



UNION HOSPITAL

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UNION HOSPITAL

Community Health Needs Assessment Improvement Plan 2016

Introduction and Purpose

Union Hospital, located in Dover, Ohio, is an award-winning not-for-profit, independent, community hospital serving Tuscarawas and surrounding counties in eastern Ohio. Currently Union Hospital has more than 300 providers on its medical staff and employs more than 1,100.

Union Hospital was founded more than a century ago on the premise that our focus must be on quality healthcare for all patients, not the financial profits of a few investors. And today, we continue that mission, providing the same excellent care to all patients, regardless of ability to pay.

This improvement plan has been prepared in order to comply with federal tax law requirements set forth in Internal Revenue Code section 501(r) requiring hospital facilities owned and operated by an organization described in Code section 501(c)(3) to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) at least once every three years and adopt an improvement plan to meet the community health needs identified through the CHNA. This improvement plan is intended to satisfy each of the applicable requirements set forth in final regulations released in December 2014.

This Improvement Plan describes the planned response by Union Hospital to the needs identified in the 2016 joint CHNA produced in Tuscarawas County. In 2015, the hospital participated in the countywide development of a Community Health Needs Assessment ("Vital Signs – Tuscarawas County Health Status Assessment") that included financial support and professional assistance from Union Hospital and several other organizations.

The work to produce and report the survey, as well as to prepare the Tuscarawas County Community Health Improvement Plan, was coordinated by Healthy Tusc, a volunteer collaboration of community partners – including Union Hospital – that focuses on the overall health of Tuscarawas County residents. (See the accompanying links to review both the Tuscarawas County CHNA and Improvement Plan.)

Union Hospital's implementation plan was approved by the hospital's Board of Trustees and applies to tax years Jan. 1, 2017 through Dec. 31, 2019.

Written comments on the CHNA and Improvement Plan may be submitted to Kimberly Nathan of Union Hospital at 659 Boulevard, Dover, OH 44622, or by e-mail at kimberlyn@unionhospital.org.

Community Health Needs Identified in CHNA Report

The 2015 Tuscarawas County CHNA report (“Vital Signs – Tuscarawas County Health Status Assessment”) identified several health-related issues among adults and children in the county. The work to produce the countywide Improvement Plan identified “priorities” in four specific health issues to be addressed in Tuscarawas County. They are, in no particular order:

1. Adult and Youth Obesity
2. Adult and Youth Mental Health and Bullying
3. Youth Substance Abuse
4. Access to Dental Care

Union Hospital Plans To Address Health Needs In Improvement Plan

Union Hospital organized an internal “team” from various hospital departments and services to collaborate and identify how the hospital will address the four priority health issues identified in Tuscarawas County in the Tuscarawas County Community Health Improvement Plan for 2016-19.

Union Hospital will continue and/or begin the following strategies and activities listed after each specific health issue.

Strategies to Decrease Obesity

1. As the community’s healthcare leader, Union Hospital will continue to use the nutrition criteria of Sodexo’s “Mindful” program to incorporate the Ohio Hospital Association’s (OHA) “Good 4 You” guidelines for healthy eating. The hospital’s Nutrition Services Department will lead this effort.
2. Union Hospital’s Community Health and Wellness program – in collaboration with other hospital departments and any participating community partners – will continue to offer and look to expand community education programs to address diabetes, obesity, nutrition, fitness and other related topics. These programs include nutrition counseling, comprehensive adult weight management and plant nutrition programs, as well as outpatient diabetes education, “Diabetes Self-Management Program” and Chronic Disease Management and “Chronic Disease Self-Management Program.”
3. Union Hospital’s Community Health and Wellness program will continue community health screening events, such as “Healthy Heart” and Hemoglobin A1C screenings. The program also provides Health and Wellness Coaching.
4. Union Hospital’s Community Health and Wellness program will continue to provide the popular “Walk With A Doc” free community walking program in collaboration with Union Physician Services (UPS), which is the hospital-owned physician network.
5. Union Hospital’s Community Relations Department will continue to provide financial and/or other support for fitness, exercise and obesity reduction programs in the community (such as the “Union Hospital Run For Home Community Health and Fitness Festival,” the Tuscarawas Valley Farmers Market and other events and programs.)

Strategies to Increase Mental Health and Bullying Services

1. Union Hospital operates the UH Behavioral Health Center as an intensive outpatient and partial hospitalization program designed to meet individual and group needs for mental health services in Tuscarawas and surrounding counties.

2. The hospital will continue to evaluate this service to address current and emerging mental health issues and concerns among community residents.
3. The hospital's professionally certified social workers will continue to support patient treatment through all of the appropriately identified treatment plans for inpatients and outpatients.
4. The hospital will support school-developed programs to address bullying, and where it is deemed appropriate, provide personnel with proper credentials to assist in these programs on a periodic basis.
5. UPS will continue to offer counseling services in its primary care locations through professionally certified social workers.

Strategies to Decrease Substance Abuse

1. Union Hospital does not offer specific programs to address "substance abuse" issues in the community, but appropriate staff members and providers can refer patients to professionally recognized programs in the region.
2. The hospital will continue to offer a "Smoking Cessation" program with a certified tobacco specialist. Classes are held in a group setting and in individual sessions to participants, and all services are provided free of charge.

Strategies to Increase Access to Dental Care

1. Union Hospital does not provide dental care as part of its services, nor does it have dentists on its medical staff. However, the hospital will support the official programs and strategies adopted by the appropriate agencies and providers to meet this county health priority. Union Hospital also will participate in any appropriate hospital-related objectives as part of these strategies.

Progress and Reporting Outcomes

Union Hospital supports the process and procedures detailed for progress and measuring outcomes listed on Page 67 of the Tuscarawas County Community Health Improvement Plan for 2016-19. Union Hospital's Implementation Team also will continue to meet on a periodic basis to monitor hospital strategies and measure progress against the listed plans.

Union Hospital also will continue to serve as an active participant in Healthy Tusc, providing professional and financial support as deemed appropriate by the hospital's management team.