

INTRODUCTION

Osborne County Community Hospital (OCMH) is located in Osborne, KS. The Hospital is owned by Osborne County and the County Commissioners appoint members to the OCMH Board of Trustees. OCMH primarily receives revenues from healthcare services rendered to inpatient, skilled patients, outpatients and emergency room patients in the primary service of Osborne County.

IDENTIFYING HEALTH NEEDS

The objective of the OCMH Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was to determine health needs of the community with input from not only residents from the community but other area stakeholders in the community. OCMH contracted with VVV Consultants, LLC. to facilitate the CHNA process. VVV Consultants conducted primary and secondary research and led a town hall meeting to present the data with group participation and discussion.

The following issues were identified as the unmet needs for future focus for Osborne County reflecting community views:

1. Affordable Health Insurance
2. Child Care
3. Mental Health (Diagnosis Placement and Aftercare)
4. Awareness of Health Services
5. Drug Abuse
6. Suicide
7. Exercise/Fitness
8. Food Insecurity

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS & ACTION PLAN

During the CHNA it was discussed the majority of the needs identified through the CHNA fall out of the scope of services, expertise and resources of OCMH. The following outlines the needs in order of rank and how they are being addressed by either OCMH or other community partners:

1. Affordable Health Insurance: Monetary resources at most times drive health “access” and self-care. According to the 2019 US Census Bureau, Osborne County has a per capita income of \$30,843 and a median household income of \$51,286 with a poverty rate of 13.5%. This low average income level, along with a high number of residents that are employed by small businesses that do not provide health insurance, leads to residents not having access to affordable health insurance. OCMH recognizes that affordable health insurance is a high need and definitely affects health care services received by that residents of the county; however, there isn’t much in the scope that OCMH can individually do to address this issue. This would be perceived as an overall economic development concern.

2. Child Care: The availability of child care services was the second area of concern. Investigation of the child care services in the local Osborne service area currently revealed six (6) individual providers. This concern is already being monitored by the Osborne Economic Development Committee if the need continues to persist. Once again these services are not in the scope of health services offered by OCMH, however, we will definitely participate in any collaboration efforts.
3. Mental Health: It is obvious this need is a community concern involving diagnosis, placement and aftercare. OCMH realizes mental and behavioral health play an important role in the overall health status of our patients and residents. The OCMH primary care providers have some training in behavioral health and address these concerns on a routine basis. However, a specialized mental health provider plays a much more important role in the care and ongoing maintenance of the patient and their mental and behavioral health issues. OCMH has established referral relationships with numerous mental and behavioral health resources including High Plains Mental Health Center located in Osborne (the contracted provider for Osborne County with the State of Kansas) as well as implementing a new specialty clinic at OCMH with The Sunflower Company to provide behavioral health consultation services through appointments on a weekly basis.
4. Awareness of Health Services: This concern involves all the health care providers in the county as far as public awareness of services available. Again, this will be more of an individual provider strategy. It was discussed during the pandemic this need more than likely increased due to regulations and restrictions enforced on health care providers. OCMH continues to utilize newspapers, a quarterly newsletter, statements, the website, Facebook and our internal Hoot Boards for awareness of services provided at OCMH. Once OMCH has returned to a regular visitor policy, we hope to reinstate our "Coffee Talks" for community members at the facility allowing further discussions of the services provided.
5. Drug Abuse: Abuse of illicit and prescription medication is recognized across the United States and this has been an on-going unmet need over the past two CHNA's; however, there is no supporting evidence it is a major problem in Osborne County. OCMH continues to monitor and address this issue with an individual patient approach. OMCH has partnered with local authorities for educational opportunities as well. OCMH monitors prescribed opioid usage on a monthly basis and continues to use patient contracts for compliance as well. OMCH has no further resources available to impact this need.
6. Suicide: This identified need is being addressed very similar to the mental health need outlined above. According to the last published Kansas Health Matters report (2016-2018) Osborne County had a 0% age-adjusted suicide mortality rate per 100,000 population compared to 18.6% for the State of Kansas. Discussion at the CHNA revealed this rate will be changing with the new report due to recent events. Again, OCMH addresses this need individually with patients but will definitely be a resource and partner with the other mental health providers to address this need.

7. Exercise/Fitness Options: This was also a need addressed on our last CHNA. OCMH opened our new facility in March 2020 and has designated the physical therapy area to be used as a Wellness Center for the public. However, due to the pandemic restrictions, we have only been able to allow our employees to utilize this space. Once the restrictions are lifted it will be open to the public. Other options of promoting wellness and fitness have been suspended at our facility until the pandemic restrictions are lifted. Since the CHNA was completed there has been a new fitness instructor offer a variety of exercise classes on a daily basis in the new SIMS Event Center in Osborne.

8. Food Insecurity: This is a continued need as well that is specifically target at the school age level. The three schools do offer free or reduced breakfast, lunch and snack programs. They have also offered a meal during the summer time when school is not in session. As discussed at the meeting the schools have tried to educated the parents on the availability of these programs and encourage all qualified families to participate in these programs. OCMH does not have any additional resources to address this need.