CHI Mercy Health Valley City 2022 Community Health Implementation Strategy

Adopted October 2022





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At-a-Glance Summary

Community Served



CHI Mercy Health Valley City, located in Valley City, ND has been a part of the community since 1928 when it was founded by the Sisters of Mercy. Their vision was to build healthier communities through a healing ministry.

Situated 50 minutes to the west of Fargo, ND and 30 minutes to the east of Jamestown, ND on interstate 94, CHI Mercy Health Valley City is a licensed critical access hospital offering emergency services and meeting the needs of the community close to home.

CHI Mercy Health Valley City's service area is primarily Barnes County. The County's population from 2010 to 2021 decreased 4.3%. The average of residents under age 18 (19.7%) for Barnes County is 3.1% lower than the state average. The percentage of residents ages 65 and older is about 7% higher for Barnes County (23.1%) than the North Dakota average (16.1%), and the rates of education are slightly higher for Barnes County (94.2%) than the North Dakota average (93.1%). The median household income in Barnes County (\$60,472) is lower than the state average for North Dakota (\$65,315).

Significant Community Health Needs Being Addressed

The significant community health needs the hospital is helping to address and that form the basis of this document were identified in the hospital's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Needs being addressed by strategies and programs are:



- Availability of Mental Health Services
- Drug Use and Abuse Among Youth
- Depression and Anxiety Among Youth
- Not enough jobs with Livable Wages

Strategies and Programs to Address Needs



The hospital intends to take actions and to dedicate resources to address these needs, including:

- Increase awareness and educate community, ER providers, and evaluate materials, ensure resources are up to date.
- Creating virtual behavioral health access and appropriate screening processes.
- Add Screening tools for Mental Health
- Increase access to prevention strategies for community and providers. Growing support system knowledge.
- Increase ability to identify and provide early interventions of depression and anxiety.
- Prevention Identify an evidence-based program on prevention.
- Education capacity building for providers, parents (parents lead)
- Collaborate with strategic partners in the development of local addiction
- Recovery programming for youth.
- Reduce underage drinking and drug use.

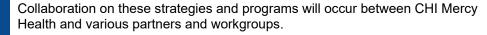
- Increase awareness of job opportunities within community
- Promote Valley City community as the place to live and work

Anticipated Impact

Anticipate

- 1. Increase the awareness of availability of mental health services.
- 2. Decrease the underage drinking and drug use.
- 3. Create a virtual behavioral health screening process.
- 4. Provide mental health first aid training to help reduce the depression and anxiety numbers in youth.
- 5. Work with community on promoting the city and the local job market.

Planned Collaboration





- City-County Health District
- Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation
- South Central Human Service Center
- Behavioral Health Coalition
- Valley City State University
- All Barnes County Schools
- Local Faith based Organization

This document is publicly available online at https://www.mercyhospitalvalleycity.org/communitybenefits/.

Written comments on this report can be submitted to the CHI Mercy Hospital Community Benefit office at: 570 Chautauqua Boulevard, Valley City, ND 58072 or by email to stevespickenreuther@catholichealth.net.

Our Hospital and the Community Served

About the Hospital

CHI Mercy Health Valley City is part of CommonSpirit Health which was formed by the alignment of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) and Dignity Health in early 2019. CommonSpirit Health's commitment to serve the common good is delivered through the dedicated work of thousands of physicians, advanced practice clinicians, nurses, and staff; through clinical excellence delivered across a system of hospitals and other care centers covering 21 states, and accessible to nearly one in four U.S. residents; and through more than \$4 billion annually in charity care, community benefits, and government program services.

- Located in Valley City, ND
- 19 bed Critical Access Hospital
- Major program and service lines include:
 - General and Acute Care
 - Surgery, same-day
 - Radiology
 - Laboratory
 - Emergency Room
 - · Physical Therapy

Our Mission

The hospital's dedication to assessing significant community health needs and helping to address them in conjunction with the community is in keeping with its mission. As CommonSpirit Health, we make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

Financial Assistance for Medically Necessary Care

It is the policy of CommonSpirit Health to provide, without discrimination, emergency medical care and medically necessary care in CommonSpirit hospital facilities to all patients, without regard to a patient's financial ability to pay. This hospital has a financial assistance policy that describes the assistance provided to patients for whom it would be a financial hardship to fully pay the expected out-of-pocket expenses for such care, and who meet the eligibility criteria for such assistance. The financial assistance policy, a plain language summary and related materials are available in multiple languages on the hospital's website.

Description of the Community Served

CHI Mercy Health Valley City serves the Barnes County area which is in the southeastern area of North Dakota. The county seat is Valley City, which lies in the center of the county. The state capital, Bismarck, is located two hours to the west of Valley City

Valley City is nestled on the banks of the beautiful Sheyenne River. The 11 bridges in Valley City help tell its history. Interpretive panels have been placed at seven bridges in town and one north of Valley City giving the details about how the valley was developed.

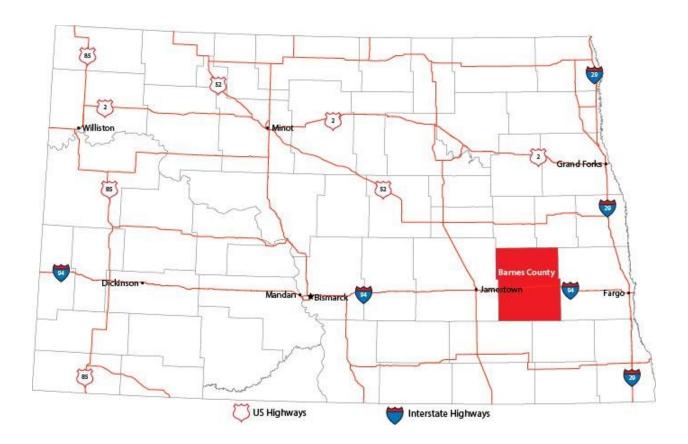


Valley City is also known for specialty shops—whether antiquing, looking for local art or quilting—Valley City has it covered. If you are a history buff you will enjoy the Rosebud Visitor Center, home to an 1881 Northern Pacific superintendent's railcar with the original furnishings and the outdoor railroad display. Don't miss the Barnes County Museum right in the middle of downtown. They have a special guest-Gundy the Triceratops.

Remaining on the historic register, Old Main and the clock tower are Valley City State University's campus icons. Also, on campus you will find the planetarium. Up the hill, south of the campus on Winter Show Road, is Medicine Wheel Park. A replica of a Native American solar calendar, a meridian calendar, burial mounds and a walk among the planets with interpretation are all part of the park.

For those who love the outdoors there are two beautiful golf courses along the river. Hikers will enjoy the North Country Scenic Trail as well as several walkways around Valley City. Enjoy a beautiful drive on the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway located north and south of Valley City.

A 2016 community addition, the Gaukler Wellness Center, is a state of the art, 65,000 sq. ft. center which offers fitness classes, a three-lane track, Matrix and Octane cardio equipment, Nautilus weight machines, free weights, a swimming pool with four lanes and a zero-depth area as well as a hot tub, two basketball courts, and an indoor playground.



Demographic Information (From 2020 Census; more recent estimates used where available)

	Barnes County	North Dakota
Population (2020)	10,853	779,094
Population change (2010 - 2020)	213	106,503
People per square mile (2020)	7.3%	11.3%
Persons 65 or older (2020)	23.1%	16.1%
Persons under the age of 18 (2020)	19.7%	24.0%
Median age (2020)	44.4	35.8
White persons (2020)	91.9%	83.2%
Non-English speaking (2020)	2.2%	7.0%
High school graduates (2020)	94.2%	93.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher (2020)	30.4%	30.7%
Live below poverty line (2020)	9.9%	11.1%
Persons without health insurance, under 65 (2020)	8.7%	9.2%

 $Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ND, barnes county north dakota/EDU685220 \# EDU685220 and https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile/Barnes_County,_North_Dakota?g=0500000US38003$

While the population of North Dakota has grown in recent years, Barnes County has seen a decrease in population since 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates show a population decrease from 11,066 (2010) to 10,853 (2020). While the population density of Barnes County is slightly below the state average (7.3 people per square mile vs. 11.3 people), it is more densely populated than most of rural North Dakota. In North Dakota, 35 of 53 counties are classified as frontier, having 7 or less people per square mile. Neighboring counties are frontier (Lamoure, 3.6 people per square mile; Griggs, 3.3; and Steele 2.8). Stutsman County has 9.2 people per square mile. The least densely populated counties in the state are Billings with 0.7 people per square mile and Slope with 0.6 people. Barnes County is slightly older than the state (people 65 years of age or older, 23.1% vs. 16.1% and a median age of 44.4 vs. 35.8 years); it has a smaller percentage that is 18 and younger, 19.7% vs. 24%. Barnes County is slightly whiter than the state, 91.9% vs. 83.2%. With regard to education, it has a slightly higher percentage of people who have completed high school, 94.2% vs. 93.1% and a lower percentage who have attained a bachelor's degree, 30.4% vs. 30.7%. It is in line with the state in terms of poverty, 9.9% vs. 11.1% and for people without health insurance, 8.7% vs. 9.2%

Community Assessment and Significant Needs

The hospital engages in multiple activities to conduct its community health improvement planning process. These include, but are not limited, to conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment with community input at least every three years, identifying collaborating community stakeholder organizations, describing anticipated impacts of program activities and measuring program indicators.

Community Health Needs Assessment

The health issues that form the basis of the hospital's community health implementation strategy and programs were identified in the most recent CHNA report, which was adopted in April 2022. The CHNA contains several key elements, including:

- Description of the assessed community served by the hospital;
- Description of assessment processes and methods;
- Presentation of data, information and findings, including significant community health needs;
- Community resources potentially available to help address identified needs; and
- Discussion of impacts of actions taken by the hospital since the preceding CHNA.

Additional detail about the needs assessment process and findings can be found in the CHNA report, which is publicly available at https://www.mercyhospitalvalleycity.org/community-benefits/ or upon request from the hospital, using the contact information in the At-a-Glance Summary.

Significant Health Needs

The CHNA identified the significant needs in the table below, which also indicates which needs the hospital intends to address. Identified needs may include specific health conditions, behaviors and health care services, and also health-related social needs that have an impact on health and well-being.

Significant Health Need	Description	Intend to Address?
Drug use and abuse – Youth	Availability of substance abuse/treatment services is not sufficient, there is a need for better education and assessment of needs.	•
Alcohol use and abuse – Adults	Alcohol abuse continues to be a problem in Barnes county, additional education and resources are needed to address.	
Attracting and retaining young families	Attracting and retaining young families, is a gap between the cost of living in the community and ability to earn livable wages	
Not enough jobs with livable wages	There is a need for bringing in higher paying jobs and working with the community to help identify where living wages can be increased. There is also education that needs to be addressed showing where those higher paying jobs are today and how to get employment.	•
Depression/anxiety - Youth	Depression and anxiety by adults and youth is great and the availability of mental health services is an issue. Assessment and placement is a need in determining where to reach out for help.	•
Alcohol use and abuse – Youth	Availability of substance abuse/treatment services is not sufficient, there is a need for better education and assessment of needs.	•
Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes	Many elderly community members wish to stay in their own homes versus going to a retirement home, however there is a severe shortage of qualified assistance workers to help those individuals continue to get the care and service needed.	
Cost of long-term/nursing home care	The cost of living has increased significantly and the inflation rate has continued to rise while debt to income for many has continued to widen, thus making nursing home care unaffordable.	
Drug use and abuse – Adult	Drug abuse continues to be a problem in Barnes county, additional education and resources are needed to address.	
Depression/anxiety - Adult	Depression and anxiety by adults and youth is great and the availability of mental health services is an issue. Assessment and placement is a need in determining where to reach out for help.	

Significant Needs the Hospital Does Not Intend to Address

The hospital intends to take actions to address the four prioritized significant health needs identified through the Community Health Needs Assessment, both through its own programs and services and with community partners. Lists and descriptions of those planned actions are included in this report.

The hospital has chosen not to address the following identified needs specifically within our initiatives. These health concerns are either beyond are capacity, being addressed by other organizations and programs, or are currently addressed through existing hospital programs. For each issue however, we will continue to dialogue with community partners.

- 1. Availability of resources to help the elderly stay in their homes
- 2. Alcohol use and abuse Adults
- 3. Attracting and retaining young families
- 4. Cost of long-term/nursing home care
- 5. Drug use and abuse Adult
- 6. Depression/anxiety Adult

2022 Implementation Strategy

This section presents strategies and program activities the hospital intends to deliver, fund or collaborate with others on to address significant community health needs over the next three years, including resources for and anticipated impacts of these activities.

Planned activities are consistent with current significant needs and the hospital's mission and capabilities. The hospital may amend the plan as circumstances warrant, such as changes in community needs or resources to address them.

Creating the Implementation Strategy

The hospital is dedicated to improving community health and delivering community benefit with the engagement of its management team, board, clinicians and staff, and in collaboration with community partners.



We are a cohesive and engaged community with regular interaction and natural partners promoting healthy communities through mutual support. Many of the community health needs identified in the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment are reflective of the previous assessment and ongoing survey and evaluation within the community. These topics have been ongoing issues the hospital has been collaborating with community partners on, in particular through the local Behavioral Health Coalition with representatives from Valley City Police Department, city and state representatives, social service industry, Valley City School District, Valley City State University, City and County Development Corporation.

For the creation of this implementation strategy we worked closely with the City-County Health District, Valley City, Barnes County Development Corporation, Valley City State University, and South Central Human Service Center.

Over the course of identifying community priorities, holding small group and one-on-one dialogue with stated partners CHI Mercy Health Valley City chose to address needs that were 1) were featured as high priorities by our community, partners and implementation partners and 2) were priorities we have the capacity to influence. We also gave consideration to needs currently being addressed and the amount of existing momentum behind them.

We chose to focus on four areas that take into consideration the health need priorities identified, each described in this document.

- 1. Availability of Mental Health Services
- 2. Not enough jobs with livable wages
- 3. Depression/anxiety Youth
- 4. Alcohol and Drug use and abuse Youth

Community Health Strategic Objectives

The hospital believes that program activities to help address significant community health needs should reflect a strategic use of resources and engagement of participants both inside and outside of the health care delivery system.

CommonSpirit Health has established four core strategic objectives for community health improvement activities. These objectives help to ensure that our program activities overall address strategic aims while meeting locally-identified needs.

Advance
Community
Health
Alignment and
Integration



Create robust alignment with multiple departments and programmatic integration with relevant strategic initiatives to optimize system resources for advancing community health.

Work with community members and agency partners to strengthen the capacity and resiliency of local ecosystems of health, public health, and social services.





Scale initiatives that complement conventional care to be proactive and community-centered, and strengthen the connection between clinical care and social health.

Partner, invest in and catalyze the expansion of evidence-based programs and innovative solutions that improve community health and well-being.



Strategies and Program Activities by Health Need

Health Need: Availability of Mental Health Services *for the purposes of implementation planning, the hospital is using "Behavioral Health Services" as a broader approach to include "Mental Health"					
Anticipated Impact (Goal)	The hospital's initiative to address availability of mental health servincrease appropriate screening processes, and increase awareness an			l health acce	SS,
		Strategic Objectives			
Strategy or Program	Summary Description	Alignment & Integration	Clinical - Community Linkages	Capacity for Equitable Communities	Innovation & Impact
Virtual Behavioral Health Service Assessments	Provide a virtual provider patient assessment tool for assessing behavioral health issues.	•	•		•
North Dakota Hospital Association (NDHA) Behavioral Health workgroup	Participate in NDHA workgroup to address behavioral health care in ND CAHs.	•	•		
Screening process at Critical Access Hospital (CAH)	 Evaluate screenings for people in crisis who may need referral to other facilities. Define process for transporting individuals in need of behavioral health services. 	•	•		
Screening and communication processes with schools	Assist in developing screening and communication processes to identify behavioral health issues in youth and communicate with appropriate resources.	•	•	•	
Education on available	Partner with City-County Health District to provide mental	•	•		•

behavioral health services

health first aid training to educate the community and

Health Need: Availability of Mental Health Services *for the purposes of implementation planning, the hospital is using "Behavioral Health Services" as a broader approach to include "Mental Health"					
	 emergency room providers on the current available treatment options and work towards developing and implementing new treatment options for people in crisis. North Dakota Violence Prevention "Coaching boys into men" program that addresses mental health issues tied to violence in youth as young as 12. 				
Planned Resources	The hospital will provide registered nurses, community health educators, philanthropic cash grants, outreach communications, and program management support for these initiatives.				
Planned Collaborators	CHI Mercy Health Valley City will work closely with the local Behavior Health Coalition and participating members, in particular; City-County Health District, South Central Human Service Center, Valley City Police, Barnes County Sheriff's Office, Valley City State University and Valley City Public Schools.				

Health Need: Not enough jobs with livable wages					
Anticipated Impact (Goal)	The hospital's initiative is to increase awareness of employment opportunities within the community and promote the Valley City community as the place to live and work.				
		Strategic Objectives			
Strategy or Program	Summary Description	Alignment & Integration	Clinical - Community Linkages	Capacity for Equitable Communities	Innovation & Impact
Grow Your Own Healthcare Workforce	 Hospital will create a shadow program for high school aged youth to learn about healthcare occupations. The hospital will participate in or host a local job fairs. CHI Mercy Health Valley City to provide classes to the 	•		•	•

Health Need: Not en	nough jobs with livable wages				
	community for Certified Nursing Assistant certification beyond existing high school programs.				
Partner with Valley City Economic Development Group and Chamber of Commerce	• In support of local businesses, build awareness of jobs and the availability of competitive livable wages and benefits within the community.	•		•	
Workforce Health Education	Increase awareness to employers and encourage education in understanding workplace mental health struggles to maintain/recruit workforce.	•		•	
Planned Resources	The hospital will provide human resource contacts, philanthropic grants, outreach communications, and program management support for these initiatives.				
Planned Collaborators	CHI Mercy Health Valley City will work closely with the local business owners, South Central Human Service Center, Valley City Economic Development Group, Local government agencies, Valley City State University and the Valley City Chamber of Commerce.				

Health Need: Depre	ession/anxiety – Youth	
Anticipated Impact (Goal)	The hospital's initiatives are to explore community and wellness opp anxiety, and increase the ability to identify and provide early interven	1 1
		Strategic Objectives



Health Need: Depression/anxiety – Youth

Strategy or Program	Summary Description	Alignment & Integration	Clinical - Community Linkage	Capacity for Equitable Community	Innovation & Impact
Education for frontline workers	The hospital will work with local schools, emergency services and agencies to provide behavioral health education to workers who are directly impacted by youth with behavioral health problems.	•	•		•
Explore evidence-based prevention programs	Work with local agencies to develop or implement a prevention program that can be used by all members of the Behavioral Health Coalition to work towards reducing the number of youth suffering from depression and anxiety.	•			•
South Central Human Service Center Resources	Partner with South Central Human Service Center to educate the community on the current available treatment options and work towards developing and implementing new treatment options.	•	•		•
Planned Resources	The hospital will provide registered nurses, community health educators, philanthropic cash grants, outreach communications, and program management support for these initiatives.				
Planned Collaborators	CHI Mercy Health Valley City will work closely with the local Behavioral Health Coalition and participating members, in particular; City-County Health District, South Central Human Service Center and Valley City Public Schools.				



Health Need: Alcohol and Drug use and abuse – Youth

Anticipated Impact (Goal)	The hospital's initiatives are to increase access to prevention strategies for the community and health care providers as well as identify and grow a support system for educators and parents.				
		Strategic Objectives			
Strategy or Program	Summary Description	Alignment & Integration	Clinical - Community Linkage	Capacity for Equitable Community	Innovation & Impact
Community Health Partners at Valley City Schools	 Provide school-based health care education about alcohol and drug abuse to children and families. Train staff in identifying and assessing of youth who may be struggling with addiction problems. 	•	•		•
Identify preventive programs for alcohol and drug abuse.	Work with local faith leaders, schools and parent groups to develop peer support resources for youth struggling with addiction.		•		•
Identify current and new treatment resources	Partner with South Central Human Service Center to educate the community on the current available treatment options and work towards developing and implementing new treatment options.	•	•		•
Planned Resources	The hospital will provide registered nurses, community health educators, philanthropic cash grants, outreach communications, and program management support for these initiatives.				
Planned Collaborators	CHI Mercy Health Valley City will work closely with the local Behavioral Health Coalition and participating members, in particular; City-County Health District, South Central Human Service Center, Valley City Police, Barnes County Sheriff's Office, Faith based leaders and Valley City Public Schools				

^{*}By working closely with youth on issues of substance abuse and behavioral health, we will also impact the adult population.

Program Highlights

Mental Health	
Mental Health	
Significant Health Needs Addressed	Depression and anxietySuicide prevention
Program Description	The focus of Prevention is to educate individuals and families on mental health issues, end the stigma associated with mental health issues, and provide suicide prevention. The emphasis is on early intervention. The hospital's role is to assist with education through utilization of print resources and social media, promoting treatment options and the Recovery Talk 24/7 hotline.
Community Benefit Category	A1. Community Health Education
Planned Actions for 202	2 - 2023
Program Goal / Anticipated Impact	The goal of the initiative is to eliminate the stigma of mental health, for people to understand that it is "Ok to not be OK". Through the initiative individuals will gain knowledge and thus more confidence in their ability to discuss the issue and seek help. The overall outcome is to instill confidence and support in those struggling with mental health issues to share their struggles and ask for help knowing they are not alone.
Measurable Objective(s) with Indicator(s)	Outcomes for achievement that will be evaluated include the number of mental health education instances made available to the community and tracking the reported number of suicide attempts and deaths by suicide through 2024.
 Intervention Actions for Achieving Goal 	 Meet with local counselors and educators and provide assistance with expanding existing education and support. Utilize modes of community communication (CHI Mercy Health Valley City Insights, web and Facebook pages) to promote education and awareness of resources. Introduce individuals to faith based organizations that provide support groups.
Planned Collaboration	City-County Health District and Valley City Public schools, along with the greater Behavioral Health Coalition, currently have initiatives in place and will be collaborators on this initiative.



Substance Abuse and Misuse – Treatment Recovery and Services

Significant Health Needs Addressed	 Availability of substance abuse and treatment services Drug use and abuse Alcohol use and abuse for adult and youth populations
Program Description	The focus of Treatment Recovery and Services is to expand services to include recovery housing. The hospital's role is to utilize available resources to promote treatment and recovery services within our community, to assist in exploring and determining appropriate location for recovery housing and provide ongoing education regarding substance use disorder as a chronic disease.
Community Benefit Category	A.1. Community Health Education
Planned Actions for 2019	9 - 2021
Program Goal / Anticipated Impact	The goal of the initiative is to make appropriate recovery resources available for those returning to our community after treatment and/or incarceration, in turn decreasing recidivism rates and increasing successful reentry. The overall outcome is to develop and offer a support system that will increase successful reentry into our community.
Measurable Objective(s) with Indicator(s)	Outcomes for achievement will evaluate the number of clients utilizing the support systems put in place. • Assist in developing a strong peer support network in Valley City/Barnes County. • Meet with local development group and philanthropists to determine a location for recovery housing in Valley City. • Assist with: • approving evidence-based guidelines for recovery housing. • determination of appropriate leasing or rental of a home. • assessment of staffing model and needs.
Planned Collaboration	City-County Health District and South Central Human Service Center, along with the greater Behavioral Health Coalition, currently have initiatives in place and will be collaborators on this initiative.

Hospital Board



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