

FY 2020 – 2022 Community Health Implementation Strategy

Ascension Seton Northwest



**Ascension
Seton**

Ascension Seton Northwest Hospital

Implementation Strategy Narrative

Overview

Ascension Seton Northwest Hospital is a part of Ascension Seton, formerly known as Seton Family of Hospitals, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and an affiliate of Ascension Texas and Ascension Health, with a long-standing history of serving Central Texas, not only as a health care provider, but as a leader and advocate for improving the health of the population as a whole.

Ascension's Mission

Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually-centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and our words.

About Ascension Seton Northwest

Ascension Seton Northwest is a 117-bed hospital offering comprehensive diagnostic and treatment health services in Northwest Austin. The 24-hour emergency department is a Level IV Trauma Center using the latest technologies and a vast network of specialists to treat unexpected illness and injury. The hospital's Women's Services include the maternity unit, a Level II special care nursery and preventive screening mammograms.

Ascension Seton Northwest offers both inpatient and outpatient surgery in general surgery and many specialties including heart and vascular care, and orthopedics, among others. It is one of 12 hospitals in the 11-county Ascension Seton service area.

2019 Community Health Needs Assessment

In December 2017, Austin/Travis County published the Community Health Assessment report (CHA) "Together we Thrive." Ascension Seton was an official partner for the development of the CHA, along with the Austin Transportation Department, the Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority, Central Health, Integral Care, St. David's Foundation, Travis County Health and Human Services, The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health in Austin.

Because Ascension Seton associates actively participated in the creation of the Austin/Travis County CHA, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) allows health care entities to work collaboratively, and the CHA meets the federal legal requirements set forth for the Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA), Ascension Seton opted to adopt the Travis County CHA report, as incorporated herein, as the official [Ascension Seton Central Region: Travis County Community Health Needs Assessment](#).

Given the gap in time between the 2017 Austin/Travis County Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the requirements for the 2019 CHNA, Ascension Seton determined that it would be valuable to solicit supplemental feedback from Travis County stakeholders and community members in 2018.

Findings from the focus group and community conversations carried out in 2018 are consistent with the top three health concerns identified by the CHA process, which identified the following:

- Access to Healthcare (includes affordability and physical access to care)
- Mental Health (includes access to providers, and treatment for conditions like depression)
- Diabetes and other Chronic Diseases

Community Health Implementation Strategy

Ascension Seton has developed 17 Community Health Implementation Strategies, one for each of its hospitals and joint venture facilities. Each plan identifies the action the hospital, with the support of the Ascension Seton network, plans to take to address the prioritized needs identified in the CHNA of its region.

Since Ascension Seton has multiple sites throughout Travis County, both inpatient and outpatient, some actions described in the Implementation Strategies are not strictly operated by Ascension Seton Northwest or any other one facility.

Most notably, the unique partnership between Ascension Seton, Central Health and Dell Medical School at The University of Texas is the foundation of Ascension Seton's significant strategic investments to transform care delivery in Travis County, improve the health of individuals and address community health needs. The relationship has resulted in the creation of a new healthcare model based on an integrated delivery system with a focus on preventative care and chronic disease management. The three-way partnership, community organizations including Integral Care (the local mental health authority), community clinics and other providers offer care for over 100,000 patients each year.

The various actions included in the Implementation Strategy are not intended to be exhaustive or inclusive of every single Ascension Texas strategy, initiative or program. Instead, the plan highlights the most significant actions that each hospital has undertaken to address the health needs prioritized in the CHNA, including those strategies that are expected to make the most significant impact on the delivery of health care in the region for the poor and vulnerable.

This Implementation Strategy will address needs identified in the 2019 Central Region: Travis County Community Health Needs Assessment. Ascension Seton Northwest is in Travis County.

Needs That Will Be Addressed

Ascension Seton Northwest will address each of the above needs with at least two measurable goals to show improvement in the noted areas of focus.

Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Ascension Seton Northwest will address all of the priority needs listed.

Summary of Implementation Strategy

Need: Access to Healthcare

Strategy: Provide educational opportunities and health screenings to community members.

- Through local health fairs, visits to schools, women's and men's health events, community baby showers and other initiatives, offer opportunities for education and screening for various health conditions.

Resources and Collaboration:

- The hospital provides staff support, meeting space, and educational and screening tools.

- Ascension Seton Northwest collaborates with community organizations like school districts and other partners who host health fairs.

Anticipated Impact:

- Through health fairs and other educational opportunities screen at least 50 people annually for blood pressure and glucose levels and offer resources for education and treatment of identified conditions.
- Maintain or grow to five partnerships that advance the opportunities for health fairs and classes.

Need: Mental and Behavioral Health Services

Strategy: Provide educational opportunities and health screenings to community members.

- Clinicians and hospital leaders have a growing desire to deliver appropriate levels of mental and behavioral health care when and where they are needed.
- Partnership between Ascension Seton and Dell Medical School and the role clinicians play in developing the entire continuum of care for brain health as part of the Austin State Hospital redesign provides context for creation of the consortium.
- Concerns related to patient, associate and clinician safety are increasing.

Resources and Collaboration:

- Ascension Seton Shoal Creek and DePaul will provide time of clinicians, resource navigators, and administrative leaders in partnership with Ascension Medical Group.
- As a partner with Ascension Texas, Dell Medical School will also provide staff and faculty time and resources to this initiative.
- Hospitals in the Ascension Texas Network will provide time of clinicians and administrative leaders.
- Ascension Seton and Dell Medical School at The University of Texas, including the Network Clinical Care Councils (NC3) and Behavioral Health Strategy Group.
- Community organizations providing mental and health care services, including the local mental health authority.

Anticipated Impact:

- Expansion of coordinated continuum of care for mental and behavioral health services as measured by implementation of Consortium-developed site-specific strategies.
- Metrics of the impact of specific strategies agreed upon by the Consortium to be developed by July 1, 2020.

Need: Chronic Disease

Strategy: Offer nutrition classes and advance partnerships around conditions including hypertension.

- Every quarter, Ascension Seton Northwest offers free learning sessions around nutrition and other health conditions to provide expert advice to participants.
- Sessions include a healthy meal and a presentation on healthy diet and eating habits from a registered dietitian.
- Ascension Seton Northwest associates advance strong relationships with American Heart Association (AHA), among others, to expand access to awareness and education around hypertension. The group, comprised of representatives from diverse organizations, meets quarterly.

Resources and Collaboration:

- The hospital provides staff support, meeting space, and educational and screening tools.
- Ascension Seton Northwest collaborates with community organizations like AHA, Central Texas Food Bank and others to grow awareness of chronic disease conditions and offer opportunities to learn about healthy eating.

Anticipated Impact:

- Provide at least four nutrition learning sessions each year.
- Maintain or grow to five partnerships that advance the opportunities to diagnose and treat chronic conditions.

Prioritized Need #1: Access to Healthcare

GOAL: Improve access to healthcare for vulnerable populations

Action Plan

STRATEGY 1: Provide educational opportunities and health screenings to community members.
<p>BACKGROUND INFORMATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through local health fairs, visits to schools, women’s and men’s health events, community baby showers and other initiatives, offer opportunities for education and screening for various health conditions.
<p>RESOURCES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hospital provides staff support, meeting space, and educational and screening tools.
<p>COLLABORATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension Seton Northwest collaborates with community organizations like school districts and other partners who host health fairs.
<p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Offer “Lunch/Dinner and Learn” sessions on education and screenings for prostate cancer and hernias and provide blood pressure checks and classes around breastfeeding. Partner with community organizations including the YMCA to offer programs like “Silver Sneakers”.
<p>ANTICIPATED IMPACT:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Through health fairs and other educational opportunities screen at least 50 people annually for blood pressure and glucose levels and offer resources for education and treatment of identified conditions. Maintain or grow to five partnerships that advance the opportunities for health fairs and classes.

Alignment with Local, State & National Priorities

OBJECTIVE:	LOCAL / COMMUNITY PLAN:	STATE PLAN:	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020:
I and II	Austin/Travis County 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan Goal 1: Every Travis County resident has access to culturally sensitive, affordable, equitable, and comprehensive healthcare.	Department of State Health Services Strategic Plan: Goal 1: Improve health through prevention and population-health strategies.	Healthy People 2020 AHS-6 Reduce the proportion of persons who are unable to obtain or delay in obtaining necessary medical care.

Prioritized Need #2: Mental and behavioral health services

GOAL: Expand provision of mental and behavioral health services

Action Plan

STRATEGY 1: Create a behavioral health consortium, comprised of hospital leaders and mental and behavioral health clinicians, to provide a forum to identify site-specific needs around access to mental and behavioral health services, and consider and implement best practices that improve delivery of care to a wider variety of patients both in and outside hospitals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Clinicians and hospital leaders have a growing desire to deliver appropriate levels of mental and behavioral health care when and where they are needed.
- Partnership between Ascension Texas and Dell Medical School and the role clinicians play in developing the entire continuum of care for brain health as part of the Austin State Hospital redesign provides context for creation of the consortium.
- Concerns about patient, associate and clinician safety have been increasing.

RESOURCES:

- Ascension Seton Shoal Creek and DePaul will provide time of clinicians, resource navigators and administrative leaders in partnership with Ascension Medical Group.
- As a partner with Ascension Texas, Dell Medical School will also provide staff and faculty time and resources to this initiative.
- Hospitals in the Ascension Texas network will provide time of clinicians and administrative leaders.

COLLABORATION:

- Ascension Texas and Dell Medical School at The University of Texas, including the Network Clinical Care Councils (NC3) and Behavioral Health Strategy Group.
- Community organizations providing mental and health care services, including the local mental health authority.

ACTIONS:

1. Leaders at Ascension Seton Shoal Creek and DePaul, in partnership with Dell Medical School faculty, identify leaders and convene the consortium by March 2020.
2. By July 1, 2020, consortium creates charter and goals and establishes timeline for implementation.
3. By January 2021, consortium has implemented strategies in at least three Ascension Texas sites to improve coordination, provision of care and/or safety of patients, community and/or clinicians.
4. By July 2021, consortium evaluates experience of strategies of at least three sites to assess effectiveness and makes recommendations for improvement based on findings.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

- I. Expansion of coordinated continuum of care for mental and behavioral health services as measured by implementation of consortium-developed site-specific strategies.
- II. Metrics of the impact of specific strategies agreed upon by the consortium to be developed by July 1, 2020.

Alignment with Local, State & National Priorities

OBJECTIVE:	LOCAL / COMMUNITY PLAN:	STATE PLAN:	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020:
I and II	Austin/Travis County 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan Goal 4: Advance mental wellness, recovery and resilience through equitable access to responsive, holistic, and integrated community healthcare systems.	Department of State Health Services Strategic Plan: Goal 1: Improve health through prevention and population-health strategies.	Healthy People 2020 MHMD-9 Increase the proportion of adults with mental health disorders who receive treatment.

Prioritized Need #3: Chronic Disease

GOAL: Improve care for community members with a chronic disease.

Action Plan

STRATEGY 1: Offer nutrition classes and advance partnerships around conditions including hypertension.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Every quarter, Ascension Seton Northwest offers free learning sessions around nutrition and other health conditions to provide expert advice to participants.
- Sessions include a healthy meal and a presentation on healthy diet and eating habits from a registered dietitian.
- Ascension Seton Northwest associates advance strong relationships with American Heart Association (AHA), among others, to expand access to awareness and education around hypertension. The group, comprised of representatives from diverse organizations, meets quarterly.

RESOURCES:

- The hospital provides staff support, meeting space, and educational and screening tools.

COLLABORATION:

- Ascension Seton Northwest collaborates with community organizations like AHA, Central Texas Food Bank and others to grow awareness of chronic disease conditions and offer opportunities to learn about healthy eating.

ACTIONS:

1. Offer “Lunch/Dinner and Learn” sessions on education and screenings around nutrition and health conditions.
2. Partner with community organizations including the AHA to offer available programming.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

- I. Provide at least four nutrition learning sessions each year.
- II. Maintain or grow to five partnerships that advance the opportunities to diagnose and treat chronic conditions.

Alignment with Local, State & National Priorities

OBJECTIVE:	LOCAL / COMMUNITY PLAN:	STATE PLAN:	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020:
I and II	Austin/Travis County 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan Goal 2: Prevent and reduce the occurrence and severity of chronic disease through collaborative approaches to health that create environments that support, protect, and improve the well-being of all communities.	Department of State Health Services Strategic Plan: Goal 1: Improve health through prevention and population-health strategies.	Healthy People 2020 HRQOL/WB-1 Increase the proportion of adults who self-report good or better health.

Approval

Prepared by Ascension Seton. Formally recommended and approved by the Ascension Seton Board of Directors on October 23, 2019 and thereafter approved and adopted by the Ascension Texas Board of Directors on October 23, 2019.