



Community Health Implementation Plan

2017-2019

2017-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan for CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith

MISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Southern Crescent Hospital for Specialty Care is a long term acute care hospital managed by CHRISTUS Dubuis Health System and located within Southern Regional Medical Center in Riverdale, a city in Clayton County, Georgia. CHRISTUS Dubuis Health System is a non-profit long term acute care hospital (LTACH) system sponsored by CHRISTUS Health to provide care to patients who require acute care over an extended period of time. CHRISTUS Health was formed in 1999 to strengthen the Catholic faith-based health care ministries of the Congregations of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston and San Antonio that began in 1866. Founded on the mission “to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ,” CHRISTUS Health’s vision is to be a leader, a partner, and an advocate in creating innovative health and wellness solutions that improve the lives of individuals and communities so that all may experience God’s healing presence and love.

As part of this effort and to meet [federal IRS 990H requirements](#), this document serves as a community health improvement plan (CHIP) report for Southern Crescent Hospital. This report is the companion piece to the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report that was finalized June 2016 (see separate document), and based, in part, off of several needs identified in that document.

TARGET AREA/ POPULATION

While Southern Crescent Hospital sees patients from the following counties in Georgia, a substantial percentage of Southern Crescent’s patients come from Clayton County. This fact, coupled with the regulatory bodies that oversee and govern the types of services that are provided in long term acute care facilities and the limited resources available to address the needs highlighted within the CHNA, resulted in the decision to have patients admitted to Southern Crescent Hospital serve as the target population for most of the implementation strategies discussed in this report.

Southern Crescent Hospital Counties	
Clayton	Fulton
Coweta	Henry
DeKalb	Spalding

PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS

Southern Crescent Hospital leadership was provided with a draft community health needs assessment report May 2016. A panel of experts comprised of both CHRISTUS/ Southern Crescent Hospital staff and external partners representing various members of the community was tasked with reviewing the findings and determining which priority issues would be selected to address over the next three years as part of a community health implementation plan.

The panel took a number of things into consideration when choosing priorities. Some priorities were selected based off of issue prevalence and severity according to county and regional secondary data.

Input provided by key informants, focus group participants, and other community stakeholders was also heavily considered, especially for priority areas where secondary data were less available. The official Community Health Needs Assessment report was finalized June 2016 (see separate document). Based on the process described above, the priority health needs selected by Southern Crescent Hospital are:

1. Access to Care
2. Social Determinants of Health / Connecting People to Available Resources & Basic Needs
3. Chronic Conditions

SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The following implementation strategies outline actions Southern Crescent Hospital will take over the next three years to address the priority health needs listed above.

ACCESS TO CARE & CHRONIC CONDITIONS PRIORITY STRATEGY

Provide information to patients and community members on the people, programs, and resources that can assist with the prevention and/or management of chronic disease and improve health care access

Major Action(s)	Sub-actions
Maximize opportunities to provide disease management & prevention education	<p>1. Explore ways to provide disease management & prevention education (e.g. information on nutrition) as a complement to normal discharge planning</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Providing this type of education offers the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent some chronic conditions or, at least, mitigate poorer health outcomes that can occur as a result of these conditions.</p>
	<p>2. Provide health screenings and disease management & prevention education at area health fairs</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Providing screenings and health education during a health fair is one way to educate the community on how to prevent or manage chronic conditions and improve access to care.</p>
Explore establishing a referral system linking patients to providers or community organizations that can assist with improving access to care or provide primary care	<p>1. Provide referrals for primary care</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Linking patients to primary care can assist patients with attaining good/ optimum health once released and reduces the risk of further hospitalization.</p>

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH PRIORITY STRATEGY

Actively connect low-income families to local resources, organizations, or programs that provide assistance or social services for basic needs

Major Actions	Sub-actions
<p>Whenever possible, distribute resource materials of services and programs available to low-income populations</p>	<p>1. Display informational materials flyers for area social services in the hospital waiting room, at health fairs or other community events where Southern Crescent Hospital is represented</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Wide distribution better ensures that more community members can be informed of the many poverty assistance and services for which they are eligible.</p> <p>2. Provide community members with information on Medicaid & Medicare eligibility (note: information materials may be either internally or externally produced)</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Increased Medicaid and Medicare enrollment for those who are eligible but not previously enrolled may reduce the financial strain of seeking medical care for this population and improve the odds that such care is sought before poorer health outcomes occur.</p>
<p>Establish a schedule of charitable activities to lend time and/ or resources to those in need</p>	<p>1. Conduct employee food drives on behalf of area food pantries, homeless shelters, etc.</p> <p>2. Whenever possible, provide meals to families of low-income patients</p> <p><i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> The sponsoring of food drives and family dinners is one small way Southern Crescent Hospital can actively take to provide basic needs in the community.</p>

OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS THAT CANNOT NOT BE ADDRESSED

In an effort to maximize any resources available for the priority areas listed above, leaders and staff at Southern Crescent Hospital determined that the following issues would not be explicitly included in their community health improvement plan (CHIP):

- Mental health / behavioral health / substance abuse
- Education

While hospital leaders acknowledged that these issues are tremendously important to the community, the areas of mental health and education are far larger than what Southern Crescent can take on in terms of time, expertise, resources, and personnel.