

COLORADO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS  
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT  
May 2023

In order to understand the health needs of Colorado County the Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) contacted Dr. Jeff Hatala to perform a **Community Health Needs Assessment in 2022**. 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 is the implementation report:

1. **Recommendation: Continue to rebuild following COVID:**

*Plan: The community is rebounding to its normal activities following COVID. Patients are showing up in person for their appointments with their physician. The Hospital has eliminated the mask requirements for outpatient services. Visitors can now visit the patients in the Hospital without restrictions. CCH has introduced the free screenings, such as, Cholesterol and A1C, to the public which were halted during COVID. Employees are still required to have the COVID vaccine, if not, masking is mandatory.*

2. **Recommendation: Continue to work to develop the repository of community information, perhaps with one of the new organizations in town.**

*Plan: CCH is partnering with Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Texas A&M Agri Life, local Church's, Chamber of Commerce, KULM Radio, local Civic Clubs to develop a repository for community information.*

*CCH has a website, currently monitored by Groundswell Health (a marketing firm) with a current calendar for all events at the hospital. Groundswell is very helpful with monitoring "health analytics" to keep up the demand for offering information to the public.*

### 3. Recommendation: Mental Health

**Plan:** CCH continues to partner with TEXANA, the local mental health services department. TEXANA Center's Behavioral Healthcare (or Mental Health) Services provides assessment, treatment and supportive assistance to those affected by serious and persistent mental illness.

The Behavioral Health Task Force of Colorado County was organized in 2021. The team has provided resources for Behavioral Health issues to the health sector and the community. They were instrumental in the hiring of a County Mental Health Officer.

### 4. Recommendation: Diabetes


**Plan:** Since the completion of the Wellness Center on the CCH campus, CCH has made great strides in developing the Diabetes Programs. CCH received a Diabetes Prevention Program Grant from UTMB, which is a one-year program for individuals with Type 2 Diabetes. A class was also launched for the public to manage Gestational Diabetes.

CCH also gave free A1C screenings to the public in February 2023.

### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Opening new service line in October 2023 - Pulmonary Clinic and Pulmonary Rehab at the Wellness Center
- January 2023 began a three (3) month "Be Well Program" which offers classes in healthy eating, cooking and weight management. The program will begin again September 2023.
- Brought back the "Friends of CCH", offering educational health topics and socializing for the members
- Upon pending of the Wellness Fitness Center - new service lines were implemented: yoga, Pilates, water exercise, step classes and the indoor pool for individual exercising.
- Recruited Physicians and Nurse Practitioners for the Columbus Medical Clinic

- Recruiting Nurses and implementing the "Team Nursing" concept. Hired 11 new employees since January 2023 and decreasing the number of agencies. Recruited a new Director of Nursing and a Nursing Managers Team.
- Implementing the new Hospital Wide Health Stream program called "CERNER". (One year project to be completed by June 2024)
- Extended the Acute Care hours at Columbus Medical Clinic, giving patients options for early appointments.
- Received the Top 100 Rural Hospital in the Nation. CCH has received this award in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.



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Drew Lynch, CCH Board President  
May 18, 2023 - Board of Directors Meeting