

Implementation Plan for Needs Identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment for  
Towner County Medical Center

**FY 2019-2021**

**Covered Facilities:** Towner County Medical Center, Towner County Public Health

**Community Health Needs Assessment:** A Community Health Needs Assessment (“CHNA”) was performed in Winter 2018/2019 in collaboration with public health to determine the most pressing health needs of the Towner County Medical Center service area.

**Implementation Plan Goals:** The Board of Towner County Medical Center has determined that the following health needs identified in the CHNA should be addressed through the implementation strategy noted for each such need:

**1. Cost of Healthcare –**

*Specific Needs Identified in CHNA:*

- Ensure all community members, including the uninsured and working poor have access to healthcare, including access to a preventive care and a medical home.
- Key Objectives:
  - Continue to provide preventative healthcare procedures by expanding on screening healthcare to area residents, therefore limiting travel time and distance.
- Implementation Strategies:
  - Continue to be the largest employer in the county, offering excellent benefit programs, training reimbursement and job security. Being a cost-based facility, having the security of 6 (six) local providers on site reduces the cost of locums to cover ER services and clinic visits. These cost-savings are passed onto our patients.
  - Consideration is being made to offer dialysis as well as full time MRI machine.  
The goals:
    1. A market analysis is currently in process by Eide Bailly to consider the areas needs and growths.
  - If it is found feasible for dialysis to be offered, discussions will take place on adding Nephrology services at TCMC, and possibly training nurses in dialysis.
  - If it is found feasible to implement full time MRI services, training of staff will begin. Additional space in the building will be assessed and plans for execution will begin. The timeline for this particular project, if deemed necessary, is 3 to 5 years.
  - If it is found feasible, a new surgical suite will be added to TCMC, ensuring top rated ND surgeons to perform general surgeries on site. Timeline for this project 5-7 years.

**2. Reducing over-prescribing of perscriptions and opioids**

*Specific Needs Identified in CHNA:*

- Ensure all community members, including uninsured and working poor have access to education regarding overuse of prescription drugs
- Key Objectives:
  - Continue to offer and build on Opioid addiction clinic, and providing Medicated Assisted Thereapy (MAT) treatment to ensure safe and full recovery of addiction and its effects
- Implementation Strategies:
  - Work together with Public Health and Law enforcement to educate and train community members, businesses, and surrounding areas on signs of addiction, abuse, and its effects.

The goals:

1. In 2019, TCMC created the position of MAT coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for facilitating care coordination services for patients in need of enhanced care coordination services on MAT program. The role is to improve health outcomes through coordinating care, educating patients, building trust between patients and medical practitioners, and enhancing communication and continuity of care. Eligible patients will be ensured they will receive timely, high quality and efficient health care.
2. All TCMC Buprenorphine trained providers use the Pharmacy Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) to monitor and track patients prescriptions. As well, they are accountable to each other to eliminate the possibility of over-prescribing.

### **3. Providing adequate and affordable daycare**

*Specific Needs Identified in CHNA:*

- Ensure community members, and TCMC employees, have access to affordable, adequate daycare.
- Key Objectives:
  - Currently our daycare is certified Step 3 with the Bright and Early program of North Dakota. Our Director of daycare continues to apply for grants to reduce the costs of labor, and currently has 1 staff member partially paid for by North Dakota Department of Health Inclusion Grant. This grant is a yearly contract and must be resubmitted annually.
- Implementation Strategies:
  - The Director is currently in the process of certification for Stage 4 of the Bright and Early program.
  - As part of certification for the Bright and Early program, lead teachers must be CDA certified. Currently 2 are certified and one staff member is expected to complete the program by the end of September 2019.

- Currently the Director is fundraising for new outdoor playground equipment to ensure a safe environment for all ages.
- If it is found feasible in the market analysis, a newer and/or expansion on daycare will be considered to house more employees' and area children.

The goals:

1. Fundraising for new equipment is ongoing and efforts will continuously be made until the goal is reached.
2. Reduce employee turnover rates by providing competitive wages, continuous training and excellent benefit programs to ensure parents feel secure and safe when dropping their children off.

#### **4. Providing Mental Health Services**

*Specific Needs Identified in CHNA:*

- Ensure all community members, including uninsured and working poor have access to mental health services.
- Key Objectives:
  - To offer professional services within the county that focus specifically on mental and emotional health.
- Implementation Strategies:
  - Work together with Public Health, Law enforcement and the local schools to identify the specific needs within the area concerning mental and emotional health.

The goals:

1. To offer professional psychiatric services, via telemedicine, that focus specifically on mental and emotional health, perhaps targeting specifically to the teens and young adults.