

## Ascension Sacred Heart Emerald Coast Implementation Strategy

### Overview

The community health needs assessment (CHNA) was conducted by Ascension Sacred Heart Emerald Coast (ASHEC), in conjunction with Verité Healthcare Consulting, from August 2018 through March 2019.

The CHNA was conducted to identify priority health needs for the primary service area of Ascension Sacred Heart Emerald Coast, Okaloosa County and Walton County, and to inform development of implementation strategies to address the identified needs and their ability to impact the need. The CHNA was conducted to respond to federal regulatory requirements and seek to identify significant health needs for particular geographic areas and populations.

### Needs That Will Be Addressed

- Healthy Lifestyles
- Behavioral Health
- Cancer

### Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

- Access to Care - will not be addressed in implementation plans, but we will continue to advocate for the poor and vulnerable within our community
- Social Determinants – will not be addressed in implementation plans, but we will continue to advocate for the poor and vulnerable within our community
- Maternal, Infant, and Child Health – will not be addressed in implementation plans, but we will continue to support Safe Sleep and Baby Friendly certifications at the Family Birth Place. ASHEC will be opening a Level 2 NICU in January 2020.

### Summary of Implementation Strategy

An action plan follows for each prioritized need, including the resources, proposed actions, and anticipated impact for each strategy.

## Prioritized Need #1: Healthy Lifestyles

**GOAL:** Increase diabetes awareness in vulnerable populations with focus on prevention and education

### Action Plan

#### STRATEGY 1: Provide evidence-based screenings for pre-diabetes to communities that are at high risk for type 2 diabetes

##### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Target vulnerable populations and reduce barriers to access of diabetes prevention screenings.
- The purpose of screening is to identify asymptomatic individuals who are likely to have pre-diabetes.
- Okaloosa County and Walton County compare unfavorably to peer counties for many indicators including diabetes screening.
- Age-adjusted death rate for residents of Okaloosa County and Walton County was higher for diabetes.
- There are many behaviors, such as physical inactivity and obesity, which are contributing to the onset of diabetes later in life.

##### RESOURCES:

- Ascension Sacred Heart - Population Health (PH)
- Ascension Sacred Heart - Marketing Department (MKT)
- Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart (AMGSH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

##### ACTIONS:

1. Increase diabetes risk assessment screenings for vulnerable populations with increased risk of diabetes using CDC risk assessment
2. Outreach to engage community about classes and opportunities for patients with pre-diabetes
3. Promote and market diabetes awareness in AMGSH offices utilizing Outcome Health boards and brochures

##### ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

- I. By June 30, 2022, Population Health associates will have provided a total of 225 diabetes risk assessment screenings for high risk populations in Okaloosa County and Walton County.
- II. By June 30, 2022, Population Health associates will have participated in 12 community outreach activities to share information on classes and other opportunities for community residents with pre-diabetes and diabetes.
- III. By June 30, 2022, Population Health will have successfully publicized 12 diabetes awareness messages that aim to increase community awareness of type 2 diabetes.

## Prioritized Need #2: Behavioral Health

**GOAL:** Increase community access to behavioral health services for children

### Action Plan

#### STRATEGY 1: Increase behavioral health services to children by partnering with Children’s Home Society in Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart clinics and through a telehealth platform

##### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Children’s Home Society is in the process of continuing to grow a statewide telehealth network that will increase the accessibility of behavioral health and mental health care to families.
- Florida ranks 41st in access to mental health care for youth.
- An important component of this program is to integrate care allowing counselors and physicians to be able to communicate and coordinate the patient’s care.
- Integrating physical and behavioral health care services has been shown to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits.
- Telehealth overcomes barriers to in-office care such as lack of transportation, stigma, provider shortages, and scheduling conflicts.
- This program will also allow Ascension Sacred Heart to provide care in alignment with Ascension’s advanced strategic direction; providing behavioral health that is evidence based, safe, and leaves no one behind.
- Somatic Complaints scores on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) assessment will be utilized to assess outcomes. The CBCL is an evidence-based tool used to evaluate mental health.
- The Ascension Partnership in Ministry Award recognizes and promotes integration and collaboration in providing health, education, social and parish ministries.

##### RESOURCES:

- Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart (AMGSH)
- Children’s Home Society (CHS)
- Ascension Partnership in Ministry Award

##### ACTIONS:

1. Tele-counseling, tele-psychiatry or in-person counseling will be provided beginning July 1, 2019
2. Educate patients referred to CHS by AMGSH Pediatrics regarding telehealth and how they can utilize it to obtain counseling services
3. Appointments for counseling via telehealth will be scheduled within two business days

##### ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

- I. Somatic Complaints scores on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) assessment will confirm reduced somatic symptoms from pre-test to post-test for 50% of clients ages 6-18 who complete treatment.
- II. 50% of clients who complete treatment will demonstrate improved emotional and behavioral functioning.
- III. Overall scores will improve on the Parent Stress Index from pre-test to post-test for 85% of parents.

## Prioritized Need #3: Cancer

**GOAL:** Increase cancer screening rates to identify and refer patients for treatment in coordination with the Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart and Cancer Service Line

### Action Plan

#### STRATEGY 1: Increase number of cancer screenings, with special attention to disparate populations

##### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Target population is patients 50 through 75 years
- People in the community are not aware of cancer screenings and do not prioritize them as medical checkups, with the percent of persons having received screenings much lower for most tests in Okaloosa County and Walton County than the overall state average.
- Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States among men and women combined.
- Colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable cancers when detected early.
- The people less likely to get tested are Hispanics, American Indians or Alaska Natives, rural populations, men, those 50-64 and those with lower education and income.
- Studies show that some screening tests for colorectal cancer help find cancer at an early stage and may decrease the number of deaths from the disease.
- Okaloosa County and Walton County cancer incidence rates are higher than Florida rates for lung and colorectal cancers.
- Age-adjusted death rate of colorectal cancer for residents of Walton County is higher than Florida while Okaloosa County is lower.
- Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart (AMGSH) will have an annual initiative on cancer screening. In order to align strategies, we will select the AMGSH future initiative to measure and report.

##### RESOURCES:

- Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart (AMGSH)
- Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart – Quality Team (QT)
- Cancer Service Line (CSL)

##### ACTIONS:

1. Invitation to eligible AMGSH patients for cancer screening utilizing phone and text reminders via scheduled patient outreach campaigns
2. Provider assessment and feedback interventions which both evaluate provider performance in delivering or offering screening to clients and present providers with information about their performance in providing screening services
3. Education focused on colorectal cancer screening to primary care clinicians with continuing medical education credits provided
4. Host education fairs provided by AMGSH Quality Team to educate clinical and non-clinical associates of the importance of colorectal cancer screening and how they can impact screening rates
5. Conduct and measure cancer screenings in alignment with AMGSH’s FY2021 disease specific focus

**STRATEGY 1: Increase number of cancer screenings, with special attention to disparate populations****ANTICIPATED IMPACT:**

- I. By June 30, 2020, Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart will have achieved a 3% above FY2019 increase in colorectal cancer screening rate for all patients with an AMGSH primary care provider.
- II. By June 30, 2021, in alignment with Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart's FY2021 pathology focus, there will be a % increase of cancer screenings conducted and measured.