

**COLORADO COUNTY
COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS
RECOMMENDATION PLAN
JULY 1, 2017 UPDATE**

In order to understand the health needs of Columbus County (Columbus), the Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) contacted Dr. Tina Fields and Dr. Jeff Hatala in April 2016 to perform a Community Health Needs assessment. The consultants gathered existing data and information of the county from numerous secondary sources and worked with CCH to establish focus groups to learn the community's perception of the county's health status.

Based on the statistical data and feedback from the focus groups, the following recommendations were made:

1. **Recommendation:** Develop a website or repository of community health events and resources.

Plan: *Utilize our new website to provide a common site for information and resources. Work with CMC staff to provide a registry of pneumococcal immunizations.*

Update: CCH developed a new website and a calendar of events on the site is updated monthly with health events. The website provides health information and information about the hospital.

CCH added a LED sign on Hwy 71 North, (in front of the Hospital campus). The sign provides health information, events and information about the hospital, physicians, and clinics.

CMC and FOMC is presently offering pneumococcal immunization screenings.

2. **Recommendation:** Partner with academic and volunteer resources to augment and sustain existing efforts.

Plan: *Use college students in public health programs as additional resources. Continue to offer scholarships for Allied Health Professionals and host the Zelda Allen School of Vocational Nursing Students for their clinical rotations. Support Columbus Physical Therapy in sponsoring students through the PT Program from area schools. Explore opportunities to host additional health professional students. Utilize contract eligibility service to assist with program qualifications. CCH Community Relations will continue to assist with Medicare Part D enrollment and refer to the Extra Help Program for funding. Community Relations will seek speakers for Friends of CCH to cover EMS, insurance and transportation education.*

5. **Recommendation:** Investigate a community effort for diabetes education, using AgriLife, hospital, new wellness center and others.

Plan: *Fund and assist Columbus Community Hospital's Diabetes Outpatient Training Site. We will offer diabetic education classes quarterly. We are funding the training for an RN to become a Registered Diabetic Educator to enhance these classes. Partner with AgriLife, Wesley Nurse and Texas Department of Health to hold a one-day class for English and Spanish speaking diabetic patients.*

Update: The Registered Diabetic Educator has been holding monthly diabetic education classes. A Spanish speaking diabetic education class will be held in 2017.

6. **Recommendations:** Ensure that at each health fair there is at least one representative who can enroll people into health insurance.

Plan: *At Circus of Health, provide multiple enrollment specialists. Our eligibility service and senior staff will assist with CMS program education. Schedule a Medicare speaker for Friends of CCH.*

Update: Maximus participates in the Circus of Health every year. They assist in the enrollment of Medicaid beneficiaries to select the health plan that best meets their needs.

Friends of CCH guest speaker in October 2016 spoke on Medicare Part D and the differences between the Advantage Plans and the Medigap Policies.

OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES PLANS:

Dental - Work with local dental clinic to continue children exams at Circus of Health.

Update: The St Apollonia Medicaid Dental Group is scheduled to participate in the Circus of Health to be held July 22, 2017.

Weight - Partner with AgriLife to offer a cooking class for healthy eating options. Provide links on our website.

Update: Seventy-two CCH employees participating in the Colorado County Walk Across Texas sponsored by Texas AgriLife. The event promoted healthy eating and the importance of exercising for a healthy lifestyle.

LED Sign: Utilize new LED signage to promote weight control topics and other health education.

Update: The LED sign was put in place November 2016. The sign has been beneficial in promoting health information and events.

Wellness Center: Offer education classes on a variety of topics at our proposed Wellness Center.

Update: Proposed plans for a Wellness Center are in progress.

Accepted the 25th day of July, 2017 by:

Pat Gillespie
Pat Gillespie, Chairperson of the CCH Board of Directors