

Jennings Hospital

Introduction

Jennings American Legion Hospital (the Hospital) is a not for profit acute care hospital located at 1634 Elton Road, just south off I- 10 exit 64, in Jennings, Louisiana. It is the only acute care hospital in Jefferson Davis Parish, serving the people of Jennings and the surrounding communities since 1952. The Hospital is licensed for 49 beds, and provides a wide range of services, including a 24-hour emergency department. Jennings American Legion Hospital is proud to provide excellent patient care, up-to-date technology and a friendly, pleasant atmosphere.

Identifying Health Needs

The Hospital engaged BKD, LLP to assist in conducting a formal community health needs assessment. The community health needs assessment was conducted from August 2016 through November 2016. Community input was provided through key informant interviews, focus groups, and a community health input questionnaire. The process also involved a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation strategy that was developed as a result of the initial community health needs assessment completed in November 2013. In addition, population demographics and socioeconomic characteristics of the community were compiled by various third parties, as well as national, state and local sources of information on disease prevalence, health indicators, health equity and mortality.

Information gathered in the above steps was analyzed and reviewed to identify health issues of uninsured persons, low-income persons and the community as a whole. Health needs were ranked utilizing a process that considers the numbers of persons affected, the seriousness of the issue, whether the health need particularly affected persons living in poverty or members of an underserved population, and the availability of community resources to address the need.

Subsequently, Jennings American Legion Hospital's leadership entered into a dialogue to discuss the results of the analysis and select health priorities. Participants were given the opportunity to revise their rankings; these individual rankings were summed to produce a composite ranking of health issues.

As a result, the following priority focus areas were identified:

1. Access to care
2. Cardiovascular disease
3. Diabetes
4. Mental health services

PRIORITY: Access to care

Goal 1: Enhance education and outreach, to ensure at risk patients are able to access resources necessary for health maintenance.

Strategies:

- A. Identify resources available and provide the community with a compilation of this information.
- B. Develop a partnership with area schools to assist in determining the needs of the school-age population.
- C. Provide follow-up support to at-risk patients via phone calls and communications from appropriate healthcare providers.

Goal 2: Increase access to local medical services.

Strategies:

- A. Increase clinic hours at JALH family medicine clinics.
- B. Maintain appropriate number and type of medical providers by recruiting physicians in the needed specialty areas.

PRIORITY: Cardiovascular disease

Goal 1: Enhance community education about prevention, detection and managing heart disease and stroke.

Strategies:

- A. Promote and participate in health related activities, including cholesterol and blood glucose screenings.
- B. Evaluate increasing cardiovascular service lines and growing current services.
- C. Coordinate seminars and support/education to the community on heart disease and stroke prevention, detection and management.

Goal 2: Decrease population risk factors through support of healthier lifestyles

Strategies:

- A. Promote programs that support healthier eating, increased physical activity, tobacco-free lifestyle, and moderate alcohol use.

- B. Provide healthier meal and vending options for staff and visitors at Jennings American Legion Hospital.

PRIORITY: Diabetes

Goal 1: Enhance community education about prevention, detection and managing diabetes.

Strategies:

- A. Increase diabetes education to the community.
- B. Promote healthier eating through outpatient consultation with a clinical dietitian.
- C. Promote programs that support healthier eating, increased physical activity, tobacco-free lifestyle, and moderate alcohol use.
- D. Provide a space at Jennings American Legion Hospital for weekly Weight Watchers meetings.

Goal 2: Increase access to diabetes-related services

Strategies:

- A. Provide wound care services to inpatients through a certified wound care/ostomy care RN.
- B. Evaluate the feasibility of expansion to include outpatient wound care services.

PRIORITY: Mental health services

Goal 1: Enhance education and outreach, to ensure at risk patients are able to access resources necessary for health maintenance.

Strategies:

- A. Identify resources available and keep updated information available to the community.
- B. Provide information to patients on the Up Campaign to reduce opioid use.

Goal 2: Increase access to mental health services.

Strategies:

- A. Evaluate the feasibility of telepsych services.

B. Evaluate the provision of mental services through Jennings American Legion Hospital's Rural Health Clinics.

Needs Not Addressed

Some issues that were identified through the community health needs assessment are not addressed in this plan. During the initial discussion and subsequent prioritization, Jennings American Legion Hospital's Needs Assessment Team reviewed the levels to which some needs are currently being addressed in the Hospital's service area.

The following outlines how some of the identified needs are being addressed by others or in different ways:

| <i>Community Need</i> | <i>How Need is Addressed</i> |
|-----------------------|---|
| Obesity | This need is being addressed as part of the diabetes and cardiovascular priority areas. |
| Drug Abuse | Jennings American Legion Hospital has implemented programs to educate and monitor opioid use within the inpatient and emergency department setting. This need is also being addressed as part of the mental health priority area. |

Next Steps

The development of implementation strategies for each priority identified through the assessment process has been initiated by Jennings American Legion Hospital's Community Needs Assessment Team. This Implementation Plan will be rolled out over the next three years, from FY2016 through the end of FY2018. The Team, along with community partners and health experts, will work on the following to address the identified priority health needs:

- Develop work plans that support effective implementation
- Create mechanisms to monitor and measure outcomes
- Develop a report card to provide ongoing status and results of these community health improvement efforts

Jennings American Legion Hospital is committed to conducting another health needs assessment within the next three years.

Adoption/Approval

Jennings American Legion Hospital's Board of Directors approves the Implementation Strategy that has been developed to address the priorities of the recent Community Health Needs Assessment.


Jennings American Legion Hospital will utilize this Implementation Strategy as a roadmap to collaborate with their community to address the priorities, particularly for the most vulnerable.



Chair, Jennings American Legion Hospital Board of Directors

5/25/17

Date



Chief Executive Officer, Jennings American Legion Hospital

5/25/17

Date