



## **Community Health Needs Assessment 2019 Efforts in Addressing the Significant Needs Identified in 2016 CHNA**

The 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by the Stevens Community Medical Center (SCMC) identified a wide range of current issues in the county, as well as the residents' and community leaders' concerns for the future. Included in those are the various needs of the aging population, adequate resources for addressing mental health issues, continuing access to healthcare providers in rural Minnesota, as well as obesity and lifestyle choices which negatively impact a person's health and wellbeing.

### **1. Mental Health – need for more services and resources**

In September 2019, SCMC behavioral medicine clinic added Rebecca Rogholt, APRN, CNS Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist to staff. Two of SCMC's mental health providers participated in the Day at Home event held in Alexandria, Minnesota in the fall of 2019. Several representatives from the Minnesota Legislature were present to hear the concerns/needs of both mental health professionals and consumers. SCMC was successful in obtaining the services of a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist from the beginning of 2019 to October of 2019. We also participated in the 2019 Stevens County Health Fair, educating the public about the various services available at SCMC to address behavioral health concerns.

### **2. Access to Health Care Providers:**

In January 2019, SCMC hired board-certified Dermatology Nurse Practitioner, Risa Dorweiler, who is able to treat and prescribe therapies and medications for a wide range of dermatological conditions. SCMC has successfully added two nurse practitioners in the urgent care department. Nikki Rath and Kellianne Kim started in the summer of 2019. In September 2019, through a partnership with St. Cloud Hospital Stroke Center, SCMC began providing Telestroke services to patients. Telestroke uses video conferencing technology to allow a stroke neurologist from St. Cloud Hospital Stroke Center to evaluate a patient in another hospital, view diagnostic scans and recommend treatment. This saves valuable time and provides faster treatment to patients.

### **3. Transportation:**

SCMC continues to cover the cost of transit for area residents to travel to SCMC for appointments using either the Morris Transit or Rainbow Rider services. Signage and a phone were added to the front entrance to help assist patients and guests to contact local transportation.

### **4. Health Impact for Poor Lifestyle choices:**

In 2019, SCMC again sponsored the annual Fall into Health free event where the primary goal was to communicate the importance of healthy choices to our community, with all ages welcome. We offered

access to free lab tests, flu shots, a free community (healthy) meal, many information booths staffed by SCMC and community members promoted healthy choices. 150 people participated in the lab tests, 60 in the flu shots and 400 enjoyed the healthy free meal. SCMC also provided three breakout sessions to the public during the Fall into Health event including mental health, nutrition and dermatology.

SCMC created an internal committee that is committed to sustainability initiatives to better our community. Through research and community partnership we establish practices that reduce our environmental impact. This information is shared with 300 employees at SCMC and the public coming into SCMC. We have reduced plastic waste, Styrofoam cups and established additional recycle bins throughout the building.

SCMC joined the movement to increase the legal purchasing age of tobacco products to 21. Dr. Huikko, our Chief of Staff, spoke to county board members and was instrumental in getting this to pass in Stevens County.

In November 2019, SCMC provided education and low dose cancer screening for those eligible that includes patients ages 55-77 and significant tobacco users.