

# **FY 2020 - 2022 Community Health Implementation Strategy**

**Ascension Seton Smithville**



**Ascension  
Seton**

## Ascension Seton Smithville Implementation Strategy

### Implementation Strategy Narrative

#### Overview

Ascension Seton Smithville 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.*

Located 13 miles east of Bastrop, Texas, Ascension Seton Smithville is an acute care facility providing inpatient and outpatient services to Bastrop, Lee, Fayette and other surrounding counties. Ascension Seton Smithville is committed to delivering excellent and affordable healthcare services and has been recognized with awards and achievements, including patient safety and quality improvement.

Ascension Seton Smithville promotes the highest quality personalized healthcare. Ascension Seton Smithville strives to be a strong community presence and to be the source for progressive diagnostic technology for the community, offering a healthcare team that is comprised of physicians, nurses and staff dedicated to returning patients to their normal activities and helping them live healthier lives.

Ascension Texas 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 Texas network, plans to take to address the prioritized needs identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) of its region.

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 Ascension Seton's [2019 East Region CHNA](#). The Ascension Seton's East CHNA addressed the health care needs of Bastrop, Gonzales, Fayette and Lee counties, Ascension Seton's East Region. These four counties were the focus of this CHNA because they are part of Ascension Seton's primary service area. Ascension Seton Smithville is an acute care facility located in the East Region, 13 miles east of Bastrop in Bastrop County.

### Needs That Will Be Addressed

The prioritized health needs that were identified in the 2019 East Region CHNA were mental health, access to care and chronic disease. Ascension Seton Smithville will address all three of these needs in this implementation plan.

### Needs That Will Not Be Addressed

Ascension Seton Smithville will address all of the needs identified in the 2019 East Region CHNA.

### Summary of Implementation Strategy

#### Need: Mental Health

**Strategy:** 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.

- 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 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 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.

#### 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: Access to Care**

**Strategy:** Assist indigent individuals to apply for prescription assistance.

- Assistance is available to all individuals who cannot afford their prescriptions.
- Doctors in the community and at Ascension Seton Smithville refer individuals who cannot afford prescriptions to the Bastrop County Indigent Health Care program.
- Seton provides partial funding for the staff member who assists individuals with enrollment in pharmacy prescription assistance programs (PPAP).

### **Resources and Collaboration:**

- Ascension Seton Smithville pays for part of the salary for the staff member responsible for assisting community members in need of application assistance.
- This initiative is a partnership with Bastrop County Indigent Health Care Program.

### **Anticipated Impact**

- Annually assist 25 indigent individuals with PPAP applications to improve their access to needed prescriptions.

## **Need: Chronic Disease**

**Strategy:** Collaborate with partners in the community to prevent chronic disease.

- Through local health planning efforts, identify community health needs, secure grant and reward funding and implement health promotion activities. Examples of activities that have been implemented through this effort are afterschool physical activity supplies, community garden nutrition education and mile marker signs to promote walking.

### **Resources and Collaboration:**

- Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in local planning efforts by providing staff time to attend meetings and events and participate in planning efforts.
- Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in the Smithville Whole Health Partnership, which includes representatives from Smithville Community Clinic, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, the City of Smithville and Smithville Independent School District.
- Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in Bastrop County Cares, a county-wide partnership to develop comprehensive community initiatives.

### **Anticipated Impact:**

- As part of the Bastrop County Cares collaboration, Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in monthly meetings.
- As a part of the Smithville Whole Health Partnership, Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in monthly planning meetings.
- As part of community planning efforts, identify three activities through the Smithville Whole Health Partnership to prevent chronic disease in the community.

## Prioritized Need #1: Mental Health

**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 State & National Priorities

OBJECTIVE:	STATE PLAN:	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020:
I and II	Department of State Health Services Strategic Plan: Goal 1: Improve health through prevention and population-health strategies.	Healthy People 2020 MHMD-0 Increase the proportion of adults with mental health disorders who receive treatment

## Prioritized Need #2: Access to Care

**GOAL:** Improve access to prescription medications

### Action Plan

<b>STRATEGY 1:</b> Assist indigent individuals to apply for prescription assistance.
<p><b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance is available to all individuals who cannot afford their prescriptions.</li> <li>Doctors in the community and at Ascension Seton Smithville refer individuals who cannot afford prescriptions to the Bastrop County Indigent Health Care program.</li> <li>Seton provides partial funding for the staff member who assists individuals with enrollment in pharmacy prescription assistance programs (PPAP).</li> </ul>
<p><b>RESOURCES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascension Seton Smithville pays for part of the salary for staff member responsible for assisting community members in need of application assistance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>COLLABORATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This initiative is a partnership with Bastrop County Indigent Health Care Program.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascension Seton Smithville staff member will assist individuals with applications for PPAP through pharmaceutical companies.</li> </ol>
<p><b>ANTICIPATED IMPACT:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually assist 25 indigent individuals with PPAP applications to improve their access to needed prescriptions.</li> </ol>

### Alignment with State & National Priorities

OBJECTIVE:	STATE PLAN:	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020:
I	Department of State Health Services Strategic Plan: Goal 1: Improve health through prevention and population-health strategies.	Healthy People 2020 AHS-6 Reduce the of proportion of persons who are unable to obtain or delay in obtaining necessary medical care.

## Prioritized Need #3: Chronic Disease

**GOAL:** Support people with chronic illness through healthy community initiatives

### Action Plan

<b>STRATEGY 1:</b> Collaborate with partners in the community to prevent chronic disease.
<p><b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through local health planning efforts, identify community health needs, secure grant and reward funding and implement health promotion activities. Examples of activities that have been implemented through this effort are afterschool physical activity supplies, community garden nutrition education and mile marker signs to promote walking.</li> </ul>
<p><b>RESOURCES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in local planning efforts by providing staff time to attend meetings and events and participate in planning efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>COLLABORATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in the Smithville Whole Health Partnership, which includes representatives from Smithville Community Clinic, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, the City of Smithville and Smithville Independent School District.</li> <li>Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in Bastrop County Cares, a county-wide partnership to develop comprehensive community initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in community collaborative efforts around health and wellbeing including Smithville Whole Health Partnership and Bastrop County Cares.</li> </ol>
<p><b>ANTICIPATED IMPACT:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the Bastrop County Cares collaboration, Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in monthly meetings.</li> <li>As a part of the Smithville Whole Health Partnership, Ascension Seton Smithville will participate in monthly planning meetings.</li> <li>As part of community planning efforts, identify three activities through the Smithville Whole Health Partnership to prevent chronic disease in the community.</li> </ol>



### Alignment with Local, State & National Priorities

OBJECTIVE:	STATE PLAN:	HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020:
I, II, and III	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.