

**COLORADO COUNTY  
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS  
IMPLEMENTATION REPORT  
APRIL 2025**

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.

Since the 2022 Assessment there has been the following demographic changes:

- Joan Huffman, TX Senator replaced TX Senator Lois Kolthorst
- Justin Linderman replaced Curly Wied as Sheriff of Colorado County
- Unemployment rate is 3.9%, compared to 4.7% in 2021
- Obesity rate is 40%, compared to 41.9% in 2022
- Physical activity - CCH opened a Wellness Center in 2023 that services physical therapy and a fitness center, giving the community an alternate source for better health. Currently the Wellness Center has over 700 members.

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, A1C and PSA to the public which were halted during COVID. The Hospital was able to return back to normal staffing. Presently there is only one Agency Nurse, compared to COVID when it was at its peak, there were approximately 15 Agency Nurses.*

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 partnered with a webmaster and Lucky Dog Analytics to help with monitoring "health analytics" to keep up the demand for offering information to the public.

Facebook and the CCH website, [www.columbusch.com](http://www.columbusch.com) is the primary source for messaging. It can introduce new information with far less effort than the monumental advertising campaigns.

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.

Gratia Plena a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization which offers clinical mental health counselling, has a visiting suite at the Columbus Medical Clinic. This service benefits the community as Gratia Plena can also provide psychiatric medication to their patients, since they have a physician overseeing prescriptions.

4. **Recommendation: Diabetes**

**Plan:** Since the completion of the Wellness Center on the CCH campus, CCH has made great strides in developing Diabetes Management & Prevention Programs.

CCH received a Diabetes Prevention Program Grant from UT Health Houston, which is a one-year program for individuals with Pre-Diabetes, to prevent them from becoming Type II Diabetics.

A class was also launched for the public to educate women diagnosed with Gestational Diabetes how to manage this disease process. This program offered services for 6 participants.

CCH also offers free Hg A1C screenings to the public in February annually.

CCH had a November 20, 2024, Diabetic Conference bringing in guest speakers to speak on the Management & Prevention of Type II Diabetes. Over 110 people were in attendance.

CCH's Dietician offers free Gestational Diabetes to pregnant women delivering at the hospital. CCH is the only hospital delivering babies in a 45-mile radius.

#### **OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Completed a 3-year construction project at CCH, included the following:

- **Hospital**
  - a. Added: 6 beds to P.A.C.U., 6 beds to intake, 2 OR rooms, a YAG room for ophthalmology procedures, storage room, central sterile, physician lounge and staff breakroom. Relocated the surgery waiting room next to the cafeteria and added a consult room.
  - b. Renovated the OB department: added a procedure area, a consult room, OB/Manager's office, isolation nursery and doctors' dictation room, along with Expanding the nursery,
  - c. Relocated materials management and pharmacy
  - d. Replaced flooring throughout the hospital
  - e. Painted throughout
  - f. ER - added an ED room with 2 beds, renovated the waiting room and isolation room, added a decontamination shower, new EMS entrance. Updated trauma bays and nurse's station.
  - g. Mechanical Room - new generator, chiller, steam boiler and upgraded the water service

- h. Replaced the roof and HVAC system
- i. Added parking lots: +61 parking and +71 staff parking spaces
- j. Renovated and added signage
- k. Remodeled - new photos and furniture
- l. New canopies at the ER entrance and EMS
- m. Extended the lab and renovated the entire suite making the waiting room larger.
- n. Relocated and expanded the Chappel
- o. Renovated and added a dining room to the cafeteria
- p. Added an Atrium Conference Room
- q. Upgraded IMU, Nurses station, med room, Respiratory Therapy, Sleep Study, Staffing lounge, nurses' storage and Physical Therapy rooms.
- r. Upgraded and renovated the north wing of the hospital
- s. Installed new handrails
- t. Added an employee entrance and hallway

## **2. Professional Building**

- a. Added a vestibule
- b. Renovated building: new flooring, wall cover, roof, and elevator

## **3. Wellness Center - completed July 2023**

- a. New Physical Therapy area - over 2,000 visits a month
- b. Pool, accommodates PT patients and Fitness Center members
- c. Community Room
- d. Fitness Center
- e. Demonstration Kitchen
- f. Orthopedic Suite

*Note: The Wellness Fitness Center offers yoga, pilates, water exercise, step classes and the indoor pool for individual exercising. Approximately 700+ members!*

## **4. Columbus Medical Clinic**

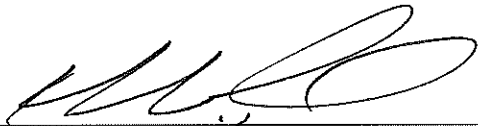
- a. Moved the PT offices to the Wellness Center
- b. Renovated the existing physical therapy clinic and added physician offices.
- c. Second floor - added physician offices and a visiting suite for physicians.
- d. Updated and added an additional waiting area and registration to the lobby.

**Campus Wide:**

- Added 3D Mammography, Ultra Sound, Nuclear Medicine machines to the Radiology Department. Radiology has shown increased volume due to the physician recruiting and closure of St. Mark's Medical in LaGrange, TX. Nuclear Med stress test numbers have increased.
- Increased volume in out-patient infusions, over 200 encounters a month
- Increased volume in the OB Department, over 45 deliveries a month
- CCH Laboratory - Installed the Roche Cobas Pro Intergrated System (Chemistry 503 and Immunoassay 801) and the Hematology Ssymex XN-10.
- Opened a new service line in October 2023 - Carl Dahlberg, M.D., Pulmonologist and Ashrah Allahwala, MD., Internal Medicine
- Mohsen Aboelella, M.D., Pediatrician started September 2024. This is a much-needed service line for CCH to provide, since the clinic has been without a Pediatrician for 2 years.
- Michael Henderson, Cardiologist, started his practice on April 15, 2025. Bringing a full-time Cardiologist to Columbus Medical Clinic has been a much-needed service. There are visiting Cardiologists that have practices and they will work together with each other to provide transfers and Cardiac Interventionalist practices as well.
- Hired Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants for the Columbus Medical Clinic and Orthopedic Clinics.
- Recruited Nurses and implemented the "Team Nursing" concept. Hospital is fully staffed.
- Implemented a new Hospital Wide Health Stream program called "CERNER", September 2024.

- *Extended the Acute Care hours at Columbus Medical Clinic (7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), giving patients options for early appointments.*
- *Extended service lines such as: Cardiology, Urology, Dermatology, Oncology, ENT's, Maternal Health, Speech Therapy and Mental Health from outside groups.*
- *The CCH Nurse Managers and Radiology Manager have been steadily recruiting by visiting different Job Fairs such as Victoria College School of Nursing, Victoria College, Houston Community College, Katy Workforce, Columbus HS, Weimar HS, Schulenburg HS and Sealy Job Fair.*
- *Held a Conference in October 2024 to educate the public on Managed Care Insurance Plans. The physicians wrote a letter to explain some of the challenges that people face on selected insurance plans.*

*Houston Galveston on Aging Counsel came on-site during open enrollment and assisted people in choosing an appropriate health plan for their specific needs.*



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Drew Lynch, CCH Board President

April 24, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting