

2025 Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan

Introduction

Stevens Community Medical Center (SCMC) is a 25-bed not-for-profit critical access hospital located in Morris, Minnesota. In 2025, SCMC completed a Community Health Needs Assessment that involved numerous stakeholders and included secondary data metrics obtained through Horizon Public Health. Qualitative feedback was gathered from focus groups held in Morris, Chokio, and Hancock in October 2025.

Description of Community Served

Input was sought from individuals in the primary service area of Stevens, Pope, and Grant Counties. The assessment included 596 community health surveys and 24 focus group participants, including seniors, business representatives, healthcare providers, students, and minority groups.

Prioritized Health Needs

Following a review of quantitative data and community input, SCMC has identified the following three top health priorities to be addressed in the 2025 CHNA Implementation Plan:

1. **Mental and Behavioral Health**
2. **Access and Affordability of Care**
3. **Healthy Living Supports (Nutrition, Obesity, and Social Connection)**

CHNA Action Plans (2025–2028)

Health Priority 1: Mental and Behavioral Health

Goal: Expand access to mental health providers and reduce stigma through community education.

Key Actions	Leads / Partners	Resources Needed	Data / Measurement
<p>Expand Provider Access: Recruit additional mental & behavioral health providers for children and seniors.</p>	<p>SCMC Recruitment, Senior Leadership, SCMC Behavioral Medicine Dept.</p>	<p>Funding for recruitment</p>	<p>Number of new providers hired; Wait times for mental health appointments</p>
<p>Public Awareness: Launch campaigns to reduce stigma and increase education. Push out more social media (self-help), update resources on the SCMC website, cross-market these resources with campaigns, distribute self-help education in schools</p>	<p>Marketing Dept, Local Schools, Behavioral Medicine providers, Horizon Public Health (HPH)</p>	<p>Social media platforms; Educational materials</p>	<p>Analytics on social media reach; Participation in school programs</p>
<p>Crisis Collaboration: Offer education and resources to law enforcement, Horizon Public Health, UMM, ambulance, school and other community organizations during times of crisis or traumatic events. Ensure patients are aware of the SCMC Crisis line.</p>	<p>Social Services, Law Enforcement, Schools, Region 4 Crisis Team, Public Health, Ambulance</p>	<p>Behavioral Medicine staff time for this outreach</p>	<p>Number of community outreach interactions for crisis support.</p>

Health Priority 2: Access and Affordability of Care

Goal: Provide educational tools and resources to assist patients with financial concerns; improve access to all areas of care

Key Actions	Leads / Partners	Resources Needed	Data / Measurement
<p>Financial Transparency: Implement patient financial education and cost-transparency tools, offer patient tools on SCMC website (price transparency and pricing estimates), publicize the availability of these tools to the public</p>	<p>Patient Account Services and Patient Access</p>	<p>Consultant for price transparency, Marketing for website updates, staff education</p>	<p>Impressions and analytics of online pricing and estimate tools</p>
<p>Innovative Programs: Help patients understand governmental or other coverage opportunities they may be eligible for; assist with the application process as needed</p>	<p>Patient Account Services and Patient Access, Oncology Financial Navigator</p>	<p>Additional Staff training on patient financial opportunities for assistance</p>	<p>Number of patients receiving income-based discounts, number of MA applications with staff assistance provided, oncology tracking of co-pay discount programs utilized</p>
<p>Improve Access: Recruit providers as appropriate for primary care, behavioral medicine, and other specialties; implement scheduling strategies to improve access to various levels of care</p>	<p>SCMC leadership, Recruiters, Patient Access, Clinic Nurse Management, Providers, Nurses</p>	<p>Placement fees, collaboration on scheduling challenges, patient feedback</p>	<p>Track length of time to next available appointment for various types of services, net providers added</p>

Health Priority 3: Healthy Living Supports

Goal: Promote community wellness by addressing obesity, food insecurity, and social isolation.

Key Actions	Leads / Partners	Resources Needed	Data / Measurement
<p>Nutrition Access: Partner with community organizations to expand nutrition education and improve access to fresh and affordable foods. Continue support of the Food Rx Program in partnership with the local Food Shelf and explore sustainability options as grant funding ends. Support the Farmers Market Time to Sprout Program and community garden efforts that promote healthy eating. Continue to partner with the Food Drop Summer Program and provide staff/volunteer support at distribution events. Support additional local food pantries.</p>	<p>SCMC Dietitian; Horizon Public Health; Farmer’s Market; 4-H / U of M Extension; Stevens County Food Shelf; Local Farmers and/or vendors</p>	<p>Grant funding (SHIP); Staff volunteer time, utilize summer interns; Partnerships with local food vendors; Community garden resources</p>	<p>Participation in nutrition programs; Food insecurity screening data; Number of Food Rx participants; Community food distribution participation</p>
<p>Social Connection & Community Wellness: Collaborate on wellness activities that promote physical activity and community engagement. Support various walking programs year-round. Continue supporting activities and other community events that encourage social interaction and healthy lifestyles. Provide resources and opportunities to help reduce social isolation within our community.</p>	<p>SCMC Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, UMM/Regional Fitness Center Director, Farmers Market, Stevens County Humane Society, Senior Centers, other community partners</p>	<p>Community spaces; communication and marketing materials; sponsorship opportunities to provide fitness access for underprivileged</p>	<p>Number of participants in walking or wellness programs; Community engagement participation, dollars donated for sponsorships</p>

Commitment to Health Equity

SCMC is dedicated to achieving health equity by systematically collecting and analyzing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) data. We will use a standardized screening process to identify needs in housing, food security, and transportation, using these insights to target interventions for underserved populations.