



Douglas County Memorial Hospital Implementation Strategy 2022

This Implementation Strategy report summarizes Douglas County Memorial Hospital's plans to address the prioritized needs from the 2022 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

- The Douglas County Memorial Hospital is continuing to collaborate with Sanford Health to have Dr. Eggers, who is a Psychiatrist, available to provide tele-mental health services to youth.
- DCMH is exploring the tele-mental health services opportunities by additional collaboration with Sanford, Avera, or another provider of these services (such as a local nursing home). Especially to someone who could provide this care to elderly patients.
- To have the telemedicine services available it costs the facility over \$36,000 per year.
- The facility will commit to discussing the available services directly with our patients as well as any other local community organizations that may be able to support this initiative.
- The anticipated impact of this would be an increased mental & behavioral health within the community along with potentially allowing patients to remain closer to family and friends while receiving their healthcare.

2) Shortage of Dental Resources

- Dental services has several challenges in having this 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 significant part of the population in Douglas County that needs these services. The hospital does not have an ability to address these issues on its own.
- Currently DCMH providers are able to provide referrals to other dental providers that will provide needed dental care. There are several options within a thirty mile radius, and DCMH will use these providers while we await the arrival of the new dental practice.
- There is an individual who has purchased a building within the community with the intention of putting a dental practice within the structure. The hospital will see how it may support this needed endeavor within our community.
- DCMH intends to commit time of providers and nurses to discuss dental options for patients needing this care.

3) Wellness

- The Douglas County Hospital intends to continue to offer 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.
- DCMH intends to have hospital staff continue to 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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- The anticipated impact of these educational efforts will be to create a greater understanding of the physical exercise in overall wellness (including benefits to mental health). The goal is finally to improve health to the community.

4) Increased Access to Specialty Services

- Avera's infectious disease department was recently added to our specialties available through telemedicine. This new connection may lead to additional specialty opportunities available for our patients as new opportunities show themselves with this developing relationship.
- To have the telemedicine services available it costs the facility over \$36,000 per year.
- 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.
- DCMH anticipates the impact of telemedicine to decrease the cost of travel to see specialists, save time for travel, improved access to specialty services, shorter wait times, improved health outcomes, and improved patient and community satisfaction.

5) Transportation Issues for Individuals with limited Mobility

- DCMH has limited ability to meet this need, but is committed to exploring partnerships and/or options for a third party to provide this service to community members.
- The desired impact would be to provide community members an ability to overcome transportation/mobility challenges so that they may receive the quality medical care and support that they need in a routine and timely manner as their health needs require.

6) Access to Long Term Care Services

- Douglas County Memorial Hospital currently has a 16 bed assisted living.
- The nursing home located in Armour is set to close in October of 2022. The hospital evaluated the possibility of purchasing this organization and combining it with the current operations. After reviewing state survey reports of the facility, needs of the physical structure, possibility of building a connected structure to the hospital, and the financial impact that combining the two organizations would have on the hospital, it was decided for the hospital not to purchase the nursing home. There were too many risks that the concern was that adding the nursing home may jeopardize the financial stability of the hospital.
- 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 for the other five nursing homes within the thirty mile radius to provide this care. State occupancy for nursing homes is currently below 65%, so there are beds available for people needing care.
- Other opportunities will be evaluated by the organization on a case-by-case basis.
- DCMH will work with the other local nursing homes, particularly the Good-Sam nursing home in Corsica (or others as desired by patients/families), to refer patients as they are in need of this care. The desired outcome for this would be that our patients are able to receive quality long term care services as needed locally so they may continue this part of their life with the available connection to family and friends.

Approved by the Douglas County Memorial Hospital governing board on September 20, 2022.