Community Benefit 2018
Investing in the Social Determinants of Health

Healthcare is undergoing significant transformation, and with it, a growing focus on integrating care activities with public health, community-based organizations and social support services. In 2018, SCL Health completed Community Health Needs Assessments for six of our eight hospitals. Persistent health needs in behavioral health, substance abuse and cardiovascular disease continue to be prevalent. However, we are also seeing needs prioritized for root cause areas like housing and economic development. These social determinants of health reveal the next generation of community benefit and health improvement investments, further amplifying the need to incorporate population health strategies to leverage multi-sector stakeholder engagement. The 2018 Community Benefit report highlights all of these trends and moves our health ministry toward greater impact on building a culture of health and overall well-being.

Montana Region Community Benefit 2018

Total $48.3M

Subsidized Health Services*
Financial Aid & Charity Care*
Unreimbursed Medicaid*
Community Health Improvement & Operations
Health Professions Education
Community Building
Cash and In-Kind
Research

* These numbers include clinic contributions not included on 990 Schedule H

In 2018, St. Vincent Healthcare leaders performed over 2,403 hours of service in the community, benefiting more than 76 organizations and serving on 25 boards.
In 2018, SCL Health continued its efforts to support the ongoing need for mental health awareness, education and prevention by offering a variety of mental health trainings to community members and associates. Offering these additional training opportunities allowed SCL Health to educate individuals around stigma reduction, suicide prevention and trauma-informed attitudes.

Over 2,000 individuals trained

23% increase from 2017

4 new Mental Health First Aid instructors trained

1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year

1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year

Montana and Colorado are among the top 10 states with the highest suicide rates

Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide

Mental illnesses are among the most common health conditions in the United States.

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St. Vincent Healthcare Initiatives

Increasing Access and Reducing Barriers to Mental Health Treatment

Nearly a third of adults in Yellowstone County report symptoms of chronic depression and almost half report being negatively impacted by substance abuse. Increasing access to mental health services and decreasing stigma is an important part of St. Vincent Healthcare’s community health improvement efforts.

54,852 individuals screened for mental health needs

679 warm handoffs to behavioral health specialists

55 referrals made for higher level of care follow-up

Increasing Breast Cancer Screening for Women in Rural and Native Communities

For nine years, the St. Vincent Healthcare mobile mammography coach has been bringing lifesaving breast cancer screenings directly to women in rural and native communities.

2,819 women screened

Screenings offered at 55 sites within a 300-mile radius

Meeting the Crisis Needs of the Most Vulnerable

A collaborative effort between St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings Clinic, Mental Health Center and RiverStone Health, the Community Crisis Center provides a system of care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for persons in crisis due to mental health, substance abuse and social service needs.

13,572 client visits

90% of clients engaged in more than one service
Improving Whole Person Care

Health and wellness are important parts of medical care and St. Vincent Healthcare is finding ways to improve access to services that address the needs of the whole person. With more than 31% of adults in the community reporting two or more years with symptoms of chronic depression and over 45% reporting the negative impacts of substance abuse, it’s important to ensure easy access for residents seeking help for behavioral health needs.

To address this need, behavioral health specialists are co-located in primary care clinics to provide a more seamless coordination of services for both physical and mental health needs. Co-location of services can also reduce barriers related to stigma. Patients often feel it’s more socially acceptable and easier to access behavioral health treatment in their familiar primary care setting rather than going to a behavioral health setting.

A team of medical assistants, licensed practical nurses, physician assistants and registered nurses administers a brief screening in patient rooms to proactively identify patients in need of behavioral health services. Primary care providers also administer screening tools that capture both depression and unhealthy alcohol/drug use and assess readiness for change. If a patient is identified as needing behavioral health support, he/she is provided a referral to a behavioral health specialist.

Meeting the Needs of Rural Communities

St. Vincent Healthcare brings needed services directly to residents in rural communities where transportation is often a challenging issue. In December 2018, St. Vincent Healthcare unveiled a new, state-of-the-art, mobile mammography coach with 3D imaging technology. 3D mammography imaging technology finds invasive cancers 40% more frequently than a traditional 2D mammogram.

Research also shows 3D reduces the number of women called back for expensive and unnecessary testing due to false alarms, which is significant to women in rural, remote communities.

Cancer remains the second-leading cause of death in Montana, with survival rates among minorities falling even lower, due largely to late-stage diagnosis. Mobile mammography programs are a proven strategy to remove barriers to screening by making it faster and more convenient for women in rural areas to have a screening mammogram, the key to lifesaving early detection of breast cancer. Knowing that accessibility, convenience and financial issues are the biggest obstacles to a woman’s proactive breast health regimen, St. Vincent Healthcare clears that roadblock with its Mobile Mammography Program.

Our Mobile Mammography Program focuses on increasing the number of first-time and routine screenings to underserved women within a 300-mile radius of Billings. This program addresses rural barriers to preventative care, including lack of transportation, cost of travel and screening, fear, cultural barriers and inconvenient clinic hours by bringing services to communities where they do not currently exist. Few rural healthcare facilities in our region are able to provide mammography services; thus they rely on our mobile unit to provide this care to their patients close to home.

The mobile mammography coach is on the road five to seven days a week, traveling to over 60 recurring sites in a 300-mile radius of Billings, including Crow and Northern Cheyenne reservations. The number of women served, particularly those who are uninsured and/or underinsured, continues to grow every year. Since its inception in 2010, the Mobile Mammography Program has screened over 17,000 women and detected more than 100 breast cancers.
The Community Crisis Center: Collaborating to Address Crisis Needs

The Community Crisis Center is a vital part of service to our community, saving over $28 million every year in jail diversion and emergency room visits. First opening its doors 13 years ago and designed as a collaborative effort between St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings Clinic, Mental Health Center and RiverStone Health, the Community Crisis Center provides a system of care for persons in crisis due to mental health, substance abuse and social service needs.

Last year, the Community Crisis Center had 13,572 resolved client visits with most clients engaging in more than one service. These services included mental health assessment, case management and evaluation and/or counseling from a licensed addiction counselor. St. Vincent Healthcare employs nurses at the Community Crisis Center to provide nursing assessments for clients. Individuals can participate in clean and sober activities, various support groups and have their basic needs met, such as receiving clean clothes and a healthy meal. The Community Crisis Center responds to crisis calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Community Crisis Center Director MarCee Neary notes the importance of a focus on relationships at the Crisis Center. She states, “At the Crisis Center, we engage, develop relationships and offer services. The fact that they return indicates the clients feel safe, a sense of belonging and that their needs are being met.” St. Vincent Healthcare is proud to sponsor the Community Crisis Center to best meet the needs of vulnerable individuals in our community.

Please visit the St. Vincent Healthcare website to access the full Community Health Needs Assessment: https://www.sclhealth.org/locations/st-vincent-healthcare/about/community-benefit/