

**COLORADO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS  
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY  
June 24, 2019**

In order to understand the health needs of Columbus County (Columbus), the Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) contacted Dr. Tina Fields and Dr. Jeff Hatala to perform a **Community Health Needs Assessment in 2016**. The consultants gathered existing data and information of the county from numerous secondary sources and worked with CCH to establish focus groups to learn the community's perception of the county's health status.

Based on the statistical data and feedback from the focus groups, the following accomplishments were achieved:

- 1. Recommendation:** Institute a Community Advisory Board that serves as a bridge between the hospital and the community.

*Plan: Continuing to meet with the Steering Committee consisting of City leaders, businesses and organization representatives. The committee is designed to bring leaders together and discuss ways of improving the community.*

- 2. Recommendation:** Repository of Immunization Information.

*Plan: The CCH Community Relations Coordinator continues to offer Medicare Recipients education on Part D Plans.*

*CCH has participated in the 1115 Waiver since its inception. Part of the DY7 measure is to report pneumococcal status for adults over 65.*

- 3. Recommendation:** Leverage Houston-area resources to help tackle the community's most notable health problems

*Plan: Houston Galveston Area Council has sponsored several health education classes such as diabetes, heart healthy and mobility for seniors.*

*The Nurse Practitioner at the clinic has implemented a chronic illness program to target patients with ongoing illness such as diabetes, hypertension, heart failure, etc.*

- 4. Recommendation:** Discuss possibility of serving as preceptor/training sites for another health-related career training.

*Plan:* Several of the CCH physicians have mentored nursing students, residents, medical students and high school students that are looking for a career path.

- 5. Recommendation:** Interventions targeted toward the African American and Hispanic communities need to be led by community members of that same race/ethnic background.

*Plan:* The TX Department of Health, TX Agriculture Extension Office and the Wesley Nurse sponsor a Women's Health Fair in Eagle Lake, TX. The event targets 90% Hispanic women and promotes healthy living.

*The CCH Director of Nursing continues to promote health education at the local African American Churches.*

- 6. Recommendation:** Market diabetes nutrition.

*Plan:* Columbus Community Hospital continues to offer Diabetes Classes to the public once a month. The classes are 4 hours and cover the basics of diabetes including monitoring, meal selections, compliance with medications and complications will be covered. This program is being offered as a community service at no charge for the patients and physician referral is not needed.

- 7. Recommendations:** Work with Texas Workforce Commission to identify ways to train local youth on skills that can lead to livable wages and local.

*Plan:* CCH offers scholarships for Allied Health Professionals.

*CCH Family Physicians partner with the Texas Statewide Preceptorship Program (TSPP), which is a unique educational partnership connecting volunteer members of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians to students from the eight Texas medical schools. The medical students work, usually for a month at a time, in the offices of experienced Texas family physicians. This exposure allows students to observe firsthand the challenges and satisfactions of*

*primary care physicians, and to examine Family Practice as a serious personal career option.*

*Columbus Community Hospital hosts the Zelda Allen School of Vocational Nursing Students for their clinical rotation. Students in the 12-month program learn how to provide basic bedside care to patients such as taking vital signs, applying dressings, helping patients with bathing and personal hygiene, administering prescribed medications, and participating in health care teaching. These graduates are then eligible to take the National Licensure Exam for Practical Nurses as approved by the Texas Board of Nursing.*

*Columbus Physical Therapy continues to sponsor students through the PT Program from the following schools: St. Augustine College, San Antonio; UTMB, Galveston; Texas State University, San Marcos; University of Texas, San Antonio. The students from the PTA Program are from the following schools: PIMA Community College, Blinn Jr. College; Wharton Jr. College. They also have students in the Pre-PT Program that observe in their clinic.*

**8. Recommendations:** Obesity is a concern expressed by all the focus groups. Addressing this will require education and attitude change.

**Plan:** *CCH, TX Ag Extension Agent, Wesley Nurse and the Dept. State Health Services continues to sponsor The Circus of Health held in July of each year. The event emphasizes childhood health topics such as obesity, dental hygiene and safety information.*

**9. Recommendations:** Consider allowing medical and other students to participate in a rural rotation to CCH.

**Plan:** *Columbus Medical Clinic continues to partner with the Texas Statewide Preceptorship Program (TSPP) offering medical students the opportunity to work with Family Medicine Physicians. The medical students work, usually a month at a time, in the offices of experienced members of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.*

**10. Recommendation:** Interventions-General. Interventions targeted toward the African American and Hispanic communities need to be led by community members of that same race/ethnic background.

**Plan:** CCH's Director of Nursing is instrumental in promoting Health Fairs in the African American Church's. Providing information on diabetes and educational material.

**11.Recommendation:** Repository of Community Information:  
Develop website or repository of community health events and resources.

**Plan:** CCH has a website with a current calendar for all events at the hospital. There is also a LED sign in front of the hospital for displaying information and events provided by the hospital. The Chamber has a website and LED sign on Walnut Street, which is a great source for advertising health events. The local radio station, KULM, also provides a resource for advertising health events and features a physician on their weekly health segment.

#### **OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

CCH continues to sponsor free prostate screenings during National Men's Health Week each year from Monday thru Friday in the Hospital Lab. In 2019, **150 men** received the free prostate screening.

The Circus of Health is an annual event and is held the third week in July. The sponsors include: CCH, TX Ag Extension Agent, Wesley Nurse and the Dept. State Health Services. Columbus Medical Clinic gives **free** backpacks to the elementary students. The backpacks are filled with school supplies, which are donated by the community. CCH employees volunteer their time to the event. Approximately **250 children and parents** participated in the event.

During February, which is American Heart Month, CCH offers **free** Coronary Risk Panel and A1C testing to the community. This event is another opportunity for the employees to volunteer and give back to the community. There were **324 people** tested in 2019.

CCH continues to offer free Thyroid Screening to the community. Approximately **380 people** were screened.

The Physicians from CCH give **free** physical examinations in May to CISD and St. Anthony's athletic departments.

*CCH continues to participate in the Safe Riders Traffic Safety Program, along with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Department of Transportation. Car seats were checked and when needed the participants were given a new car seat.*