

## **Executive Summary**

1. SPCH is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving south Lincoln County.
2. The assessment was done in partnership with other local health organizations and focused on social determinants of health and health indicators.
3. Data was collected through surveys, focus groups, interviews, and existing secondary sources.
4. Key health needs identified include:
  - Access to healthcare (especially mental/behavioral health)
  - Housing and homelessness
  - Food insecurity
  - Child care and child abuse/neglect
  - Substance use disorders
  - Poverty
  - Culturally appropriate care
5. Priorities were grouped into three main objectives:
  - Greater Access: Increase access to medical, dental and mental health services
  - Healthy Families: Increase access to healthy food, child care and safety
  - Healthy Communities: Increase housing, employment and supportive services
6. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted healthcare capacity and access in the region.
7. Lincoln County ranks low compared to other Oregon counties on health outcomes and factors.
8. The hospital and community have many partnerships and programs in place to address health needs, but more collaboration is needed.
9. The assessment will be used to guide SPCH's community benefit activities and partnerships to address identified health needs over the next three years.

## **Biggest Gaps in Service**

1. Mental and behavioral health services: The report emphasizes a significant lack of access to mental and behavioral health care, particularly for children, youth, and adults. This includes services for substance use disorders, depression, anxiety, and suicidality.
2. Culturally and linguistically appropriate care: There's a notable gap in providing respectful, welcoming, medically appropriate, and trauma-informed care to all community members, especially marginalized populations.
3. Workforce and capacity: The report mentions difficulties in recruiting and retaining culturally competent providers and staff, especially in this isolated coastal area. This has led to increased wait times for appointments.
4. Dental care: The ratio of the population to dental care providers suggests a shortage in dental services.

5. Primary care: While not as severe as dental care, there's also a gap in primary care services based on the population-to-provider ratio.
6. Navigation and patient advocacy services: The report notes a lack of help for patients in navigating the complex healthcare system, especially for lower-income people, those with mental health issues, migrant workers, and people with specific linguistic or cultural needs.
7. Specialized care for marginalized groups: There's a lack of providers who can effectively serve specific populations, such as trans-friendly providers or mental health providers of color with lived experience of discrimination-related stresses.
8. Substance use disorder treatment: While plans are in place to open a 16-bed alcohol and drug residential treatment facility in 2023, the current lack of such services is noted as a significant gap.
9. Transportation services: While some transportation assistance is available, the report indicates that transportation to healthcare services remains a challenge, particularly for rural residents, people of color, low-income individuals, and those with disabilities.

#### **Greatest Barriers to Care**

1. Lack of workforce and capacity: There's difficulty in recruiting and retaining culturally competent providers and staff, leading to longer wait times for appointments.
2. Lack of insurance and insurance literacy: About 12% of people in Lincoln County are uninsured, and many struggle to understand their insurance coverage.
3. Complexity of the healthcare system: The report notes that navigating the system can be daunting, especially for lower-income people, those with mental health issues, migrant workers, and people with specific linguistic or cultural needs.
4. Lack of culturally appropriate facilities, policies, and workforce: This leads to mistrust and reluctance to seek care among marginalized populations.
5. Transportation issues: People in rural communities, people of color, those in poverty, people with disabilities, and those with language barriers often live in areas with poor transit service and connectivity.
6. Poverty: It affects access to health care, child care, quality housing, transportation, healthy food, and education.
7. Housing costs and homelessness: These issues can make it difficult for people to prioritize or access health care.
8. Lack of mental and behavioral health services: There's a significant shortage of these services, especially for children, youth, and adults.
9. Food insecurity: Limited access to healthy food affects overall health status.

10. Lack of childcare: This can impact parents' ability to access healthcare services.
11. Language barriers: The report mentions the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
12. Stigma and discrimination: Particularly for mental health and substance use disorders, as well as for marginalized communities.
13. Effects of COVID-19: The pandemic has led to longer wait times, postponed care, and related access issues.

### **The Unique Needs of the Community**

1. Rural healthcare access: As a designated rural county on Oregon's isolated central coast, Lincoln County faces challenges in providing accessible healthcare services.
2. Services for Native American population: The county is home to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, with 23% of their 5,600 members living in the county. Their reservation is designated as a health provider shortage area.
3. Seasonal migrant farmworker care: This population is defined as medically underserved.
4. Mental health and substance use disorder services: The county has high rates of mental health issues and substance use, particularly among youth.
5. Suicide prevention: Lincoln County had the tri-county region's highest suicide rates across multiple age groups.
6. Services for aging population: The county has a significant older population with higher rates of disability.
7. Culturally and linguistically appropriate services: Particularly for the Latinx and Mam-speaking populations.
8. LGBTQIA2S+ support: Specific resources and health services for this community are needed.
9. Child and youth services: Including childcare, abuse prevention, and youth mental health support.
10. Housing and homelessness services: The county has a significant unhoused population, including a high percentage of unhoused veterans.
11. Poverty alleviation: Lincoln County has high poverty rates, particularly for children, youth, and people with disabilities.
12. Food security: The county has higher rates of food insecurity compared to the state average.
13. Transportation services: Especially for medical appointments and accessing essential services.

14. Domestic violence support: Services for survivors, including safe housing options.
15. Environmental health considerations: As a coastal community, they face unique challenges related to climate change impacts on food distribution, access, and cost.
16. Workforce development: To address the difficulty in recruiting and retaining healthcare providers in this rural, coastal area.

### **What the Hospital or CCO is Doing Well**

1. Partnerships: SPCH has strong partnerships with organizations and agencies in south Lincoln County and across the region.
2. Community engagement: They conducted a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment involving diverse stakeholders and community members.
3. Service provision: Despite challenges, SPCH provides a range of services including emergency care, family medicine, general surgery, sleep diagnostics, orthopedics, and physical rehabilitation.
4. COVID-19 response: During the pandemic, SPCH was a first responder for many medical, mental/behavioral, dental, and social needs, while continuing to provide essential services.
5. Community support: SPCH provided \$150,000 to six local agencies through social accountability funding, plus an additional \$109,000 in funding, food, clothing, and other resources during COVID-19 and the 2021 wildfires.
6. Outreach services: They offered transportation, telehealth, and home visits to over 1,500 people in south Lincoln County.
7. Health education: SPCH 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.
8. Expansion and modernization: SPCH recently underwent a major redevelopment and expansion to improve facilities.
9. Collaboration: The hospital is part of a three-county region with a long history of collaboration and partnerships to promote health.
10. Cultural competence efforts: While still an area for improvement, there are efforts to provide more culturally and linguistically appropriate services.
11. Addressing social determinants of health: The hospital and its partners recognize and are working to address various social factors affecting health, such as housing, food insecurity, and poverty.

### **Strengths of the Community**

1. Strong partnerships and collaborations: There's a long history of collaboration between organizations to address community health issues.

2. Commitment to children and youth: The county focuses on family stability, kindergarten readiness, and equitable services for children and youth.
3. Diverse support organizations: Several organizations provide nutrition, healthy lifestyle programs, and social supports for youth and families.
4. Active community coalitions: Groups like the Lincoln County Community Club work on addressing health priorities.
5. Cultural diversity support: Organizations like Juntos en Colaboración and the Olalla Center's Arcoíris Cultural program address needs of Latinx and Mam-speaking populations.
6. LGBTQIA2S+ support: Groups like Oregon Central Coast PFLAG and Project Bravery offer support, advocacy, and education for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals.
7. Community action agencies: Organizations like Community Services Consortium serve vulnerable community members.
8. Transportation assistance programs: Various organizations provide transportation for medical appointments and other needs.
9. Substance use disorder treatment initiatives: The community is working to open a new residential treatment facility.
10. Law enforcement collaboration: The Sheriff's Office works closely with community organizations on various support efforts.
11. Housing initiatives: The community supports programs like Project Turnkey for supportive and transitional housing.
12. Educational resources: Oregon Coast Community College provides training in healthcare and community health fields.
13. Tribal health services: The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians provide a range of health services and partner on countywide projects.
14. Diverse health promotion services: The community has food banks, shelters, community gardens, farmers markets, and various health promotion events.
15. Preventive health programs: Programs like the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program aim to reduce illness and promote health.

## **Priorities**

### **1. Greater Access**

Objective: Increase community access to medical, dental and mental/behavioral health services.

Priorities:

- Access to health care

- Suicide prevention
- Substance use disorder
- Anxiety and depression

## 2. Healthy Families

Objective: Increase community access to healthy food, child care and safety.

Priorities:

- Food insecurity
- Child care
- Child abuse/neglect
- Domestic violence

## 3. Healthy Communities

Objective: Increase housing, employment and supportive services in the community.

Priorities:

- Housing costs and houselessness
- Poverty
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate services