



COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
2023-2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Definition/Demographics	3
Chronic Conditions	4
Existing Resources	4
Previous CHNA Actions	5
Strategy Development	5
Major Health Needs and Priorities	5
Addressing Community Health Needs	6
1. Address the need to take healthcare to the patients	6
2. Better access to screenings for youth and adults	6
3. Identify and address the mental health implications of chronic illness	7
4. Address mental health issues related to the COVID pandemic.	7
Areas Not Addressed	8
Summary	8
Board Approval	8

ILLINI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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INTRODUCTION

An article written in the January, 18, 2017 edition of the Pike Press newspaper, published in Pittsfield to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Illini Community Hospital, sets out the history of Illini Hospital. In 1938, a group of Pike County residents came together to form a citizens' hospital committee to explore the idea of developing a community hospital to serve the residents of Pittsfield and the surrounding area. The group quickly built local support and secured funding to begin construction of Illini Community Hospital. The hospital was dedicated on January 25, 1942.

Over the next 75-plus years, Illini Community Hospital grew and provided pioneering care to its service area and beyond. In the 1990s, the first laparoscopic hysterectomy in Illinois was performed at Illini. The hospital was also one of the first in Illinois to develop care coordination for patients. Illini Community Hospital eventually became a critical access hospital and also affiliated with Blessing Health System.

In 2015, Illini Community Hospital opened the Worthington Square Geriatric Health Behavioral Health Service, including a 10 bed, in-patient unit for persons 55 and older, to address mental health needs including Alzheimer's, dementia, depression, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The Worthington Center was named for Dr. Thomas Worthington, one of the county's early physicians who resided in the 19th century on the property where the hospital sits today – linking health care in Pike County full circle from beginning to present.

DEFINITION/DEMOGRAPHICS

Illini Community Hospital defines its primary service market area as an area within the 25 mile radius of Illini.

A total of 15,672 people live in the 831.40 square mile report area, defined for this assessment according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2015--19 5--year estimates. The population density for this area, estimated at 19 persons per square mile, is less than the national average population density of 92 persons per square mile. The service area consists of the following rural communities: Barry, Baylis, Griggsville, Hull, Kinderhook, Milton, Nebo, New Salem, Pearl, Perry, Pittsfield, and Pleasant Hill.

The average household size of the area, at 2.3, is lower than both Illinois (3) and the same as the U.S. (2.5). Median age is 44.6 years, which is higher than Illinois (34.7) and the U.S. (38.1). The largest education segment is high school graduate, followed by some college.

The unemployment rate of 4.7% is lower than statewide and slightly higher than the U.S. Also, as is the case in much of rural Illinois, median household income in the service area is lower than statewide. Of the 12,192 residents over the age of 18, 1,055 are veterans. This represents 8.7% of the eligible population

Chronic Conditions –This table presents the percentage of adults ever diagnosed with Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease, Diabetes, Coronary Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, and High Cholesterol. The data is reflected by county and the entire service area and provides comparisons within the service area.

Report Area	Total Population (2018)	Percentage of Adults Ever Diagnosed with Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
Illini Community Hospital Service Area	15,611	10.4%
Illinois	12,741,080	7.0%
United States	327,167,434	7.2%

Report Area	Population Age 20+	Adults Newly Diagnosed with Diabetes	Adults Newly Diagnosed with Diabetes, Age-Adjusted Rate per 1000
Illini Community Hospital Service Area	9,865	146	14.1
Illinois	8,654,601	82,561	9.2
United States	218,951,562	1,889,369	8.3

Report Area	Total Population (2018)	Percentage of Adults Ever Diagnosed with Coronary Heart Disease
Illini Community Hospital Service Area	15,611	9.2%
Illinois	12,741,080	6.4%
United States	327,167,434	6.9%

Report Area	Total Population (2018)	Percentage of Adults with High Blood Pressure
Illini Community Hospital Service Area	15,611	38.0%
Illinois	12,741,080	32.7%
United States	327,167,434	32.9%

Report Area	Total Population (2018)	Percentage of Adults with High Cholesterol
Illini Community Hospital Service Area	15,611	38.9%
Illinois	12,741,080	33.5%
United States	327,167,434	34.2%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Accessed via the 500 Cities Data Portal, 2018

Existing Resources-

Existing resources with the community that are able to respond to the health needs of the community include: Providers • Blessing Health System • Schools • Faith-based organizations • Local governments • Public transportation • County health department • Community service agencies • Law enforcement • Others that may be interested in these efforts • Pike County Health Department • Senior Center • Outside providers • Illinois Food Bank.

PREVIOUS CHNA ACTIONS

In the 2018 CHNA, Illini Community Hospital established a hospital-based, non-emergency medical transportation to provide transportation within the Blessing Health System to address social determinants. Illini also worked to build, place, and stock four (4) “little free food pantries” in communities throughout Pike County to address food deserts. In collaboration with the Illinois Food Bank, Illini provided free food distribution in 2021-22 for families to also assist with the food desert concerns.

In 2015 to address the identified needs of mental health services, Illini Community Hospital added mental health Nurse Practitioner, LCSW and LSW services to the RHC for outpatient follow up/counseling. To address improving access to care/services identified in 2015, the Illini Rural Health Clinic also implemented ICQC improvements and recruitment efforts began for a second primary care physician.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Provisions in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) require charitable hospitals to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The CHNA is a systematic process involving the community to identify and analyze community health needs as well as community assets and resources in order to plan and act upon priority community health needs. This assessment process results in a CHNA report which assists the hospital in planning, implementing, and evaluating hospital strategies and community benefit activities.

The Community Health Needs Assessment was developed and conducted, in partnership with representatives from the community, by a consultant provided through the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN).

Two focus groups met through facilitated virtual conferencing on June 18, 2021, to discuss the state of overall health and wellness in the Illini Community Hospital service area and, to identify health concerns and needs in the delivery of healthcare and health services in order to improve wellness and reduce chronic illness for all residents. The focus groups included representation of healthcare providers, community leaders, community services providers, schools, faith-based organizations, public health, and others. Several members of the groups provided services to underserved and unserved persons as all or part of their roles. The group reviewed notes from the focus groups and summaries of data reviewed by the consultant which included SparkMap, ESRI, Illinois Department of Public Health, CDC, USDA, Illinois Department of Labor, HRSA, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, National Cancer Institute, and other resources.

The findings of the focus groups were presented, along with secondary data analyzed by the consultant, to a third group for identification and prioritization of the significant health needs facing the community through a virtual conference on August 10, 2021. The group consisted of representatives of public health, community leaders, healthcare providers, and community services providers.

The group identified and then prioritized a list as being the significant health needs facing the Illini Community Hospital service market area.

This Community Health Needs Assessment will serve as a guide for planning and implementation of healthcare initiatives that will allow the hospital and its partners to best serve the emerging health needs of Pittsfield and all of Pike County.

MAJOR HEALTH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

At the conclusion of the groups review and discussion, the identification and prioritization group advanced the following needs:

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1. Address the need to take healthcare to the patients
 2. Better access to screenings for youth and adults
 3. Identify and address the mental health implications of chronic illness
 4. Address mental health issues related to the COVID pandemic.

The results of the assessment process were then presented to senior staff at Illini Community Hospital through a facilitated discussion for development of a plan to address the identified and prioritized needs. This session was also held on August 10, 2021.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

The group addressed the needs with the following strategies:

1. The group identified and prioritized the need to be able to take healthcare to the patients.

Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need:

- Pursue obtaining and operating a mobile clinic for screening, testing, behavioral health and primary care, including vaccines at regular clinics in remote locations in the service area and provide services at events or disasters
- Expand mental health services by retaining a psychiatrist for inpatient, outpatient, and possibly, telehealth services

Anticipated impacts of these actions:

Illini Community Hospital anticipates that developing a mobile clinic program will provide the ability to take appropriate care to the patients across the service area.

Programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address health need:

- Administration
- Rural Health Clinic Medical Director and Manager
- Worthington Square Manager
- Telehealth Director

Planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities:

- Blessing Foundation
- Schools
- Local governments

2. The group next prioritized better access to screenings for chronic illness for adults and youth.

Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need:

- Explore a partnership with Pike County Health Department to provide screenings
- Engage service line leadership at Blessing Health System for assistance with increasing screening
- Explore increased outreach for screenings through external partners and providers

Anticipated impacts of these actions:

Illini Community Hospital anticipates that the efforts to be undertaken will increase chronic health screening for youth and adults.

Programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address health need:

- Ancillary Support Manager
- Rural Health Clinic Medical Director
- Emergency Department Medical Director
- Physician Assistant

Planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities:

- Pike County Health Department
- Schools
- Senior Center

3. The third prioritized need was to identify and address the mental health implications of chronic illness.

Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need:

- Initiate discussions with providers to determine how best to approach this issue
- Educate providers about the range of services from the Palliative Care program
- Explore making social work services available to patients in specialty care and care coordination

Anticipated impacts of these actions:

Illini Community Hospital anticipates that the actions selected will improve the ability to identify and address the mental health implications of chronic illness.

Programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address health need:

- Administration
- Rural Health Clinic
- Outpatient services
- Providers
- Specialty care providers

Planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities:

- Outside providers
- Faith-based organizations

4. The final prioritized need was to address mental health issues related to the pandemic.

Actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need:

- Explore ways to maintain the emotional health of staff
- Increase social media awareness about isolation, anxiety, and depression of youth and adults and local services available to help address those conditions

Anticipated impacts of these actions:

Illini Community Hospital anticipates that the actions selected will improve the ability to address mental health issues related to the pandemic.

Programs and resources the hospital plans to commit to address health need:

- Administration
- Marketing

Planned collaboration between the hospital and other facilities:

- Illinois Food Bank
- Schools
- Faith-based organizations
- Local government community organizations
- Senior Center

AREAS NOT ADDRESSED

All areas identified above will be addressed by Illini Community Hospital.

SUMMARY

Illini Community Hospital in collaboration with ICAHN, has developed a strong and robust community assessment and planning process. This Community Health Needs Assessment will serve as a guide for planning and implementation of healthcare initiatives that will allow the hospital and its partners to best serve the emerging health needs of Pittsfield and all of Pike County.

***** Pending***BOARD APPROVAL**

The implementation strategy was reviewed and approved by the Illini Community Hospital Board of Trustees through online voting in January 2023. This information will be made publicly available on the Illini Community Hospital website.