

# Implementation Plan for Needs Identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment for Unity Medical Center

FY 2016-2018

**Covered Facilities:** Unity Medical Center, Walsh County Health District

**Community Health Needs Assessment:** A Community Health Needs Assessment (“CHNA”) was performed in Winter 2015/2016 in collaboration with public health to determine the most pressing health needs of the Grafton area.

**Implementation Plan Goals:** The Board of Unity Medical Center has determined that the following health needs identified in the CHNA should be addressed through the implementation strategy noted for each such need:

## 1. Youth Drug use and Abuse

*Specific Needs Identified in CHNA:*

- Ensure community members develop an understanding of current drugs of abuse including the link to prescription opioid misuse
  - Ensure community members have information on evidence based programs that can prevent drug overdose deaths, to include the use of Naloxone and the Drug Take Back Program
  - Ensure that youth are educated on the dangers of Fentanyl, the current Good Samaritan Law related to helping a friend who has overdosed, and the dangers of opioid prescription drug’s addictive qualities.
- Key Objectives:
    - Increase the number of community members who are aware of the Drug Take Back Program location at the Walsh County Law Enforcement Center
    - Increase the number of community members who can identify someone who is experiencing a drug overdose, who are aware of the what the antidote Naloxone is used for and where they can get a prescription for Naloxone.
    - Increase the number of community members who recognize the addictive nature of prescription narcotics (opioids) and who request alternatives from their medical and dental providers
  - Implementation Strategies:
    - Plan and Execute a Community Forum with key partners from the Grafton and surrounding communities on Opioid Abuse.
    - Plan and Execute a School Forum with key partners from the Grafton and Surrounding communities on Opioid Abuse. Invite neighboring schools to attend at the Grafton Site.

- The goals:
  1. Community and School Forum will be held on two different dates in Grafton at the local school.
  2. Community and School Forum will provide an educational video on Opioid Abuse
  3. Panel of Speakers to include local law enforcement, regional narcotics task force members, pharmacist, medical provider, and regional mental health provider.
  4. Panel members to address at a minimum the following topics: Signs of drug overdose, incidence of drug overdose in our communities, Naloxone as an antidote and how to access, Drug Take Back Program, abuse of prescription drugs/gateway drugs, what to do if a friend or family member is overdosing, where to access help for a friend or family member with a drug addiction, and signs that someone you love is using drugs.
  5. Community and School Forum will include a Question and Answer Opportunity
  6. School counselors will be available for families and students at the end of each forum for individual issues.
  7. UMC staff will participate in the Walsh County Alcohol Abuse Prevention Coalition coordinated by the Walsh County Health District (alcohol is identified as a gateway for many people who go on to develop drug abuse issues).

*Specific Needs Identified in CHNA:*

- Ensure that adults increase physical activity and reduce obesity through provision of user friendly worksite wellness activities that can be replicated in surrounding businesses.
- Key Objectives:
  - Participate in Strategic Planning with Walsh County Health District, First Care Health Center, and other community agencies to address adult obesity and physical inactivity.
  - Participate in a community wellness coalition coordinated by Walsh County Health District to develop worksite wellness activities that are able to be replicated in local businesses to promote and increase in physical activity and to reduce adult obesity.
- Implementation Strategies:
  - Strategic Planning session conducted as part of Chronic Disease Grant coordinated by Walsh County Health District (WCHD)

The goals:

1. WCHD will coordinate a strategic planning session with UMC, First Care Health System, and other community providers.

- Community Coalition developed to address chronic disease (to include physical inactivity and adult obesity)

The goals:

2. WCHD, UMC, FHC and other community providers will form a work group (coalition) to address wellness activities within Walsh County to include physical inactivity and obesity.
3. Coalition Members will receive training on Policy, System, Environment Change to assure work of the coalition focuses on evidence based activities.
4. Coalition will develop one worksite wellness activity that can be replicated in community worksites.

**Other Needs Identified in the CHNA but Not Addressed in this Plan** – Each of the health needs listed below is important and is being addressed by numerous programs and initiatives operated by the Hospital, other organizations within the Hospital system, and other community partners of the Hospital. However, the Hospital will not address the following health needs identified in the CHNA as part of this Implementation Plan due to limited resources and the need to allocate significant resources to the two priority health needs identified above.

**Cost of Health Insurance:**

Walsh County Social Services assists people with Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion application process. Referrals will be made to social services as indicated for clients presenting with no health insurance coverage.

Other clients with concerns about unaffordable health insurance will be referred to the Navigator assigned to our region to assist them in sorting through the online process for health insurance applications.

**Poverty:**

While poverty was indicated by community members as a higher priority need in Walsh County, the data for Walsh County indicate that we are below the state average for people living in poverty. Unity Medical Center will participate in community lead efforts to address poverty when requested by other agencies, but do not feel we have the resources or expertise to address this very complex issue.

**Attracting and retaining young families:**

Unity Medical Center, as a leading employer in the Grafton community has an ongoing aggressive recruitment program for filling needed health care provider positions. Recent recruitment includes 2 family nurse practitioners and a Medical Doctor. Maintaining competitive wages is essential for UMC to retain employees in our rural communities; UMC is committed to continue to focus on recruiting and retaining essential health care providers to the Grafton community.

**Adequate Childcare services:**

Unity Medical Center will work collaboratively with all entities in the community as they address childcare shortages. At this time this is not a priority for the agency, nor is it an area of expertise so it is anticipated that other community agencies would lead efforts to address this need, with UMC collaborating.