty services. There is direct access to a new ambulance garage and decontamination room, as well as a helipad, which was completed in spring 2021. Also included are state-of-the-art lab and imaging departments with new equipment and capabilities to perform more tests in-house. The facility also includes a new therapy gym for physical and occupational therapies and doubles as a wellness center for staff after hours, with the goal to open for community use as soon as safe to do so in regard to COVID-19. A meditation room is also available to patients, family and friends for prayer and reflection.

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 Missouri River Health Center (7-beds), Avera Oahe Manor, and Avera Oahe Villa Independent 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, SD; Avera Queen of Peace Hospital in Mitchell, SD; Avera St. Mary’s Hospital in Pierre, SD; Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center in Sioux Falls, SD; Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD; and Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center in Marshall, MN.

Avera Gettysburg adheres to Avera’s mission: Avera is a health ministry rooted in the Gospel. Our mission is to make a positive impact in the lives and health of persons and communities by providing quality services guided by Christian values. The core values of compassion, hospitality, and stewardship guide Avera employees in their daily work.

I. Community Served by the Hospital

Avera Gettysburg dba AMRHC defines its primary service area as Potter County, which includes Gettysburg, Tolstoy, and Lebanon communities, with 90 percent of its admissions consistently coming from Potter County. Hoven, Tolstoy and Lebanon are the other three main communities, outside of the largest community, Gettysburg, within the county, that are located in the 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 hospital has taken into consideration all members of Potter County regardless of socio-economic status. According to the 2019 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Potter County is home to 2,253 residents. Gettysburg has the only hospital and nursing home facility in Potter County.

Population by Age

	Potter County
Under 5	157; 6.78%
6-18	342; 14.8%
18-44	532; 23%
45-64	601; 26%
65-74	321; 13.9%
75+	300; 13%
	Total – 2,253
Median Age	49.2

United States Census Bureau – 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Population by Race

Total population	2,253
White	2,118
Black or African American	14
American Indian and Alaska Native	59
Asian	18
Some other race	44

United States Census Bureau – 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Total Number of Uninsured

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
10%	6%	11%

County Health Rankings 2021

Median Household Income

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
\$57,120	\$67,521	\$59,896

Census.gov 2020

Unemployment

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
3.2%	2.6%	3.3%

County Health Rankings 2021

Children in Poverty

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
15%	10%	15%

County Health Rankings 2021

High School Completion

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
93%	94%	92%

County Health Rankings 2021

The local economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, tourism, and basic services.

II. Community Health Needs Assessment Process

During 2020 and 2021, a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was conducted by Avera Gettysburg for the approximately 2,253 people of Potter County. The hospital collected both primary and secondary data throughout the assessment process.

Primary data included a community focus group and survey, and secondary data included below:

Physical Inactivity

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
31%	26%	32%

County Health Rankings 2021

Access to Exercise Opportunities

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
58%	91%	74%

County Health Rankings 2021

Aging Population

621 or nearly 28% of the county's population is 65 years of age or older. There is one long term care facility and independent living facility in the county. There is not a transitional housing option like an assisted living center where older individuals who need assistance with some activities of daily living (ADL's) can go. The current independent living houses only six, one-bedroom apartments, and the long-term care center, although certified for 53 beds, can only staff 35 available beds. Capacity is limited in both facilities for the aging in the community. Community services that add an extra layer of support for older individuals still living at home are limited.

Mental Health

Mental health services are limited in Potter County. Outside of our one licensed counselor who resides in Gettysburg, individuals must travel outside the county to receive in-person consultation with a mental health provider. We have seen an increase in the number of patients who present to the emergency department who are needing a behavioral health assessment.

	Behavioral Health Encounters to Total eEmergency Encounters
2019	2 of 85
2020	3 of 82
2021	15 of 81; 18.5%
2022 as of 4.6.22	5 of 20; 25%

Mental Health Providers

Potter County	U.S.	South Dakota
2,150:1	270:1	530:1

County Health Rankings 2021

Following the focus group, an electronic survey was sent to members of the groups listed above, as well as school officials, other community business leaders, and employees of the healthcare campus. The key focus areas were identified from themes written and discussed during the focus group and from written survey responses. Many themes identified were still pertinent from the CHNA last completed in 2019. Those living in Potter County are engaged members of this community, and live here for a reason. We want to see small communities throughout South Dakota stay relevant, in order to continue to attract talent back. The healthcare facility is the largest employer in town. There was an overwhelming sense of gratitude from those who attended the focus group, with the completion of the new healthcare facility, commenting on the sustainability this has brought to keeping people local, including care needs. Much of the discussion was focused on the healthcare campus, and the desire to now start tackling the many needs that the aging long term care and independent facilities have, but a large focus of conversations was also had outside the healthcare campus, within the city, and an overall desire for all to seek healthier, more active lives, especially during the long winter months. We discussed the heavy need to repair the aged city pool. Fundraising efforts and planning committees were created from the focus group, on how we can start working on a community recreation center.

An overwhelming amount of responses on the survey were focused around our aging population in the county and the limited services that are available to them. There were several factors mentioned that contribute to their health declining, such as no indoor facility for them to exercise in the winter months, meal service to homes, limited home health services, cost of long term care, lack of assisted living center, socialization opportunities, and safe and affordable transportation options.

There had been no written comments received on the 2019 CHNA posted on the Avera Gettysburg website and widely available in hard copies.

IV. Prioritized Significant Community Health Needs

The prioritization process was done by the hospital administration and other healthcare professionals, along with community members serving on the new healthcare facility's fundraising committee, all of whom are highly engaged with the community and general community health needs. The 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.

Based on the results of this assessment, Avera Gettysburg will work to address the following identified significant community health needs:

- Increase community wellness, specifically through a new recreation center
- Care for the elderly and aging population
- Secure more mental health services

Other topics that came forward through the assessment processes but were not found evident or impactful enough to focus on:

- COVID-19 concerns including noncompliance by community and vaccination and booster rates
- Housing options that are available for new people moving to the community, safe and affordable, and assistive to the aging population

- Workforce concerns in how we will continue to keep the healthcare campus, local EMS service, and home health and hospice services adequately staffed, including recruitment of a doctor of medicine (MD) and registered nurses to the community
- Healthy eating options including access to fresh produce at the local grocery store, more restaurants with healthy food options, nutrition classes, and healthy snack options for staff on the healthcare campus

V. Potentially Available Resources

The community members of Potter County are extremely involved and come together to get the job done, whatever the need is. Engagement is a vital resource that will be needed as we work together over the next three years to make an impact on the three focus areas identified. Business leaders in the county are willing and able to contribute their time, resources and product where necessary.

- To address the significant need for increasing community wellness, The City of Gettysburg is committed to improving the outdoor pool and either remodeling or fixing it, or contributing the funds that would be used to do this, to put toward a new recreation center for community use. GIA is a group of young, motivated, community members who seek projects to make the community better. They will continue to be utilized and partnered with to seek improvements for more exercise and involvement opportunities for all ages in the county.
- To address the significant needs for the aging population, there is opportunity to partner with a local family who owns several properties and community businesses, and is a large donor of the new healthcare facility, who wants to see improvements to the county, including safe and affordable housing options for the aging and elderly. This could include the support of capital to improve our long term care and independent living facilities. There is also opportunity to partner with the local senior center to better provide engaging activities for our aging population in the community.
- To address the significant need for more mental health care services, we will work to continue to better partner with are our e-services, including the use of eBehavioral Health, eEmergency, and access to psychiatrists through telemedicine consults. Relationships with surrounding area mental health providers could also work to be improved upon.

VI. Evaluation of Impact

Identified in the 2019 CHNA were three main goals – to build and open a new healthcare facility with expanded services, specifically mammography services, increase organized wellness programs including walking and biking trails, and to strengthen home care and hospice options. Updates on all three are seen below:

- a. The opening of the new healthcare facility is of great achievement for our county. The expansion of new services will continue to be explored. Even through the COVID-19 pandemic, two new services were brought to the healthcare center, as mentioned previously, pain management and podiatry outreach, each one day per month.

Orthopedic and wound care services are still being explored, among others.

Included in the new healthcare center build, is the addition of a dedicated parking pad and proper electrical connection for the Avera mobile mammography truck, just off the clinic,

for easy access to patients and staff. Services are provided once per month. The bone density scan (DEXA) truck visits once per month as well, and also utilizes the parking pad.

- b. The goal for overall increased wellness programs offered in the community continues to be a focus for Potter County. The feasibility of a walking and bike trail continues to be worked on by the Economic Development Committee as well as Gettysburg City Council. Summer of 2021 brought a change to the main highway through Gettysburg, changing from a three-lane to a two-lane, with the addition of a sidewalk on both the north and south sides. The goal is to create a historic path through town, incorporating the new highway sidewalk, to create a 2 mile loop. There is also great work happening on planning for a new pool/recreation center for the community. A representative from Avera Gettysburg continues to be a member of both committees.

Access for the general public to the healthcare facility's wellness center has not yet been implemented, due to the risk of spreading COVID-19 and the enforcement of the general public masking while using the space. Work to offer this need to the community will continue to be evaluated.

The goal to get healthcare professionals, including a dietician, out into the community to provide education certainly still exists. COVID-19 safety and staffing challenges have impeded on the progress of this goal. We do have plans to host a health fair this summer 2022.

- c. Since the 2019 CHNA, Avera@Home has started servicing Potter County providing home care and hospice services to those in the community and contracted for providing hospice services in the Avera Oahe Manor nursing home.

Due to staff challenges over the last year, Avera@Home has had to limit growth of services to patients. There is room for growth and improvement in the community and nursing home.

This report was prepared to be approved and adopted at the June 16, 2022 Avera Gettysburg Governing Board meeting.

DATE ADOPTED BY AUTHORIZED BODY OF HOSPITAL: June 16, 2022

NOTE: While this template is consistent with IRS regulations it should not be considered tax or legal advice. It is provided for educational purposes.

Consult IRS regulations at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-30525> for details regarding how to define the community being assessed, from whom the hospital should solicit input, what the input should inform, and how to make the CHNA widely available. The regulations also provide guidance for hospitals that want to conduct collaborative or joint assessments with other hospitals or organizations.