

**GIBSON AREA HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (GAHHS)  
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CHNA)  
Strategic Priority Action Steps based upon Needs Identified  
Approved by the Board of Directors on September 25, 2013**

The CHNA highlights areas of need within the communities served by GAHHS for priority health services. The CHNA was conducted by Terry Madsen, a third party consultant from the Illinois Critical Access Hospital network (ICAHN), utilizing available data and metrics with input from community stakeholders.

**Strategic Priorities**

The Strategic Priorities identified were formulated utilizing the information from the CHNA. They are highlighted on page 22 of the CHNA. The Strategic Priorities are as follows:

1. Mental Health Services
2. Substance Abuse
3. Wellness Education and basic wellness services for all ages.

**GAHHS plans and actions taken to address each identified need:**

**A. Mental Health Services** – Gaps in access to mental health services at several levels were identified in the focus groups and supported by secondary data. Needs were identified for more direct services and programming for youth and adult services.

**Plans and Implementation**

In November of 2011, GAHHS opened an O/P Gero-Psych unit to begin to address mental health needs for senior citizens. In 2013, GAHHS created a dementia/Alzheimer's caregiver education and support group, as well as a depression support group.

**In September of 2013, GAHHS employed Dr. Ajay Jeetwani, as a full-time O/P Psychiatrist to address mental health needs of adults and children.**

**In addition to Dr. Jeetwani, GAHHS is in discussion with the local community mental health resource center (CCRC) on ways GAHHS and CCRC can collaborate on better addressing mental health needs in Ford County.**

**In October of 2013, GAHHS will be offering “Taking Care of You: Powerful Tools for Caregiving”, a six week program offered to family caregivers of an adult loved one.**

**In February of 2014, GAHHS will be starting a “Caregiver Support Group”. GAHHS is also investigating a “Depression Support Group”.**

**B. Substance Abuse – Issues concerning substance abuse and risky behavior were also identified in each group and supported by secondary data. These issues also provide the opportunity for external collaboration.**

**Plans and Implementation – GAHHS has met with administration at GCMS School District to discuss how GAHHS might address this issue. GAHHS will participate on the GCMS Wellness Committee. GAHHS will also begin conversations with the other school districts in the communities we serve to identify ways to address substance abuse. GAHHS will utilize community education resources to begin to address this issue. GAHHS also participates with the Ford/Iroquois County Health Departments IPLAN addressing gateway drug abuse and Alcohol usage among teens.**

**C. Wellness Education and Basic Wellness Services for all ages – The groups identified a need for better availability of information on wellness education, basic wellness care opportunities for the community in general and also improved information to the community that explains services and options for youth, the elderly, and the underinsured and uninsured. The group also emphasized the need to address the issues of obesity, smoking, and health living.**

**Plans and Implementation – GAHHS has implemented a diabetes education program. GAHHS has also started a community educational series of seminars called the “Healthy Living Series”. In 2013, GAHHS hosted our first “Camp Gibson” for 8<sup>th</sup> graders to learn about healthcare careers and opportunities at GAHHS.**

**GAHHS has also implemented an OB education nurse to assist new moms with breast feeding and normal newborn care issues at home.**

**GAHHS started a “Sodium Reduction” program to educate GAHHS staff on how to reduce sodium intake in their diets.**

**GAHHS is opening a new community wellness center in Paxton, Illinois, to increase local opportunities for patients and communities to attend education sessions. Plans are for that new center to be open in Fall of 2013.**

**GAHHS is also working on diabetes education classes to be held in Paxton and Hoopeston.**

**This Action Plan will be updated Annually to include additional programs and resources utilized by GAHHS to meet the identified needs in the communities we serve.**

**GAHHS has committed \$400,000 per year over the next three years to address the community health needs identified.**