



Community Health Needs Assessment

2024 Efforts in Addressing the Significant Needs Identified in 2022 CHNA

The 2022 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. The issues identified included improving access to care in our healthcare facility, collaborating to provide health education to our community, and making healthy lifestyles accessible to the community as a whole. It was decided these issues are a priority to serving the patients in the community. Each of these priorities will also focus on "addressing language barriers and expanding cultural awareness" into each of these health priorities explained in this document.

1. Improving access to care.

In 2024 SCMC took the following action to advance improving access to care:

1. SCMC hired a general surgeon and a psychologist who both started in January 2024, and two family medicine with obstetrics doctors who started in September 2024. An additional bilingual nurse for the clinic was hired in January of 2024. SCMC filled a full-time Dermatologist position that was open due to a retirement beginning in June of 2024 and hired a full-time optometrist in September of 2024 who took over the position of a retiring optometrist.
2. SCMC also hired an additional nurse practitioner at the Starbuck Clinic location that started in April of 2024.
3. SCMC recruited a Family Medicine physician with OB who signed a contract to start summer of 2026 with C-Section experience.
4. We have added several ED providers with an almost full roster. With the New ED now open, recruiting will be easier.
5. SCMC created a clinic RN position to offload some of the administrative duties of the Primary Care Providers (medication refills, My Chart messages, nursing home admit paperwork) so they can focus more on patient care.
6. We have gotten 2 medical on-call providers certified in CALS and one more is scheduled to be certified in near future.
7. A Spanish telephone prompt was implemented to the phone system.
8. The SCMC Same-Day-Clinic implemented in fall of 2023 was good for the community and helped with access to care. It was staffed by a locum provider for one year until the

two new family medicine with obstetrics providers started in September 2024. Since then, we have been working to build up their patient bases.

2. Collaborating to provide health education to our community.

In 2024, SCMC took the following actions to advance collaborating to provide health education to our community:

1. On November 4, 2024, SCMC hosted the annual Fall into Health event. Fall into Health is a health-inspired event providing free lab draws, a free community meal, and health-related booths to educate the community. Breakout sessions were provided on topics in Dermatology, High Blood Pressure, Concussion Therapy and Dementia. In addition, 168 screening labs for glucose, hemoglobin, vitamin D, and cholesterol were completed free of charge, 407 complimentary meals were served, 66 flu shots were given and 39 vendors participated in the event, including 18 internal SCMC services. Spanish interpretation services were provided free of charge by SCMC for the Spanish speaking community in Stevens County. SCMC also received an award in September of 2024 in Community Benefits from the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) for their work done with the Fall into Health event. SCMC learned at the MHA awards that SCMC is the only health organization that puts on a large-scale health expo of this kind.
2. SCMC received a grant for opioid addiction reduction for \$72K. An SCMC family medicine physician did complete training on suboxone in April 2024. In addition, eight staff from the SCMC Behavioral Medicine department completed training in May 2024 that also included an additional therapist who went back to school to become a drug and alcohol addiction counselor. In addition, both advanced practice therapists will receive the suboxone training.
3. SCMC started suboxone clinic program planning that ties in with the above grant. The clinic is on hold until necessary staff is trained. We are researching the “town model” that others have implemented. Two additional Family Practice physicians were trained, but additional training may be necessary. Grant is available to reapply in 2025.
4. The SCMC Emergency Department has given out four Naloxone kits (NAP) kits since the program started at SCMC in late fall of 2023.

3. Making healthy lifestyles accessible to the community as a whole.

In 2024, SCMC took the following actions to advance making healthy lifestyles accessible to the community as a whole:

1. SCMC continues to provide annual monetary support for the Food Drop program. In addition they also provide staff volunteers to help at the one-day a month event that

takes place during the June-August months. Total people served in June was 885, July was 929 and August was 900.

2. SCMC planned a free 2K/5K walk/run on Thanksgiving (Turkey Trot). The event brought in 95 people. In addition to the free event \$488 in free will donations and 63 pounds of non-perishable food was collected and donated to the local Stevens County Food Shelf. In addition to the Turkey Trot, SCMC helps sponsor monetarily to six other Summer & Fall community organized races and physical activities (ie. Chokio Free Swim, RUSC Kinship Magic Mile & 5K, Donnelly Dash, Hancock 4th of July 5K, Starbuck Kids Fun Run, and the UMM Tinman Triathlon).
3. SCMC also collaborated with the local 4-H Extension office for the second year to provide education at the local farmers market. In the summer of 2024, SCMC provided support for kids to attend a 6-week educational program. Topics covered were: where does our food come from, how we use many parts of plants and animals, assembling a nourishing and energy-giving trail mix, creating seed blankets for planting seeds at home, matching seeds to the plants they create, and a food scavenger hunt with facts on each food they found at the market. Kids who participated in the activity for that week were then given tokens to use at the farmer's market that same day. Each coin was worth \$2 and in the 5 weeks 285 coins were used totaling \$570 that was invested back into local market vendors. Once again, collaborators said the program was such a success and it was agreed to do again the following summer.
4. In September 2024, SCMC once again partnered in a youth mentorship program with 3 SCMC staff participating in the monthly lunch buddy program organized by the community RUSC Kinship program. In addition, SCMC also sponsored and collaborated with RUSC Kinship for the 2nd year in a run/walk geared to kids with over 40 people, kids and adults who attended.
5. The Food Rx Program that was approved with a grant in October 2023 and started initial screening in December of 2023 with a focus on food insecurities made great headway in 2024. Food Rx boxes arrived in February of 2024 at SCMC and 73 boxes were given out during the 2024 year. Phase 2 (Produce Prescription) of the project started in August of 2024 with the collaboration of the local Food Shelf. SCMC staff contacted patients who had indicated food insecurities during their clinic visit and worked hours outside of their regular shift to distribute these boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meats. On average, 20 boxes were provided each month from August 2024-December 2024 to these participants. SCMC also received an award for their work on the Food Rx Program for Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) from the Minnesota Hospital Association in Spring of 2024.
6. SCMC provided a discounted rate on sports physicals for students in high school. We saw 35 patients during a 2-day clinic with evening hours in August of 2024.
7. SCMC coordinated two Blood Drives with the Red Cross in June and had a total of 32 donors.
8. SCMC participated at the local area middle school career day in November of 2024 with 7th and 8th graders. SCMC sent two staff, a Registered Nurse and a Radiologic/MRI

technologist, who spoke with students about healthcare and their roles in the medical field.

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