Community Health Needs Assessment:
Executive Summary
2018
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Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) is a community-based, acute care hospital in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Lutheran Medical Center is a member of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCL) Health System, Inc., a faith-based, nonprofit health care organization that operates eight hospitals in three states – Colorado, Kansas and Montana.

Collaborative Process
LMC has undertaken a Community Health Needs Assessment in partnership with Jefferson County Public Health and St. Anthony Hospital – Centura Health. A community-based Steering Committee was formed to guide the CHNA process. The Jefferson County community assessment can be accessed at: CHNA.

Description of Service Area
Lutheran Medical Center is located at 8300 West 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033. LMC serves the entire Denver Metro area and for purposes of this CHNA, LMC’s primary service area is defined as Jefferson County. Jefferson County includes both urban and rural areas, including seven cities, five towns, 14 census-designated places and six unincorporated areas.

Data Collection Methodology
Existing data sources available in Jefferson County and from other sources across Colorado, including state agencies and nonprofits were used in the development of this assessment.

Lutheran Medical Center also collected data directly from the community. Students from the Colorado School of Public Health, in partnership with Jefferson County Public Health, facilitated focus group discussions that were conducted at key geographic points in the county to ensure equal representation of the county’s diverse communities, and to include both mountain and urban/suburban populations. 52 participants engaged in seven focus groups. The focus group discussions included two Spanish language groups. Additionally, The Jefferson County Communities That Care team worked with youth researchers from four Jefferson County high schools to conduct research on their peers’ perceptions of youth substance misuse, violence and hopelessness/anxiety. Communities That Care staff led two focus groups with the youth researchers, and the youth researchers planned and led six focus groups that each included at least six other students from their schools.

In addition, key informant interviews were facilitated with community leaders and stakeholders in organizations with special knowledge of community health concerns, especially those affecting our most vulnerable residents including, elders, people of color, LGBTQ groups, individuals living with disabilities and low-socioeconomic and geographically distinct populations. Informants were selected from groups that included health service providers, nonprofits and other organizations in Jefferson County that serve these diverse populations. In total, 30 key informant interviews were completed.
Community Feedback
Preliminary Community Health Needs Assessment data were posted on the Jefferson County Public Health website to encourage the public to review the data, make comments and vote on top community priorities. The comments received were used to strengthen the Community Health Needs Assessment.

Priority Health Needs
Significant community health needs were identified through the data collection process. Using a two-part process that engaged the community, the significant needs were prioritized based on the impact of the need, existing health disparities, available leadership to address the need and availability of resources. Based on the prioritization process, the priority needs were identified:
1. Access to care – mental health and substance use treatment
2. Food insecurity
3. Alcohol and drug use
4. Access to care – cost
5. Housing
6. Community connections
7. Family and social support
8. Transportation
9. Healthy eating and breastfeeding
10. Active living

Needs Lutheran Medical Center Will Address
Through a commitment of resources, Lutheran Medical Center will address:
- Access to care – mental health and substance use treatment
- Food insecurity
- Alcohol and substance misuse
- Housing

The plans to address these priority needs will be detailed in the Lutheran Medical Center Community Health Improvement Plan.
December 1, 2018

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your interest in the health status of our community! Since 1905, Lutheran Medical Center has been committed to improving the health of the people and communities we serve.

This Community Health Needs Assessment represents something new for Jefferson County. Lutheran Medical Center, Saint Anthony Hospital, and the Jefferson County Public Health Department combined efforts, partnering to assess the health needs of the community. The result of this tandem effort will be better coordination of energy to address the priority health needs identified in the process.

Beginning in January 2019, we will use all that we learned throughout the assessment process to develop our Community Health Implementation Plan, which will guide our process for the next three years.

We are inspired by this collaboration and look forward to working alongside our partners to elevate health in Jefferson County.

Sincerely,

Grant Wicklund
President & CEO
Lutheran Medical Center
**Project Oversight**

The Community Health Needs Assessment process was overseen by:

Chuck Ault  
Regional Director, Community Health Improvement  
Lutheran Medical Center and Saint Joseph Hospital

**Collaborators**

Jefferson County Public Health Department  
Saint Anthony Hospital – Centura Health

**Consultant**

Biel Consulting, Inc., led by Dr. Melissa Biel, completed the Community Health Needs Assessment report. She was assisted by Sevanne Sarkis, JD, MHA, MEd. Biel Consulting, Inc. has extensive experience conducting hospital Community Health Needs Assessments and working with hospitals on developing, implementing, and evaluating community benefit programs. [www.bielconsulting.org](http://www.bielconsulting.org)

**This report is publically available at the following locations:**

https://www.sclhealth.org/locations/lutheran-medical-center/about/community-benefit/

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**Board approval for the 2018 LMC CHNA was on December XX, 2018**