

December 2016

Swain Community Hospital

Swain County, NC Community Health Needs Assessment (2016)

Overview

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) defines priorities for health improvement, creates a collaborative community environment to engage stakeholders, and an open and transparent process to listen and truly understand the health needs of the community. This document is the Community Health Improvement Implementation Plan outlining how SCH plans on addressing significant health needs in the community.

The CHNA is contained in a separate document.

The Swain Community Hospital board of directors approved this assessment and the implementation plan on December 13, 2016.

Starting on December 31, 2016, this report will be made widely available to the community via:

Paper copies of this document may be obtained at Swain Community Hospital, 45 Plateau St. Bryson City, NC 28713 or by phone 828.488.2155. This document is also available electronically via the hospital website <http://www.myswaincommunity.com/>

Community Health Improvement/Implementation Plan 2016

To successfully make our community healthier, it is necessary to have a collaborative venture which brings together all of the care providers, citizens, government, schools, churches, not-for-profit organizations and business and industry around an effective plan of action. The community health needs assessment was completed and posted on the above websites.

Based on the results of the CHNA, The Partners have selected three (3) of the identified significant health needs to address.

1. Heart disease, stroke and diabetes prevention
2. Reduce substance abuse
3. Promote a healthy environment

SCH plans to meet the significant health needs by:

1. Continuing to focus and promote preventive health care services by providing high quality primary care and specialty care. Swain Community Hospital, with Harris Regional Hospital, has employed a cardiologist and has expanded cardiovascular services including becoming an accredited chest pain center through the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. The Health Management Department of the facility will provide community programs 'Tuesdays to Thrive', 'WNC Get Fit Challenge' & 'Blast Off' to address the higher rates of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Our hospital also offers a variety of diabetes education services. A comprehensive employer-based health and wellness program is offered to all area employers and includes focus on physical activity, nutrition and chronic disease prevention.
2. The anticipated impact of these actions will be determined based on qualitative and quantitative data using the community health needs assessment results in partnership with the local public health department. Specifically the rates of diabetes, heart disease and stroke, indicators of health determinants such as access to healthy food and affordable health care, and injury/mortality rates related to substance abuse will be monitored. Keeping in mind that a sole organization cannot move the needle on these data points alone.
3. The hospital will support the efforts of all departments to work in collaboration to fulfill these action items. Specifically the Health Management Department devotes two full-time staff members to working with community partners to provide the interventions as listed above. An internal community health action team has been assembled and includes representatives of most departments. The hospital will also focus on promoting a healthy environment by implementing or updating existing hospital policies including a tobacco free campus policy, healthy food policy and others. The hospital also offers access to walking routes surrounding the main campus. The hospital participates in annual Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment to facilitate access to affordable healthcare. The hospital administration understands the importance of these efforts and will commit any resources needed.
4. The hospital will continue to collaborate with the local public health department, area employers including the public school systems, Western Carolina University, Southwestern Community College, local physician practices and the community at large. Other partnerships will be cultivated as the need arises. The hospital is a proud partner of WNC Healthy Impact, an organization that connects hospitals and health departments to accomplish initiatives to address community health needs.

There is a link on the above website for the community to provide written input into the CHNA and implementation plan.