

Executive Summary

OH Muhlenberg, LLC (“OHM”), a Kentucky limited liability company, is wholly-owned by Owensboro Health Inc. (OHI) and operates Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital, a 90 bed acute care hospital in Greenville, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky (“OH Muhlenberg Community Hospital”). Effective July 1, 2015, in connection with the OHM’s purchase of substantially all of the assets of Muhlenberg Community Hospital, OHM began leasing and operating the hospital facility under a lease agreement with Muhlenberg Community Hospital that extends through June 30, 2035.

Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital (OHMCH) is pleased to present its 2018-2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This CHNA report includes health assessment data collected in a collaborative process with the Muhlenberg County Health Department. OHMCH contracted with the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) to conduct a CHNA in accordance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and section 501(r) of the internal revenue code for nonprofit tax-exempt hospitals. This CHNA is the first report prepared by CEDIK for OHMCH. A CHNA for the facility was completed in 2013 when the hospital was under different ownership. This report will be used to create an implementation plan with wide community input to address the identified health needs for the community served by OHMCH over the next three years. OHMCH Board of Directors approved this CHNA on May 18, 2018. The Owensboro Health, Inc. Board of Directors approved this CHNA on May 21, 2018.

Summary of Findings

Methodology

CEDIK facilitated the process of primary data collection through community surveys, focus groups and key informant interviews to create an implementation plan to address identified health needs. In addition, county specific secondary data was gathered to help examine the social determinants of health. Throughout the process, CEDIK and the community steering committee made it a priority to get input from populations that are often not engaged in conversations about their health needs or gaps in service. CEDIK conducted six key informant interviews to probe more deeply into health and quality of life themes within the county. Current community resources and potential barriers to accessing resources were also identified in these interviews.

This CHNA report synthesizes community health needs survey data, focus groups with vulnerable populations, and key informant interview data with social and economic data as well as health outcomes data collected from secondary sources to help provide context for the community. Below are identified themes collected from the primary data collection:

Focus Group Visioning

Residents describe their vision of a vibrant, healthy Muhlenberg County as being one that individuals can work, play and live in a drug-free, smoke-free environment with a variety of opportunities for physical activity and recreation for adults and youth. In addition, residents envision employment at or above a living wage giving them access to healthy, affordable food and transportation to available medical and essential services.

Focus Groups – Unmet Needs

CEDIK conducted focus groups with identified populations in Muhlenberg County that often are not asked to discuss their health needs to deepen the understanding of the health challenges they face. Focus group discussions revealed unmet needs across the low-income and senior populations. Common concerns across these populations include unemployment/job loss, food insecurity, lack of affordable housing, and substandard existing housing. Heart disease, diabetes, dental care needs are common health issues. Additional concerns identified a lack of a primary physician, difficulty in scheduling physician appointments, and a general lack of knowledge of available services in the county.

Key Informant - Community Themes and Strengths

OHMCH, Muhlenberg County Health Department and CEDIK obtained additional primary data through six supplemental interviews with individuals knowledgeable about health and quality of life needs in Muhlenberg County. CEDIK organized the data into strengths, barriers and opportunities for change for Muhlenberg County. Strengths included both healthcare assets (local hospital and new partnership with Owensboro Health, availability of specialty physicians and the FQHC) and community assets (faith-based community, good schools, parks, trails and fitness centers). Challenges faced by residents include lack of transportation (for medical services, grocery or pharmacy), homelessness in the community and elevated poverty rates in the county were identified as barriers or weaknesses. A number of opportunities were highlighted, including economic and job creation opportunities, adding a homeless/emergency shelter, engaged community organization partnerships to promote and enhance resources.

Prioritized Areas

The Muhlenberg County CHNA Steering Committee reviewed survey results, focus group and key informant interview results as well as key secondary health data. The committee considered existing local, state and national priorities, conducted an open discussion and voted on specific strategic initiatives for the county. Members identified current resources and possible barriers to resources that residents may experience. This information can assist both the hospital and the health department, as implementation plans are developed to address the prioritized health needs.

Muhlenberg County CHNA Steering Committee selected the following priority areas for action:

- **Residents' (vulnerable populations) lack of knowledge on available community and health resources in the county**
- **Adult obesity**
- **Mental health – depression, counseling and testing for mental health disorders**
- **Youth health indicator needs* – teen birth rate, obesity, lack of physical activity, lack of out of school meaningful activities**
- **Substance use – prescription, illegal and illicit substances**

**Youth needs are grouped together at the request of the steering committee with the consensus that collaboration between community organizations and integrated programming can better address the needs of youth instead of addressing individual health behaviors.*

A plan for addressing these priority areas will be described in OHMCH 2018 Implementation Strategy.

Acknowledgements

This Community Health Needs Assessment is a joint effort by the Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital and the Muhlenberg County Health Department and builds on the community health improvement efforts of the 2013 CHNA.

Six key informants shared their time and expertise to provide additional insights on strengths and needs with Muhlenberg County:

- Diana Anderson, Pathways to Hope, Pregnancy Crisis Center in Muhlenberg County
- Ashley Boze, Pennyroyal Center, Director of Substance Abuse Services
- Robby Davis, Muhlenberg County Schools, Superintendent
- Keely Dennis, Muhlenberg County Schools, H.S. Senior
- Tim Dukes, A New Start – Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction
- Jerry Eades, Muhlenberg County Baptist Association, Director of Missions

The Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) at the University of Kentucky provided assistance with the collection and analysis of primary key informant data and compilation of this analysis. CEDIK works with stakeholders to build engaged communities and vibrant economies. If you have questions about CEDIK's assessment process, contact Melody Nall, CEDIK Extension Specialist: melody.nall@uky.edu or (859) 218-5949.

Owensboro Health Muhlenberg Community Hospital and the Muhlenberg County Health Department would like to thank CEDIK, all community partners, and key informants for their contributions to the information compiled in this document.