

Eureka Community Health Services

Avera

2022

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Carmen Weber, Administrator /Connie Woehlhaff, RN CHNA Coordinator

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 72 to 97 annually at the Eureka hospital and approximately 90 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 2021. 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 health care services are most important to you?
- What is the most pressing health related need facing our community or you and your family?
- What do you view as strengths of health and wellbeing in our community?
- If you could change one aspect of health care in McPherson County, what it be and why?

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
- Technology enhancements building on e-consult
- Education on health care services

Action Plans

1. Recruitment of Providers

Recruitment will begin for another PA due to one physician has retired and the current part-time physician will be moving to only a supervisory role of the mid-levels and cardiac rehab as of 8/1/22. 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. Technology enhancements building on e-consult. Providers will review Avera specialty doctor list quarterly to ensure all doctors they wish are credentialed through CVS for the facility so they are able to do e-consult with patients from the community. Accessibility of these doctors through e-consult will be promoted within the community.

3. Education on Health Care Services – education on services and special events at the facility to the community via Valley Channel, Facebook and the Wanda Show. Facility will develop new brochures or magnets with services offered at the facility listed to hand out at community events. Monthly article in the paper in regards to health and what services are available at the facility. The facility will also participate in South Dakota's Week of work with high school students.

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

By Name and Title

3-29-22

Date