

Jennings Hospital

Introduction

Jennings American Legion Hospital (the Hospital) is a not for profit organization located at 1634 Elton Road, just south off I- 10 exit 64, in Jennings, Louisiana. It has served the people of Jennings and the surrounding communities since 1952. Reflected in its motto, “Patients First.” JALH has a commitment to patients through a mission-driven culture of excellence. JALH is fully accredited by The Joint Commission and offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services.

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 2019 through November 2019. 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 community health needs assessment completed in November 2016. 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. These needs were prioritized and evaluated to determine which were significant to the community. The criteria included 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 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. Mental health services
2. Cardiovascular disease
3. Diabetes
4. Obesity
5. Access to care

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. Provide behavioral health services at our hospital-owned and operated family medicine clinic and expand those services.
- B. Expand utilization of tele psych services by building a relationship with Ochsner.
- C. Evaluate the addition of a case management social worker to our Family Medicine clinic.

JALH is monitoring and screening opioid use and educating patients on realistic pain management expectations. We utilize a hospital-wide monitoring system to ensure patient is monitored while in the facility to promote safety. Our Emergency Department physicians utilize the Louisiana Prescription Monitoring Database so that they can access information regarding patients' narcotic/schedule prescriptions filled within the state.

We have implemented tele psych services in our facility as a way to increase access to mental health services for our patients and have added a behavioral health practitioner at our Jennings rural health family medicine clinic. The addition of a case management social worker is being evaluated.

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.

JALH has partnered with Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) to continue to provide expanded cardiac services in our cardiac cath lab, including the addition of a full-time interventionist. Additional services offered through CIS include a tobacco cessation program and heart screenings, as well as, sponsoring a series of Lunch and Learns in 2020.

JALH implemented a wellness program for the staff in September 2019 and are currently offering healthier lunch options for the staff. We have increased patient interaction with our nutritional services staff with outpatient Clinical Dietitian services provided upon order/request from local physician and healthcare providers.

Annually, JALH participates in and sponsors health fairs and screenings for Westminster Homes, Council on Aging, SOWELA, Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative, and the Coushatta Casino employees.

JALH has coordinated multiple speaking engagements with new physician providers with civic organizations to address healthy lifestyles, health issues facing the community and general outreach. We provide education and updates on prevention and disease management through our hospital social media accounts.

All inpatients with diagnoses of cardiac/cardiopulmonary disease receive a call-back from a nurse or a respiratory therapist to address discharge needs and on-going education regarding prevention and disease management.

Through ongoing outreach, JALH sponsors the following: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, Childbirth Educational Classes, Safe Sitter Classes, and Safety Day Camp for Children ages 8-11.

Each February, during American Heart Month, JALH sponsors activities with employees to publicize healthy activity. This includes forming a "human heart" around the flagpole which was covered by print, television and social media.

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.

JALH-sponsored wellness and health fairs for Westminster Homes and the community include diabetes education.

We have a full-time clinical dietitian who provides nutritional support to our at-risk patients and provides outpatient services upon order/request from our local physicians and healthcare providers.

JALH offers weekly Weight Watchers meetings at our facility for the community.

We have a full-time certified wound/ostomy care Registered Nurse on staff providing education and services to our inpatient population. We are currently evaluating the feasibility of offering outpatient wound care services.

PRIORITY: Obesity

Goal 1: Enhance community education about prevention and management of obesity.

Strategies:

- A. Increase obesity education to the community.
- B. Evaluate partnering with local schools in providing education on obesity and healthier lifestyles.

Goal 2: Decrease population risk factors by providing support of healthier lifestyles.

Strategies:

- A. Promote and participate in programs that support healthier eating, increased physical activity.
- B. Provide healthier food choices in public vending areas within the hospital.

The hospital has a clinical dietitian who provides nutritional support to outpatients upon order/request by area physicians and healthcare providers. Expanding nutritional education and support to area schools is being evaluated.

JALH offers weekly Weight Watchers meetings at our facility for the community.

The hospital provides community education on healthy lifestyles via JALH social media sites, as well as during Farm Safety Day (for youth ages 8-11).

JALH promotes healthy eating and lifestyle through its employee wellness program.

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. Maintain a partnership with area schools to assist in determining the needs of the school-age population.
- C. Maintain 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.

The hospital has created a preferred provider list for home care to help identify those providers with the best clinical outcomes. We meet regularly with them to ensure continued progress in achieving leading practice results.

JALH has applied for a grant that will allow the parish's schools access to healthcare for its students via telehealth. This will be a cooperative agreement between the parish school board and JALH. This has shown to decrease student absenteeism and promote greater learning outcomes.

The hospital provides follow-up calls to patients with diagnoses of heart failure, pneumonia, and myocardial infarction to provide support to those patients. A Call Manager telephone system has also been implemented to track all calls and collect data that is useful in improving care transitions.

In order to expand our services, Family Medicine Clinic has added three physicians and a behavioral health practitioner. We have also added a pediatric physician and family practice nurse practitioner at the Eunice clinic which will be converted to Rural Health status. This will allow for increased access for the Medicaid/Medicare population as well as uninsured or underinsured patients.

We continue to operate an Outpatient Retail Pharmacy to allow easy access for patients to obtain their discharge medications before leaving the facility. We have expanded this pharmacy space and hours to provide additional service to the community.

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>
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 FY2020 through the end of FY2022. 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.

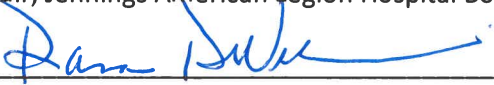
Jennings American Legion Hospital will utilize this Implementation Strategy as a roadmap to collaborate with their community to address the priorities, particularly for the most vulnerable.



Chair, Jennings American Legion Hospital Board of Directors

7/27/20

Date



Chief Executive Officer, Jennings American Legion Hospital

6/29/20

Date