





St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy Fiscal years 2016-2019

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that was adopted by the Board of Directors on May 16, 2016. STMSHH performed the CHNA in adherence with certain federal requirements for not-for-profit hospitals set forth in the Affordable Care Act and by the Internal Revenue Service. The assessment took into account input from representatives of the community, community members, and various community organizations.

The complete CHNA report is available electronically at <http://www.stmaryssacredheart.org/about-us/mission-and-values/community-benefit/>, or printed copies are available at St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital.

Hospital Information and Mission Statement

Sacred Heart Hospital is located in Franklin County in the city of Lavonia but also considers Hart County in its primary service area. Franklin County has a total land area of 262 square miles, while Hart County's land area is 232 square miles. Franklin County has a population of 22,048 and Hart County, which borders Franklin County, has a population of 25,217. The surrounding areas in Franklin are diverse as far as population of rural and urban areas. Carnesville and Martin are less populated than Royston and Canon. The population distribution in Franklin County among rural and urban areas is 11.1 percent urban and 88.9 rural. In Hart County 25.5 percent of the population is urban and 74.5 percent is rural. Only .9 percent of Franklin County's land area is urban while 99.1 percent is rural. In Hart County 2.7 percent of the land is urban and 97.3 percent is rural. The city of Hartwell is the most populated part of the County.

Mission

We, St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital and Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.

Health Needs of the Community

The CHNA conducted in 2015/2016 identified 10 significant health needs within the St. Mary's Health Care System community. Those needs were then prioritized based on the reaction and reflection to the following questions: What is the severity or prevalence in your community? Is this a health need you can address? Do you have the needed expertise, resources, and partners? Are you already addressing this need? And do you have the ability to make and show impact? The 10 significant health needs identified, in order of priority include:

HIV/AIDS & STD's	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Despite the fact that fewer people are being screened for HIV in the region than in the state, both HIV and chlamydia prevalence are increasing in the hospital service area over time.
Cerebrovascular Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regionally, there was a 32% increase in ER visits for stroke since 2013, speaking to the need for greater community-based prevention strategies targeted at the primary risk factors for stroke.
Access to Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The region lacks adequate and affordable healthcare options in the areas of primary, dental, and mental health, especially for those without adequate insurance.
Diabetes & Obesity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Franklin Co. 38 % of population is overweight and 26% are obese. In Hart Co. 48% of population is overweight and 29% are obese.• Additionally, there is inadequate access to healthy foods and decreasing access to recreational and fitness facilities across the region.
Cardiovascular Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• #1 Cause of death in both Franklin and Hart Counties.
Cancers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant race-based cancer mortality disparities were documented in this region.
Respiratory Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Franklin Co. has a higher rate of asthma and lung disease mortality than at the state and national level.• Hart Co. has a higher rate of asthma and smoking prevalence than at the state and national level.
Mental Health & Substance Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The region suffers from a severe lack of mental health providers and is a federally designated mental health provider shortage area.
Injury Prevention & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poisonings, including alcohol and unintentional drug overdoses, account for a significant portion of preventable deaths in the region.• Similar to the state and nation, motor vehicle crashes account for more deaths in young males than other groups.
Maternal & Infant Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both Franklin Co. and Hart Co. are above the nation average in teen births and low birth rate.

Hospital Implementation Strategy

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital resources and overall alignment with the hospital's mission, goals and strategic priorities were taken into consideration of the significant health needs identified through the most recent CHNA process.

Significant health needs to be addressed

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital will focus on developing and/or supporting initiatives and measure their effectiveness, to improve the following health needs:

- **Access to Care** – Detailed need specific Implementation Strategy on pages 4-6.
- **Cerebrovascular Health, Cardiovascular Health, and Diabetes & Obesity** – Detailed need specific Implementation Strategy on pages 7-10.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health** – Detailed need specific Implementation Strategy on pages 11-13.

Significant health needs that will not be addressed

St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital acknowledges the wide range of priority health issues that emerged from the CHNA process, and determined that it could effectively focus on only those health needs which it deemed most pressing, under-addressed, and within its ability to influence. STMSHH will not take action on the following health need:

- **HIV/AIDS & STD's** – STMSHH: The local Public Health Department is addressing this need in the community. Sacred Heart hospital provides referrals.
- **CANCER** – STMSHH: The hospital does not have the resources to become an oncology practice; however, screening is available at the hospital.
- **RESPIRATORY HEALTH** – STMSHH: More information is needed to be able to address the source of risk in the community.
- **INJURY PREVENTION & SAFETY** – STMSHH: The County Public Health Department provide car seats education as well as there is a new GA State Patrol Office that also provides safety education. Additionally, more information is needed to identify the injuries prevalent in the community.

This implementation strategy specifies community health needs that the Hospital has determined to meet in whole or in part and that are consistent with its mission. The Hospital reserves the right to amend this implementation strategy as circumstances warrant. For example, certain needs may become more pronounced and require enhancements to the described strategic initiatives. During the three years ending 2019, other organizations in the community may decide to address certain needs, indicating that the Hospital then should refocus its limited resources to best serve the community.

CHNA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FISCAL YEARS 2016-2019

HOSPITAL FACILITY:	St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital		
CHNA SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEED:	Access to Care		
CHNA REFERENCE PAGE:	Page 132	PRIORITIZATION #:	9

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NEED: The region lacks adequate and affordable healthcare options in the areas of primary, dental, and mental health, especially for those without adequate insurance.

GOAL: By June 30, 2019, increase access of needed services to local residents by decreasing the out-migration of patients to other facilities for services that are available at Sacred Heart Hospital.

OBJECTIVE: Increase community awareness of local resources and increase in closer and quicker patient care for our community.

ACTIONS THE HOSPITAL FACILITY INTENDS TO TAKE TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH NEED:

Activity 1: Enhance physician recruitment efforts at Sacred Heart

- Recruit two (2) General Surgeons to the area.
- Recruit three (3) Primary Care Physicians to area.
- Recruit at least one (1) Orthopedic Surgeon to area.

Activity 2: Develop Community Awareness Education of Sacred Heart Resources

- Provide four breast-feeding and lactation classes annually at Sacred Heart.
- Participate in five public speaking engagements annually regarding hospital services.
- Coordinate two educational opportunities regarding the above initiatives.

Activity 3: Explore Barriers to Care within our community

- Establish a partnership to provide medication assistance to qualified patients of Sacred Heart Hospital.
- Provide free screening mammograms to uninsured individuals, over the age of 40 who have not had a mammogram in the past year and can provide a doctor with which they have had a relationship within the past year.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF THESE ACTIONS:

Activity 1: Enhance physician recruitment efforts at Sacred Heart

- The addition of physician and physician extenders to the area to treat patients and add services. This will enhance access to care through closer to home care.

Activity 2: Develop community awareness and education of Sacred Heart resources

- 4 breast feeding classes per year with a minimum of 5 attendees and 75% report an increase in knowledge.
- Hospital reaching at least 250 people each year to educate them on health topics and hospital services in the area.

Activity 3: Explore Barriers to Care within our community

- Increase the number of individuals able to provide assistance with medications.
- Provide 40 free mammograms and the appropriate follow up by PCP.

PLAN TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT:

Activity 1: Recruitment of Primary Care Physicians and/or NP/PA

- Track and assess the number and specialty of physicians added annually.
- Hermes Data will be monitored by administration team to analyze for decrease of out migration for services offered locally (PCP, orthopedic, and general surgery).
- The primary care provider to person ratio will be monitored for an increase in access to primary care.

Activity 2: Develop community awareness and education of Sacred Heart resources

- Track the number of participants reached through each educational opportunity. Through a survey, assess the progress annually and make changes as needed.
- Survey mothers to determine if their knowledge regarding breastfeeding increased.

Activity 3: Explore barriers to care within our community

- Monitor the number of individuals we are able to assist with medications after discharge.
- Track the number of women reached through the free mammography program.
- Track the number of women who received free mammograms and were referred to a physician for follow up.
- Initiatives will be assessed annually and changes made accordingly.

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES THE HOSPITAL PLANS TO COMMIT:

Activity 1: Enhance physician recruitment efforts at Sacred Heart

- TBD

Activity 2: Develop Community Awareness and Education of Sacred Heart Resources

- \$500

Activity 3: Explore Barriers to Care within our community

- \$660/year

- \$175/mammogram cost, \$15/mammogram reading, Total = \$7,600

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:

Activity 1: Enhance physician recruitment efforts at Sacred Heart

- St. Mary's Medical Group

Activity 2: Develop Community Awareness Education of Sacred Heart Resources

- Franklin County Public Health Department
- Franklin Life Pregnancy Resource Center
- Civic Clubs
- Chamber of Commerce

Activity 3: Explore Barriers to Care within our community

- Franklin County and Hart County Health Department
- Grant opportunities
- Local pharmacies
- Radiologists

CHNA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FISCAL YEARS 2016-2019

HOSPITAL FACILITY:	St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital		
CHNA SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEED:	Cerebrovascular Health Cardiovascular Health Diabetes & Obesity		
CHNA REFERENCE PAGE:	Page 142	PRIORITIZATION #:	6
	Page 135		1
	Page 146		4

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NEED: Regionally, there was a 32% increase in ER visits for stroke since 2013, speaking to the need for greater community-based prevention strategies targeted at the primary risk factors for stroke. In Franklin County, 38 % of population is overweight and 26% are obese. In Hart County, 48% of population is overweight and 29% are obese. Additionally, there is inadequate access to healthy foods and decreasing access to recreational and fitness facilities across the region. Heart disease is the #1 cause of death in both Franklin and Hart Counties.

GOAL: By June 30, 2019, increase services for awareness, prevention, and intervention strategies for obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke to improve the health of the community.

OBJECTIVE: Improve the health of the community through increased knowledge of resources and improved disease management.

ACTIONS THE HOSPITAL FACILITY INTENDS TO TAKE TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH NEED:

Activity 1: Achieve Hospital Stroke Center Designation

- Determine if Sacred Heart should become a designated Primary Stroke Center or pursue Remote Stroke Center.
- Create Stroke Response Team for Sacred Heart Hospital and establish set stroke protocols.
- Identify and confirm Medical Director for Stroke Program.
- Provide 2 educational programs annually for community regarding stroke care and stroke program.
- Track and submit quality data regarding stroke program.

Activity 2: Enhance Cardiac Service Line at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Expand cardiac coverage for inpatient consult services to 5 days a week at Sacred Heart Hospital.
- Explore the addition of Cardiac Rehabilitation to be offered in Lavonia.
- Identify ways to expand telehealth capabilities for cardiac services.
- Provide at least two educational programs annually for community regarding cardiac health and treatment.
- Explore adding Coumadin clinic services to area to decrease out of area traveling time for patients, and therefore increasing timely care.

Activity 3: Enhance Diabetes Related Services at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Re-establish a monthly Diabetes Support Group at Sacred Heart Hospital.
- Host Diabetes Education Sessions at Sacred Heart (with scholarship offering to those who qualify).
- Re-establish a Diabetes Expo annually for community with vendors, screenings, and educational materials.

Activity 4: Increase Wellness Activities and Education at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Host a 5k walk/run at Sacred Heart Hospital.
- Offer five 90 day wellness center membership scholarships annually to qualifying individuals.
- Host a low impact exercise class for elderly population bi-annually to promote physical activity.
- Explore grants and partnerships to pursue establishing community walking trails on hospital campus:
 - search for possible grants
 - evaluate property for possible trail
 - make project plan for creating trail
 - obtain sponsorships from community businesses

ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF THESE ACTIONS:

Activity 1: Achieve Hospital Stroke Center Designation

- Achieve stroke center designation to allow for stroke care to patients in the Lavonia area quickly to reduce post-stroke complications.
- Provide closer/quicker acute stroke care to 10 patients per year that would have otherwise traveled further for care, which would increase the time before treatment and increase negative health outcomes.

Activity 2: Enhance Cardiac Service Line at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Decrease number of transfers for cardiac care to other facilities by 2% each year and increase patient's receiving quicker care and improvements in treatment outcomes.
- Increase number of patients that come to Sacred Heart hospital first to receive acute care by 5% over the 3 year period, decreasing the time before treatment and improving outcomes.

Activity 3: Enhance Diabetes Related Services at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Increase education to community about diabetes by establishing 24 total support group meetings (6 support group meetings in FY 2017; 8 meetings in FY 2018; and 10 meetings in FY 2019) with a minimum of 10 members each month.
- Increase community education on pre-diabetes, diabetes, and offer screenings and education materials for those who think they might have and are confirmed to have diabetes. Reach 75 people annually.

Activity 4: Increase Wellness Activities and Education at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Through a 5k increase physical activity for 75 people annually.
- Educate the community on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and the importance of physical activity.

Reach 50 new people each year through wellness initiatives.

- Increase physical activity in the elderly through a low impact exercises class. Minimum of 10 people in attendance, held twice a year.

PLAN TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT:

Activity 1: Achieve Hospital Stroke Center Designation

- Assess the progress on an annual basis by monitoring the acute stroke care quality data for Sacred Heart Hospital.

Activity 2: Enhance Cardiac Service Line at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Assess the progress on a monthly basis by monitoring the # of cardiac care transfers from Sacred Heart Hospital.
- Monitor the number of individuals reached with the educational events.
- Hermes data will be evaluated quarterly for # of pts traveling to farther hospitals for care.

Activity 3: Enhance Diabetes Related Services at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Track the number of diabetes support groups held, number of people in attendance, and percentage of individuals that report an increase in knowledge about how to manage their diabetes. 50% will report increase in knowledge.
- Establish a follow up protocol for the various stages of diabetes.
- Track the number of physician referrals that are made due to screening results.

Activity 4: Increase Wellness Activities and Education at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Monitor the number of free memberships utilized.
- Track the number of elderly individuals that report that the exercise class helped them to learn appropriate and safe exercises that they could duplicate at home.
- Document progress made on the community walking trail plan.

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES THE HOSPITAL PLANS TO COMMIT:

Activity 1: Achieve Hospital Stroke Center Designation

- \$500.00
- \$2,500.00 (Stroke quality data tracking)

Activity 2: Enhance Cardiac Service Line at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Staffing Resources
- \$500.00

Activity 3: Enhance Diabetes Related Services at Sacred Heart Hospital

- \$250 per session (Diabetes support group)
- \$1000.00 (Diabetes expo)

Activity 4: Increase Wellness Activities and Education at Sacred Heart Hospital

- \$2,500.00 (5K)
- \$38/month*3month=\$114*5 people= \$570 total (Wellness Center Membership)
- \$100 (low impact exercise classes)

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:

Activity 1: Achieve Hospital Stroke Center Designation

- Franklin Co. EMS
- Hart Co. EMS
- Schumacher Group and other Physicians
- State of Georgia

Activity 2: Enhance Cardiac Service Line at Sacred Heart Hospital

- OHVC, North GA Heart Center
- Ron Felice
- Schumacher Group and other Physicians
- EMS
- OHVC

Activity 3: Enhance Diabetes Related Services at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Franklin County and Hart County Health Department
- Chamber of Commerce
- Physician offices
- St. Mary's Hospital
- Local physicians and vendor partners

Activity 4: Increase Wellness Activities and Education at Sacred Heart Hospital

- Local businesses
- Health Department (Possibly) and Franklin County School System (Possibly)
- Franklin and Hart County Senior Centers
- City of Lavonia
- Boy Scouts
- UGA Extension Office

CHNA IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FISCAL YEARS 2016-2019

HOSPITAL FACILITY:	St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital		
CHNA SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEED:	Substance Abuse & Mental Health		
CHNA REFERENCE PAGE:	Page 158	PRIORITIZATION #:	3

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NEED: The region suffers from a severe lack of mental health providers and is a federally designated mental health provider shortage area.

GOAL: By June 30, 2019, increase advocacy and educational efforts regarding mental health and substance abuse to increase awareness of resources and decrease the number of overdoses in the community.

OBJECTIVE: Enhance awareness of community resources and decrease the amount of unused prescription drugs circulating in community.

ACTIONS THE HOSPITAL FACILITY INTENDS TO TAKE TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH NEED:

Activity 1: Increase focus on identifying substance abuse among pregnant population

- Increase participation in prenatal classes by 50%, from 25 to 50 mothers.
- Add materials and emphasize substance abuse issues to classes.
- Partner with local health depts. and pregnancy centers to discuss the issue of substance abuse in this population and establish a protocol for identifying and helping addicted mothers, i.e. what capacity each agency has and possible referral chains to use (reoccurring biannual meeting).
- Partner with local churches offering Celebrate Recovery, AA, & NA to provide patients with info or support from their congregation.

Activity 2: Reduce the availability of prescription drugs in the community

- Publicize the drug take back day with Franklin County Sheriff's Department.
- Become a site for patients to drop off unused prescription drugs for proper disposal.
- Host prescription drug abuse awareness event for physicians, pharmacists, and other stakeholders annually.

Activity 3: Explore partnerships for mental health services

- Create a resource listing of services in the community to be able to distribute to patients and/or families.
- Coordinate a community awareness campaign about mental health issues and services to increase awareness of local resources.
- Hold an annual meeting of community partners and stakeholders to establish referral patterns and best practices for our area and resources.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF THESE ACTIONS:

Activity 1: Increase focus on identifying substance abuse among pregnant population

- Identify potential substance abuse occurrence in pregnant population and decrease harmful outcomes.
- Development of an effective referral system for mental/substance abuse patients: health depts., pregnancy centers, and community mental health resources.
- Increase community access to NA, AA, and Celebrate Recovery.

Activity 2: Reduce the availability of prescription drugs in the community

- Increase the pounds of un-used drugs removed from the community.
- The prescription drug awareness campaign will reach 500 people.

Activity 3: Explore partnerships for mental health services

- 100 individuals made aware of the services for mental health that are currently in the area.
- Increase mental health awareness by 500 people with the campaign.
- Annual meeting of stake holders evaluates agency capacities, referral procedures, etc. for community benefit.

PLAN TO EVALUATE THE IMPACT:

Activity 1: Increase focus on identifying substance abuse among pregnant population

- Track the number of patients able to present with substance abuse info and number of patients able to identify early and prevent substance abuse related problems in babies. This will be assessed annually and changes made accordingly.
- Reoccurring meeting with stakeholders to identify procedures and evaluate success.
- Track the progress of a resource hand out and track the distribution.

Activity 2: Reduce the availability of prescription drugs in the community

- The Sacred Heart pharmacy will monitor and assess the pounds of un-used prescription drugs able to properly destroy.
- Track the number of individuals reached by the prescription drug awareness event.

Activity 3: Explore partnerships for mental health services

- Monitor the number of individuals receiving the resource listing as well as the number of individuals reached during the awareness campaign.
- Minutes will be kept of meetings and procedures adjusted accordingly.

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES THE HOSPITAL PLANS TO COMMIT:

Activity 1: Increase focus on identifying substance abuse among pregnant population

- \$250/year

Activity 2: Reduce the availability of prescription drugs in the community

- \$250.00

Activity 3: Explore partnerships for mental health services

- TBD

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:

Activity 1: Increase focus on identifying substance abuse among pregnant population

- Franklin Co. Public Health Department
- Hart Co. Public Health Department
- Pregnancy Crisis Center
- High school nurses
- Health Department RNs
- Local Churches

Activity 2: Reduce the availability of prescription drugs in the community

- Franklin County Sheriff's Department
- DEA
- Local physicians and dentists
- Pharmacists, dentists
- GBI and local law enforcement

Activity 3: Explore partnerships for mental health services

- Franklin County and Hart County Health Department
- Local churches
- WellSprings
- Public Health Department
- NE GA Counseling Center
- NE GA Rehab Center
- Avita Behavioral Health Services
- Criminal justice representative

Adoption of Implementation Strategy

On [May 16, 2016](#), the Board of Directors for [St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital](#) met to discuss the [2016-2019 Implementation Strategy](#) for addressing the community health needs identified in the [2015/2016 Community Health Needs Assessment](#). Upon review, the Board approved this Implementation Strategy and the related budget.

Name & Title

____/____/_____
Date