

Bellville Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment Overview – 2021

The attached Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was prepared for Bellville Medical Center (BMC) leadership who has reviewed the content and prepared the following overview. BMC leadership is responsible to consider the CHNA content within the context of hospital operations, role within the community and financial considerations of the relevant strategies. The following list includes the prioritized strategies that are also coordinated with and supported by the hospitals strategic plan and operating budget.

1. Affordability of health care –
 - a. With consideration for availability of existing and need for added appropriate community health care services, locally and within the broader geographic region, BMC will continue to evaluate local health care needs for Austin county. In providing these services, BMC must consider the economic position of county residents, some of which will be challenged to afford needed services and will need to seek for financial assistance from the hospital and health district, due to lack of insurance or levels of underinsured coverage.
 - b. BMC will need to maintain appropriate financial assistance and charity care policies related to its tax-exempt status where residents may ask for assistance in covering the cost of their clinical services. Policies will be included in the hospital's website and be available for county residents.
 - c. As a tax supported and exempt entity, BMC will need to extend financial assistance to county residents where there is a need, but this must be evaluated against the hospital's financial performance and position, in addition to applicable county and state subsidies.
2. Access to and availability to health care
 - a. As a rural community hospital, BMC will need to evaluate its offering of clinical services based upon its ability to attract and retain qualified healthcare personnel. Provided services will also need to be evaluated against the ability of the hospital to meet volume needs, and cost of and reimbursement for community-based services.
 - b. A critical need for Austin county is primary care providers that will support the ER and hospital admissions. Where viable, appropriate providers of surgical services will also be recruited, either as independent or employed providers for rural, community based surgical services. Needed additional OP ancillary services will also be evaluated. Expansion of services located in Bellville will be considered pending the availability of providers and viability of reimbursement for the provided services.
 - c. As a tax supported entity, BMC will carefully consider the service and provider needs against the cost of and reimbursement for services, in addition to applicable county and state subsidies.
3. At the present time, based upon viability of existing services and needs previously discussed, BMC will not directly engage in providing support for general community health care and lifestyle services noted in the CHNA document that follows.

Sincerely,
BMC Board and Leadership