



Douglas County Memorial Hospital Implementation Strategy 2019

This Implementation Strategy report summarizes Douglas County Memorial Hospital's plans to address the prioritized needs from the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. The hospital recognizes that the Implementation Strategies in this report are to be used as a guide and will serve as a framework in addressing the identified needs. As the hospital moves forward, many resources, on-going commitments and partnerships will be necessary to effectively assist in creating healthier communities in Douglas County.

1) Mental Health Issues

- The Douglas County Memorial Hospital has collaborated in April 2019 with Sanford Health to bring on Dr. Eggers who is a Psychiatrist to be able to provide tele-mental health services. There is also a pool of funds for financial assistance to those who are deemed eligible for the assistance by Sanford Health. Dr. Egger's practice consists of people under the age of sixty.
- To have these services available it roughly costs the facility \$36,000 per year.
- Elderly mental health services is also something our community needs. Discussion between the hospital and the nursing home will continue to see if there is a way to provide these services to the broader community.

2) Shortage of Dental Resources

- Dental services has several challenges in having these available. First, finding space is difficult especially based on the cost to construct the space. It is cost prohibitive based on the number of people being cared for to be able to have a practice start from nothing. Second, dentists within a reasonable driving distance already have full practices. Finally, many dentists do not take Medicaid for insurance, which is a part of the population in Douglas County that needs these services. The hospital does not have an ability to address these issues, but will continue to evaluate how it may assist addressing this need depending upon future community developments.

3) Wellness Issues

- The Douglas County Hospital offers its wellness equipment to the public for \$10/month. The equipment for the wellness area has cost the facility over \$18,000 and occupies 326 square feet of space.
- The local school recently completed the work on their track, which is now available to the public to utilize.
- The summer of 2019 the hospital put on a workout program for local high school athletes to help them prepare for the upcoming season. Based on the results of 2019, the hospital will evaluate the potential for this program annually.
- Hospital staff also give talks to students regarding hygiene, importance of exercise and sexually transmitted diseases.
- The hospital will continue to evaluate other opportunities to promote general wellness to community.



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4) Increased Access to Specialty Services

- An ENT physician has been contacted about visiting the clinic one time per month but has no availability at this time but will reconsider as his schedule changes.
- Many specialties have been added through the telemedicine program which decreases the cost of travel and saves time for our patients. New specialists continue to be added based on their commitment to provide these services to our rural area.
- To have these services available it roughly costs the facility \$36,000 per year.

5) Transportation Issues for Individuals with limited Mobility

- The hospital does not own anything that can be used for transportation of people with limited mobility.
- Some discussion was held during the community advisory meeting with the nursing home on the potential for collaboration on this project. The nursing home was in the process of transitioning ownership at that time, but it is something that the hospital will continue to discuss with the nursing home to see if there is a way to provide this service.

6) Access to Long Term Care Services

- Douglas County Memorial Hospital currently has a 16 bed assisted living.
- The nursing home located in Armour has recently changed ownership, which may bring changes to what the nursing home can do and provide.
- Licensing of beds for long term care services is strictly controlled by the state. New bed licenses are not granted easily, so it would be difficult for the hospital to be able to obtain licensure for additional beds. Even if licensure could be obtain, to build the facilities that are necessary to house such services are cost prohibitive for the hospital to take on. Due to these factors, the best solution is if the nursing home can improve under the new ownership and management. The current nursing home does not routinely stay filled, so there are beds available for people needing care. The hospital will support the new nursing home, so that they may provide the quality care the community is needing from their nursing home.
- Other opportunities will be evaluated by the organization on a case-by-case basis.

Approved by the Douglas County Memorial Hospital governing board on September 25, 2019.