



Community Health Needs Assessment 2022 Efforts in Addressing the Significant Needs Identified in 2019 CHNA

The 2019 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 issues are increased transportation options for the population. This includes transportation options that can serve patients outside of the Morris city limits and patients that require non-ambulatory transport after regular weekday business hours, the lack of child care options available, and the lack of an online central community communication hub for events and updates.

1. 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. We added a transportation service called Julia's Place that will provide transport from the city of Hancock to Morris and outside of the Stevens County line into Swift County. Julia's Place can bill MA which allows for more payment flexibility in patient transport. The SCMC marketing department has added links directly to the SCMC website to enable patients with transportation options and gain access to transportation resources.

2. Child Care

In June of 2021 a representative of SCMC attended the meeting hosted by the Stevens County Board of Commissioners. State funds had recently been awarded to Stevens County by the federal American Rescue Act 2021 for the Commissioners to allocate to community programs. SCMC commented during the meeting that they support the effort for increasing child care capacity and would like to see funds allocated to this area of need. Specifically, Kerrie McEvelly, CEO of SCMC issued a letter to the commissioners with the request for them to fund the Hancock community child care center building plans, allow for grant request proposals to be submitted by current care providers for their needs, and for the commissioners to provide funding for a local provider recruitment program. To date \$50,000 has been allocated and awarded in the form of an RFP for local daycare providers to directly apply grant funds to their daycare businesses in the form of structural upgrades, site improvements, and training reimbursements. Ongoing county daycare subcommittee meetings continue and focus on the remaining funds being used for a new construction build that will increase daycare capacity in Stevens County. This structure is hopeful to be in operation and occupied by independent providers in 2023.

3. Community Communications.

SCMC collaborated with the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce and the Stevens County Building Resilience committee to apply for a community resilience initiative micro grant. We received the grant and hired a student to perform the necessary work for building out a communication tool. This project has resulted in a community calendar for all individuals in Stevens County to post meetings and events as well as a community resource page. This tool is active and is being used by SCMC to promote its classes, activities, and current events. A promotional magnet was designed and purchased with remaining grant funds to communicate out the resource to community members. The magnets are available for free at community social events, the Morris Chamber, and Horizon Public Health buildings. In addition, SCMC launched a new website in April of 2021 that hosts a facility calendar which is continually updated to include all community impacting events. Since 2019 a strategic effort has been made to utilize the SCMC Facebook page to promote all COVID communications, facility updates, job postings, and community sponsored events. The page has over 5000 followers to date that can receive the communication. Increased awareness is being brought directly to the business community by having a hospital representative participate in The Chamber Connection group activities hosted by the Morris Area Chamber. This outlet gives SCMC the opportunity to speak directly to the business leaders of our community and provide updates on the community health needs strategic plan and responses from our facility. This includes updates on providers, equipment, services, and employment opportunities.

The CHNA report is available free in paper copy by requesting it from SCMC, Community Outreach.