

Executive Summary

The assessment identified the following top health priorities for east Linn County:

1. Access to medical, dental and mental/behavioral health care
2. Suicide prevention
3. Substance use disorder
4. Anxiety and depression
5. Food insecurity
6. Child care, abuse and neglect
7. Domestic violence
8. Housing costs and homelessness
9. Poverty
10. Culturally and linguistically appropriate services

- Key social determinants of health identified include access to mental health care, affordable housing, healthy food, as well as poverty and discrimination.

- Linn County faces challenges with higher rates of suicide, substance use, child abuse, and chronic homelessness compared to state averages.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many health issues and disproportionately impacted communities of color and low-income populations.

- Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital plans to address these priorities through partnerships, education, funding community programs, and expanding access to care.

- The hospital aims to promote health equity and provide culturally appropriate care to better serve all community members.

This summary captures the main findings and priorities identified in the community health needs assessment for the hospital's service area in east Linn County, Oregon. Let me know if you would like me to elaborate on any part of this executive summary.

Biggest Gaps in Service

1. Mental and behavioral health services: The report emphasizes a significant lack of mental health providers, especially for children, youth, and adults. It notes that Brownsville and Scio have no mental health providers at all, while the rest of the county has fewer than 1 provider per 1,000 people.

2. Substance use disorder (SUD) treatment: There's a high rate of substance use in the area, particularly in rural east Linn County, indicating a need for more SUD treatment services.

3. Culturally and linguistically appropriate care: The report highlights a lack of culturally competent providers and services, which creates barriers for marginalized communities.

4. Dental care: While not as prominently discussed as mental health, the report does mention dental care as part of the overall access to care issues.

5. Specialized care in rural areas: The report suggests that people in rural communities have less access to specialized health services.

6. Navigation and patient advocacy services: There's a noted lack of services to help patients, especially those from marginalized communities, navigate the complex healthcare system.

7. Transportation to health services: For rural residents, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals, lack of transportation is a significant barrier to accessing healthcare.

8. Workforce diversity: The report notes a lack of diverse healthcare providers, including trans or trans-friendly providers and mental health providers of color.

These gaps are exacerbated by overall workforce shortages and capacity issues, which have worsened in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to increased wait times for appointments across various health services.

Greatest Barriers to Care

1. Lack of workforce and capacity: There's a shortage of healthcare providers, especially in mental health. This has led to increased wait times for appointments.

2. Insurance issues: About 8.3% of people in Linn County are uninsured. Additionally, there's a lack of insurance literacy among the population.

3. Complexity of the healthcare system: The report notes a lack of navigation and patient advocacy services to help people, especially those from marginalized communities, understand and access the healthcare system.

4. Cultural barriers: There's a lack of culturally appropriate facilities, policies, and workforce. This creates mistrust and trauma for marginalized communities, making them less likely to seek care.

5. Lack of workforce diversity: There's a shortage of providers who reflect the diversity of the community, such as trans-friendly providers and mental health providers of color.

6. Transportation: Especially for rural communities, people of color, those in poverty, people with disabilities, and those with language barriers, lack of transportation is a significant barrier to accessing healthcare.

7. Poverty: This affects access to health care, as well as other social determinants of health like quality housing, healthy food, and education.

8. Language barriers: The report mentions that people with limited English skills face additional challenges in receiving care and navigating the system.

9. Discrimination and bias: Institutional discrimination and bias are cited as long-standing issues that create barriers to care.

10. Geographic location: Rural areas in east Linn County tend to have less access to specialized health services.

11. COVID-19 impacts: The pandemic has exacerbated many of these barriers, leading to longer wait times, postponed care, and related access issues.

The Unique Needs of the Community

1. Rural health care access: Many residents live in rural or isolated areas with limited services, resources, and transportation options.

2. Mental health and substance use disorder treatment: The area has high rates of mental health issues and substance use, particularly in rural parts.

3. Child and youth services: There's a significant focus on family stability, kindergarten readiness, and equitable services for children and youth.

4. Culturally appropriate care: The community needs services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, especially for marginalized populations.

5. Housing support: There's a need for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing, particularly for the unhoused population.

6. Food security: Access to healthy, affordable food is a challenge for many in the community.

7. Multigenerational poverty: The report notes that multigenerational poverty is common in east Linn County, leading to higher rates of behavioral health issues.

8. Support for aging population: Linn County has a significant aging population with specific health care needs.

9. Domestic violence services: The community needs more support for survivors of domestic violence, including safe housing options.

10. Child abuse prevention and intervention: Linn County has consistently higher child abuse rates than the state average.

11. Chronic disease management: The community has needs related to managing and preventing chronic conditions.

12. Transportation services: There's a need for better transportation options to access health care and other essential services.

13. Education and prevention programs: The community needs programs focused on suicide prevention, substance use prevention, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

14. Workforce development: There's a need to develop a more diverse healthcare workforce that reflects the community.

15. COVID-19 recovery: The community has unique needs related to recovering from the impacts of the pandemic, including addressing "Long COVID" and delayed diagnoses of other health conditions.

What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well

1. Community Partnerships: SLCH has strong partnerships with organizations and agencies in east Linn County and across the region.

2. Diverse Outreach: The hospital worked with consultants to ensure diverse responses to the Community Health Needs Assessment, including input from various racial/ethnic groups, LGBTQIA2S+ community members, veterans, and non-English speaking people.

3. Social Accountability Funding: SLCH provided \$350,000 to 20 agencies through social accountability funding.

4. Emergency Response: During the COVID-19 pandemic and 2021 wildfires, SLCH acted as a first responder for many medical, mental/behavioral, dental, and social needs.

5. Continued Essential Services: Despite the pandemic, SLCH continued providing emergency care, birthing services, and urgent surgeries.

6. Community Support: The hospital provided additional funding, food, clothing, and other resources to support local communities during crises.

7. Outreach Services: SLCH provided transportation, telehealth, and home visits to over 2,000 people in east Linn County.

8. Education: The hospital offered in-person and virtual education through health fairs, workshops, and classes on topics like Adverse Childhood Experiences, Understanding Stigma for Substance Use Disorder, Implicit Bias, and Addressing Homelessness.

9. Comprehensive Care: SLCH provides a wide range of services, including specialized surgical services in cardiac, cancer, gynecology, obstetrics, orthopedics, and urology.

10. Outpatient Services: SHS operates 29 regional outpatient clinics offering specialty care, family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, and urgent/walk-in care.

11. Substance Use Treatment: The Samaritan Treatment & Recovery Services (STARS) facility in Lebanon provides a 16-bed regional residential treatment center for adults with substance use disorder.

12. Expansion of Services: SHS is constructing a new Family Medicine Clinic in Sweet Home to improve access to care in that area.

Strengths of the Community

1. Collaborative spirit: The region has a long history of collaboration, coordination, and partnerships to promote health.

2. Strong social support networks: There are numerous organizations providing social supports and opportunities.
3. Focus on youth and families: The community is committed to the health and well-being of children and youth, with a focus on family stability and kindergarten readiness.
4. Active community organizations: Organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs in Lebanon and Sweet Home offer after-school activities and low-cost child care.
5. Infrastructure for physical activity: The community maintains safe, well-marked roads and bike lanes. The Build Lebanon Trails coalition has expanded local walking trails.
6. Community gardens: The Planting Seeds of Change coalition works with schools and community members to plant and maintain fruit and vegetable gardens.
7. Health-focused coalitions: Groups like Live Longer Lebanon are working to address identified health priorities and indicators.
8. Support for vulnerable populations: Community Services Consortium serves as the regional community action agency for the most vulnerable community members.
9. Transportation services: Despite challenges, there are some transportation options available for low-income community members, elderly, and people with disabilities.
10. Educational resources: The presence of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest provides valuable resources and support to the community.
11. Diverse health promotion services: The community has a variety of organizations offering health promotion services, including food banks, shelters, religious institutions, farmers markets, and recreation events.
12. Commitment to addressing homelessness: Community leadership has identified the need for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing.
13. Public health initiatives: Linn County Health Department promotes health through various divisions and programs.
14. Community events: The report mentions recreation and community events that promote health.

Priorities

1. Access to health care: Increasing community access to medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health services.
2. Suicide prevention: Addressing the high rates of suicide, particularly among certain age groups.
3. Substance use disorder: Tackling the prevalent issue of substance abuse in the community.

4. Anxiety and depression: Addressing mental health issues, which are particularly high in the county.
5. Food insecurity: Improving access to healthy, affordable food.
6. Childcare: Increasing access to safe, affordable, and developmentally appropriate child care.
7. Child abuse/neglect: Addressing the consistently higher rates of child abuse in the county compared to state averages.
8. Domestic violence: Providing support and services for survivors of domestic violence.
9. Housing costs and houselessness: Addressing the issues of affordable housing and the high rates of chronic homelessness.
10. Poverty: Tackling the root causes and effects of poverty, which impacts many other health determinants.
11. Culturally and linguistically appropriate services: Ensuring that health services are accessible and appropriate for all community members, regardless of their cultural or linguistic background.

These priorities are grouped under three main objectives:

1. Greater Access: Increasing community access to medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health services.
2. Healthy Families: Increasing community access to healthy food, childcare, and safety.
3. Healthy Communities: Increasing housing, employment, and supportive services in the community.