Executive Summary

The CHNA was conducted collaboratively by Providence Seaside Hospital, Columbia Memorial Hospital, Clatsop County Public Health, Columbia County Public Health, and Columbia Pacific CCO.

- It used quantitative and qualitative data, including community surveys, listening sessions, and stakeholder interviews, to identify community health needs.

- Key health needs identified include:

1. Access to healthcare services
2. Behavioral health challenges and access to care (mental health and substance use)
3. Homelessness and housing instability
4. Affordable childcare and preschools
5. Economic insecurity
6. Access to dental care
7. Chronic health conditions

- Some key findings:
- 33% of survey respondents did not get all the healthcare they needed in the past year
- 61% did not get all the mental healthcare they needed
- Clatsop County had the highest rate of homelessness in Oregon (23 per 1,000 people)
- There is a significant lack of affordable childcare and preschool options
- Many jobs do not pay living wages to keep up with housing costs

- The collaborative partners will use this assessment to develop Community Health Improvement Plans to address the identified needs.

- The assessment process emphasized equity and engaging underrepresented populations in the community.

The executive summary provides an overview of the CHNA process, key findings on community health needs, and next steps for the partnering organizations to address those needs.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Access to healthcare services: There is a high need for more medical providers and facilities in the community, particularly for the Latino/a/x community, those without insurance, and unhoused individuals and families. 19% of survey respondents said they did not have a primary care provider.

2. Behavioral health services: There is a significant need for more affordable mental health services and professionals, especially for those with Oregon Health Plan (OHP) or without insurance. 61% of survey respondents did not get all the counseling or mental healthcare they needed in the last year.

3. Dental care: There is a lack of dental care options, particularly providers that accept OHP. The ratio of population to dentists in both Clatsop and Columbia Counties was higher than in Oregon.

4. Culturally responsive care: There is a need for more bilingual and bicultural workforce, especially for the Latino/a/x community. The report mentions a lack of in-person interpretation services and Spanish-language mental health services.

5. Specialized services: There is a gap in services for children with special needs and full-service reproductive healthcare.

6. Substance use disorder treatment: The report mentions a need for more outpatient mental health services, harm reduction programs, and substance use disorder treatment programs.

7. Healthcare for unhoused populations: There is a gap in services for people experiencing homelessness, particularly in receiving regular care for chronic conditions.

8. Transportation to healthcare services: This was noted as a significant barrier, especially for rural residents and older adults.

Greatest Barriers to Care
1. Transportation: This was frequently mentioned as a challenge, especially for people living in rural parts of Columbia and Clatsop counties. Some residents have to travel long distances to access primary care or hospitals.

2. Cost of care: For those without insurance, the fear of not being able to afford care often leads to delaying or avoiding healthcare until conditions become severe.

3. Lack of providers: There's a shortage of healthcare providers, particularly in mental health and dental care. This leads to long wait times for appointments.

4. Insurance coverage: People without insurance or those with Oregon Health Plan (OHP) often have limited options for care.

5. Language barriers: There's a lack of bilingual and bicultural workforce, making it difficult for non-English speakers, particularly in the Latino/a/x community, to access care.

6. Appointment availability: Long wait times for appointments were reported as a significant barrier.

7. Lack of culturally competent care: This is especially an issue for LGBTQ2SIA+ and BBIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Persons of Color) communities.

8. Technology barriers: With the shift to telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of broadband access or familiarity with technology became a barrier for some.

9. Childcare: Lack of affordable childcare can make it difficult for parents to attend medical appointments.

10. Stigma and discrimination: Particularly for LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals and those with mental health or substance use disorders.

11. Lack of awareness: Some community members are unaware of available services or how to access them.

12. Housing instability: For those experiencing homelessness, lack of a stable address can make it difficult to maintain insurance coverage and access regular care.
populations to access necessary healthcare services.

The Unique Needs of the Community
1. Affordable housing: Clatsop County had the highest rate of homelessness in Oregon, with nearly 23 out of every 1,000 people experiencing homelessness. There's a significant need for safe and affordable housing options.

2. Affordable childcare and preschools: Both Clatsop and Columbia counties were considered "childcare deserts" with very limited availability, especially for infants and toddlers.

3. Economic security: Many jobs in the community, particularly in hospitality and tourism, don't pay living wages. The median income in both counties was below the livable wage.

4. Culturally responsive services: There's a need for more bilingual and bicultural services, particularly for the Latino/a/x community.

5. Mental health and substance use services: There's a high need for affordable mental health services and professionals, as well as substance use disorder treatment programs.

6. Services for LGBTQ2SIA+ population: There's a need for safe and inclusive healthcare providers for this community.

7. Support for unhoused population: There's a need for more services for people experiencing homelessness, including shelters and emergency housing.

8. Dental care: There's a lack of dental care options, particularly for those on Oregon Health Plan or without insurance.

9. Transportation services: Improved public transportation is needed, especially for job security and accessing healthcare appointments.

10. Youth programs: There's a need for more parks, covered and indoor play areas, and recreation opportunities for all ages, especially in light of the pandemic's impact on youth socialization and physical activity.

11. Community safety: There were concerns about increases in crime and encampments.

12. Addressing racism and discrimination: There's a need for more education around inclusion and unity, particularly in schools.

13. Chronic disease management: There's a need for more holistic, wraparound support for managing chronic health conditions.

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well
1. Columbia Pacific CCO:
   - The report praises Columbia Pacific CCO for looking at health in a comprehensive way, addressing social needs beyond just medical care.
   - Stakeholders shared that Columbia Pacific CCO "invites the community into seeing things differently than they've seen them before" and has "been putting forth the effort to bridge the gaps between the services and the needs of people."

2. Columbia Memorial Hospital:
   - While not specifically praised, the hospital is mentioned as a key healthcare provider in the area.

3. Providence Seaside Hospital:
   - The Providence Seaside Hospital Dental Van is highlighted as helping bring dental services to the community for people who qualify.

4. General Healthcare Initiatives:
   - COVID-19 vaccination events: Stakeholders spoke positively about county-wide efforts to set up vaccine clinics and provide outreach and education to build trust in vaccine safety.
   - Clatsop County Public Health Harm Reduction Program: This program, including the Syringe Service Program and Naloxone training, was noted as successful in reversing overdoses in the community.
   - HIV Counseling and Testing: Stakeholders shared there are good supports for people living with HIV/AIDS, including case management services through HIV Alliance.

5. Behavioral Health Initiatives:
   - Better Outcomes thru Bridges (BOB) Program: This program provides mental health and substance use disorder peer support specialists and outreach.
   - Clatsop Behavioral Health's Rapid Access Clinic (RAC): This was identified as an important service offering mental health and substance use drop-in services for adults.
   - Columbia Community Mental Health's peer groups: These were noted as effective in engaging with people experiencing homelessness and addressing mental health needs.

6. Community Health Initiatives:
   - Healthy Families Program: This voluntary family support and home visiting program was praised for adapting to pandemic challenges and building trusted relationships with families.

Strengths of the Community
1. Community engagement and helping one another:
   - Community members are aware of needs and actively engage in solutions through conversation and volunteerism.
   - People rally together for events and step up to help others when they see someone in need.
   - There's strong engagement in addressing homelessness and housing challenges.
   - Significant support for schools and children's programs.

2. Community knowledge and wisdom:
   - Community members, especially in specific groups like the LGBTQ2SIA+ and Latino/a/x communities, share valuable information and resources with each other.

- This community wisdom has been beneficial during COVID-19 vaccination events, with trusted community members sharing information about vaccine safety.

3. Stakeholder collaboration and commitment:
  - Local organizations collaborate well and have a shared sense of responsibility.
  - There's a sense of accountability among stakeholders due to the community's size and interconnectedness.
  - Healthcare, mental health, law enforcement, businesses, and non-profits work together towards common goals.

4. Strong community organizations:
  - Several local organizations were highlighted for their effective work, including Clatsop Community Action, Consejo Hispano, and Helping Hands Reentry Outreach Center.

5. Adaptability:
  - The community has shown resilience and adaptability in response to challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Natural resources:
  - The area's natural beauty, including beaches and parks, was noted as a community asset for recreation and healthy lifestyles.

7. Cultural diversity:
  - The community values diversity and there are efforts to make all people feel welcome and respected.

8. Focus on youth:
  - There's a strong emphasis on supporting children and young people, including creating access to sports and recreation opportunities.

Priorities
1. Access to healthcare services

2. Behavioral health challenges and access to care (including mental health and substance use/misuse)

3. Homelessness and housing instability

4. Affordable childcare and preschools

5. Economic insecurity

6. Access to dental care

7. Chronic health conditions