

Executive Summary

- This is a 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment report for PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center in Oregon.

- It outlines the hospital's efforts to address community health needs, focusing on four key pillars: Home (housing), Hope (mental health/substance abuse), Care (access to healthcare), and Nourish (food security).

- Key initiatives highlighted include:

- Partnering with local organizations to provide emergency housing vouchers and support housing initiatives
- Expanding mental health services for rural youth through the Looking Glass Rural Program
- Improving access to healthcare and education for Guatemalan and Latinx families through the La Plaza Project
- Supporting community gardens and food access programs to address food insecurity

- The report emphasizes PeaceHealth's commitment to health equity, community partnerships, and addressing social determinants of health.

- It acknowledges ongoing challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including housing shortages, mental health needs, and food insecurity.

- The hospital pledges to continue collaborative work with community partners to improve health outcomes and quality of life for residents of Cottage Grove and surrounding areas.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Mental health services, especially for youth: The report mentions a critical need for increased access to mental healthcare and addiction treatment for youth and young adults.

2. Primary care access: The opening of a new Federally Qualified Health Center in South Lane County is highlighted as addressing a significant gap in primary care services.

3. Services for rural communities: The report emphasizes the challenges faced by teens in rural areas who often have fewer resources to draw from when facing health crises.

4. Culturally appropriate care for immigrant populations: There's a focus on the need for services catering to the large Guatemalan and Latinx population in South Lane County, including language support and culturally sensitive care.

5. Shortage of healthcare providers: The report mentions a declining number of available providers for basic and critical care services, especially in more rural communities. This has created significant gaps in available healthcare services, driving up wait times and wait lists.

6. Childcare services: While not directly a healthcare service, the report emphasizes the lack of childcare options as a significant issue impacting healthcare workers and the broader community's health.

7. Substance abuse treatment: The report mentions a need for increased access to addiction treatment, particularly for youth.

8. Services for unhoused individuals: There's a noted gap in services for individuals experiencing homelessness, especially those with complex healthcare needs.

The report suggests that these gaps are often more pronounced in rural areas and for underserved populations, including low-income families, immigrants, and youth.

Greatest Barriers to Care

1. Language and literacy: For the large Guatemalan and Latinx population, language barriers make it difficult to access healthcare, education, and other social services.

2. Cultural barriers: The report emphasizes the need for culturally appropriate and sensitive care, especially for immigrant populations.

3. Poverty and low income: Many families struggle to afford healthcare, housing, and other basic needs, which impacts their overall health and access to care.

4. Transportation: While not explicitly stated, the report implies that rural residents may face transportation challenges in accessing care.

5. Housing insecurity: The report highlights how lack of stable housing can negatively impact health and make it difficult to access consistent care.

6. Lack of providers: There's a declining number of available providers for basic and critical care services, especially in rural areas, leading to long wait times and limited access.

7. Mental health stigma: The report suggests that there's a need for increased mental health services, implying that stigma may be a barrier to seeking such care.

8. Lack of insurance or underinsurance: While not directly stated, this is implied as a barrier for low-income families.

9. Childcare shortages: The lack of affordable, accessible childcare is described as a significant issue that can impact families' ability to access healthcare and maintain overall health.

10. Food insecurity: Limited access to healthy, affordable food is described as a barrier to good health outcomes.

11. Lack of awareness: The report mentions efforts to educate families about available services, suggesting that lack of awareness can be a barrier to accessing care.

12. Complex healthcare system: The need for navigators and community health workers suggests that the complexity of the healthcare system itself can be a barrier for many.

The Unique Needs of the Community

1. Housing for a diverse population:

- Emergency housing options for families, immigrants, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and domestic violence survivors
 - Creative housing solutions like tiny homes and pallet shelters
 - Youth-specific housing options
2. Services for a large Guatemalan and Latinx population:
 - Trilingual translation and interpretation services (likely including Mam, Spanish, and English)
 - Culturally appropriate healthcare and social services
 - Support for early learning and school transition for immigrant children
 3. Rural youth support:
 - Mental health services and substance abuse treatment specifically tailored for rural youth
 - Programs to prevent homelessness among youth
 - Support to keep rural youth in school during personal or family crises
 4. Expanded healthcare workforce:
 - More healthcare providers, especially in general practice, dentistry, and mental health
 - Development of traditional health worker roles like community health workers, doulas, and peer support specialists
 5. Childcare solutions:
 - Affordable, accessible childcare options, especially for essential workers and healthcare staff
 - Childcare for non-traditional hours and drop-in care
 6. Food security initiatives:
 - Community gardens, especially those preserving cultural food traditions
 - Programs like Veggie Rx and Double Up food bucks to increase access to fresh produce
 - Culturally appropriate food options for diverse populations
 7. Mental health services:
 - Increased access to mental healthcare, especially for youth
 - Substance abuse prevention and treatment programs
 8. Community-based care coordination:
 - Integration of social services with healthcare
 - Support for community organization capacity building
 9. Early intervention and prevention services:
 - Programs focusing on early connection and prevention, especially for youth
 10. Economic support:
 - Job training and employment support, especially for youth and immigrants

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

1. Community Partnerships: The hospital is actively collaborating with various community organizations, such as Be Your Best Community Coalition, Looking Glass, and Huerto de la Familia, to address community needs.

2. **Housing Initiatives:** They've supported the Be Your Best Community Cares Program, which provides motel vouchers for emergency housing needs.
3. **Youth Mental Health:** PeaceHealth has partnered with Looking Glass Community Services, contributing \$10,000 to renovate a building to expand mental health services for rural youth.
4. **Cultural Sensitivity:** They're supporting the La Plaza Project, which helps Guatemalan and Latinx families access education, healthcare, and social services.
5. **Food Security:** PeaceHealth provided \$10,000 in funding to support Huerto de la Familia Community Gardens, promoting access to healthy and culturally sensitive foods.
6. **COVID-19 Response:** They partnered with various organizations to support pop-up COVID vaccine clinics, especially targeting vulnerable populations.
7. **Childcare Support:** During the pandemic, PeaceHealth partnered with the YMCA to provide \$50,000 in funding for childcare for essential workers.
8. **Health Equity Focus:** The hospital is actively working to address health disparities and promote health justice for all.
9. **Community Health Needs Assessment:** They're conducting regular assessments to identify and address community needs.
10. **Traditional Health Worker Development:** PeaceHealth is supporting the development of roles like community health workers, doulas, and peer support specialists.
11. **Collaborative Approach:** The hospital is participating in county-wide initiatives and partnerships to address broader community health issues.

While the report doesn't explicitly state what the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) is doing well, it implies that these efforts are often collaborative, involving multiple community partners including CCOs.

Strengths of the Community

1. **Strong Community Collaboration:** The report frequently mentions community coalitions and partnerships, particularly highlighting the Be Your Best Community Coalition, which quickly mobilizes various organizations to address community needs.
2. **Resilience:** The community has demonstrated exceptional strength, resolve, and dedication in supporting one another, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **Engaged Citizenry:** Historically, residents have been active in protecting their local healthcare infrastructure, as evidenced by their role in establishing the partnership with PeaceHealth.
4. **Cultural Diversity:** The community is home to a large Guatemalan and Latinx population, contributing to its cultural richness.

5. Grassroots Initiatives: There are numerous local nonprofit organizations and grassroots efforts addressing various community needs, from housing to food security.
6. Adaptability: The community showed the ability to quickly adapt and respond to crises, such as rapidly setting up emergency childcare during the pandemic.
7. Focus on Youth: There's a strong emphasis on supporting youth through various programs and initiatives.
8. Commitment to Education: The report mentions several educational initiatives and partnerships with local school districts.
9. Agricultural Tradition: The community's interest in and support for community gardens suggests a connection to agricultural traditions.
10. Cross-sector Collaboration: The report highlights collaboration between healthcare, education, government, and nonprofit sectors to address community issues.
11. Volunteer Spirit: While not explicitly stated, the numerous community initiatives suggest a strong volunteer ethos in the community.
12. Commitment to Equity: There are ongoing efforts to address disparities and provide culturally appropriate services, indicating a community-wide commitment to equity.

Priorities

1. HOME (Housing):

- Develop best practices for housing, including innovative models like tiny homes and pallet shelters
- Provide safe, low-barrier emergency housing for individuals and families
- Create housing options specifically for youth

2. HOPE (Mental Health and Substance Abuse):

- Increase access to mental healthcare and addiction treatment, especially for youth
- Expand programs focusing on basic needs, case management, and community outreach
- Ensure readily accessible mental health services for youth in crisis

3. CARE (Access to Healthcare):

- Grow traditional health worker roles (e.g., community health workers, doulas, peer support specialists)
- Improve access to healthcare for immigrant populations, particularly Guatemalan and Latinx families
- Support early learning and successful entry into school for children from diverse backgrounds

4. NOURISH (Food Security):

- Expand food partnerships and community gardens
- Increase equitable access to culturally appropriate, nutritious food
- Support programs like Veggie Rx and Double Up food bucks

Additional priorities that cut across these pillars include:

5. Addressing Health Equity:

- Focus on providing equitable care and services to underserved populations
- Ensure culturally appropriate and sensitive care

6. Workforce Development:

- Address the shortage of healthcare providers, especially in rural areas
- Develop and fund multilingual and multicultural training programs

7. Community Collaboration:

- Continue and strengthen partnerships with local organizations and government entities
- Support capacity building for community organizations

8. Childcare:

- Improve access to affordable, quality childcare options

9. Youth Support:

- Increase programs and services specifically targeting the needs of youth, especially in rural areas

10. Prevention and Early Intervention:

- Focus on upstream approaches and early connection services to prevent health issues