



Implementation Strategy

Implementation Strategy for Touchette Regional Hospital

Touchette Regional Hospital (TRH) conducted a Community Health Needs assessment for the East St. Louis service area using focus group input, individual stakeholder input and health indicator data analysis. Stakeholders present at a focus group or interviewed individually included the East Side Health District, Opal's House Domestic Violence Shelter, Puentes de Esperanza, Hoyleton Ministries, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, Leslie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, Catholic Urban Programs, and Griffin Center.

Data sources utilized included, the East Side Health District 2012-2017 Community Plan, Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN) data, the Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data, Healthy People 2020 and US Census data.

Health needs identified through the community focus group include Mental Health, Cancer, STIs, Diabetes, Violence and Language Barriers to care for Spanish-speakers. Data utilized to identify several of these needs is shown in the chart below:

Disparity	Rate in United States	Rate in State of Illinois	Rate in TRH Service Area	Estimated number in service area affected each year
Gonorrhea rates per100,000*	98.1	163.5	349.1	202
Chlamydia rates per 100,000	367.5	381.3	691.9	400
Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000**	459.0	484.9	502.9	291
Deaths from Heart Disease per 100,000**	254.1	252.9	267.7	155
Death due to Diabetes mellitus per 100,000**	22.4	23.1	40.3	23
Serious Psychological Distress within the last year***	3.3%	3.2%	5.1%	2,925

*Most recent 5-year averages from the Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN) Data System – TRH Service Area East Side Health District

** Taken from 2011 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data most recent 10 year averages – TRH Service Area St. Clair County

*** Extrapolated by poverty status from 2011 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data – TRH Service Area defined by Zip Codes 62201-62207

This Implementation Plan has been designed to address these needs with activities that align with TRH strategic initiatives, mission and vision. TRH will develop, implement, monitor and evaluate both ongoing and new interventions that address the community health priorities including, but not limited to, the following initiatives.

Mental Health

Objective 1: Expand hospital bed capacity to serve growing needs in the community and region

Strategies:

- A. Continue development of expanded bed capacity

Objective 2: Collaborate with local agencies, county services, and state entities to formulate potential innovative approaches to address behavioral health needs.

Strategies:

- A. Work with the St. Clair County 708 Mental Health Board in developing innovative community health plans addressing mental health needs in the community and the region.
- B. Develop a network of hospitals, mental health services, law enforcement, and the court system to improve care, improve mental health in the region and reduce costs.

Objective 3: Explore potential behavioral health linkages with agencies serving persons with developmental disabilities.

Strategies:

- A. Continue to develop relationships throughout the service area, particularly with providers of developmental disabilities services.
- B. Reach out to new agencies to ensure comprehensive efforts to seek partnerships and develop new services.

Cancer

Objective 1: Increase awareness of cancer prevention strategies and screening services available.

Strategies:

- A. Raise awareness of evidence based health care information.
- B. Encourage the use of screening services, including mammograms and other tests as appropriate.
- C. Support and encourage public awareness campaigns focused on cancer prevention through partnerships with community organizations providing outreach to the local community.
- D. Continue to support programs such as Start Now Breast Cancer patient navigation program, designed to remove barriers to care and assist patients in understanding how to access hospital services.

Objective 2: Continue to improve referral relationships with local providers and ensure they are aware of low-cost/no-cost treatment options available at TRH.

Strategies:

- A. Collaborate with SIHF and other major local primary care providers to ensure providers are aware of services available at TRH.
- B. Continue to offer low-cost and no-cost screening services as possible through continued collaborations with organizations such as Komen Foundation, Avon Foundation, Illinois Breast and cervical cancer Program and others as possible.

STIs

Objective 1: Expand community partnerships to ensure educational outreach on prevention of STIs in the service area

Strategies:

- A. Collaborate with community agencies to conduct public awareness campaigns about the dangers of STIs and how to prevent them.
- B. Directly provide information to ER patients through the distribution of educational materials.
- C. Ensure providers relay STI prevention to patients as appropriate.

Objective 2: Collaborate with local agencies and health departments to formulate potential innovative approaches to address STI disparities in the community.

Strategies:

- A. Continue to work with the local health department to reduce the spread of STIs.
- B. Ensure representation at community events and collaborative meetings to maintain and develop relationships to encourage collaboration.

Diabetes

Objective 1: Increase awareness of prevention and control/self-management of diabetes.

Strategies:

- A. Increase awareness of evidence based information for persons identified as being at high risk for diabetes by encouraging prevention strategies in this population (i.e. encouraging them to increase physical activity, lose weight, reducing the amount of fat or calories in their diet and maintain provider/patient relationship to monitor disease).
- B. Offer participation in diabetes education classes at TRH and in the community as identified and available.
- C. Educate community members about the risk factors for diabetes by developing and distributing culturally appropriate public awareness material.

Objective 2: Develop relationships with organizations/others who provide services/resources to underserved, low-income and racial/ethnic groups to provide culturally appropriate education to community members.

Strategies:

- A. Identify those who work with identified populations and partner with them to develop culturally appropriate strategies for prevention initiatives.
- B. Develop and co-sponsor (or identify a sponsor) to support an initiative targeting improving/increasing diabetic screenings, education and services to underserved, low-income and racial/ ethnic populations.

Objective 3: Focus diabetes prevention efforts on reaching children and parents in an effort to prevent the development of the disease in children.

Strategies:

- A. Promote maternal and child health nutrition programs in prenatal classes/pregnancy programs, physician/provider visits, etc.
- B. Promote breast feeding

Violence

Objective 1: Enhance the capacity of TRH to provide medical services to assist those who have been victimized by violence.

Strategies:

- A. Increase the capacity of ER services available at TRH.
- B. Increase information and education on resources for ER staff.

Objective 2: Increase ER awareness of the effects of violence and the needs of victims of violence.

Strategies:

- A. Ensure staff is trained in how to react to violence and how to provide culturally appropriate services to victims of violence and their families.
- B. Develop systematic responses to provide the most effective service to victims of violence.
- C. Incorporate violence education into new employee orientation.

Objective 3: Provide patient referrals for those affected by violence to receive treatment from partnering agencies throughout the community.

Strategies:

- A. Ensure that referral methods are in place for community agencies who offer appropriate outreach and support services for victims of violence and their families.
- B. Continue to seek partnerships in the community with agencies who serve victims of violence.

Language Barriers

Objective 1: Recognize the benefit of additional bilingual healthcare staff in order to provide a welcoming, culturally sensitive and language diverse environment for non-English speaking patients.

Strategies:

- A. Ensure that bilingual abilities are considered in employment.
- B. Ensure that language skills are evaluated as part of the employment process.
- C. Seek new venues for employee recruitment where qualified non-English speakers can be reached.

Objective 2: Ensure educational and informational materials are available in Spanish for those who speak Spanish.

Strategies:

- A. Develop and install appropriate signage so that Spanish-speakers can navigate the hospital.
- B. Develop Spanish-language versions of hospital educational materials and distribute as appropriate.

Objective 3: Continue to outreach and partner with local agencies serving the Spanish-speaking community.

Strategies:

- A. Ensure that current working relationships continue to foster service partnerships as possible to provide translation and other services to patients as necessary.
- B. Continue to seek partnerships in the community with agencies who serve the Spanish-speaking community and ensure these agencies are aware of TRH's commitment to serving the Spanish-speaking community.