**2021**

**Saline County Medical Center known as Saline Memorial Hospital**

**Implementation Strategy to Address Significant Community Health Needs**

Saline County, Arkansas

Paper copies of this document may be obtained at Saline Memorial Hospital, 1 Medical Park Drive, Benton, AR 72015 or by phone 501-776-6000. This document is also available electronically via the hospital website http://www.salinememorial.org

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# Overview

Due to the Covid Pandemic, Saline Memorial Hospital leveraged the Community Health Needs Assessment from the summer of 2018 to define opportunities for health improvement.

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 served by Saline Memorial Hospital (Saline County, AR). This document is the Saline Memorial Hospital (SMH) Implementation Plan outlining how the hospital plans on addressing significant health needs in the community.

Starting in June 2021, this report is expected to be widely available to the community via Saline Memorial Hospital’s website, www.salinememorial.org, and paper copies are available free of charge at Saline Memorial Hospital.

# Community Health Improvement/ Implementation Plan 2021

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 previously and posted on SMH’s website.

Based on the results of the CHNA, SMH has selected four of the identified significant health needs to address.

* Mental Health
* Obesity
* Substance Abuse
* Access to Care

SMH plans to meet the significant health need by:

**Mental Health**

1. Saline Health System has worked over the last two years to upgrade the Behavioral Health Units located on the 6th floor. The total costs of the renovations exceed $1.5 million. Both units should be online during the summer of 2021.
2. Additionally, SMH partnered with Psychiatric Medical Care (PMC). PMC has hired an Inpatient Development Director who is in the Benton and surrounding communities biweekly to raise awareness of the Saline units.
3. SMH championed mental health events in 2020 and 2021 to increase the awareness of the stigma and resources available for those in need of mental health services. SMH will continue to reach out to local agencies to support awareness and aid for community members in need of the service.
4. The SMH Mental Health team will participate in Chamber events such as third Thursdays and the Chamber Expo in support of mental wellness.

**Obesity**1. The Bariatric team implemented Live Support Group Meetings in late 2018. This allows more patients/community members to be engaged. These support group meetings are weekly and provide education on health topics, guidance and nutritional support.

2. In an effort to reach more people and to enhance convenience, Saline Health System and employed physicians host weight loss clinics in Russellville, Little Rock, and El Dorado. Our bariatric dietician also hosts support group meetings at those locations.

3. During the Pandemic, the Bariatric team continued to hold online support groups and conducted parking lot meetings to keep the members of the community engaged.

**Substance Abuse**

1. Working with state drug director’s office in implementing prevention awareness and treatment.

2. Narcan is carried by all first responders

3. The renovated beds on the Behavioral Health Units will support additional treatment options for the community.

**Access to Care**

1. In 2018, Saline Health System onboarded Dr. Josiah Onyenekwe (Dr. O) as part of an income guarantee. In 2020, Dr. Onyenekwe was brought on as a fulltime employee of SMH

2. Additionally, Dr. Hardin was onboarded in 2021

3. Drs Hardin and Onyenekwe serve all patients including those with Medicaid. Finding local providers who accept Medicaid is an ongoing challenge

4. Drs Yeluru and Irwin are pediatricians that will start during the summer of ’21. This will help the pediatric population have additional access.

5. Dr. Skinner is a cardiologist that will join the team in August. She will increase access for Medicaid patients in the community.