

**Franciscan Healthcare**  
**Community Health Needs Assessment**  
**Summary of Actions Taken in 2023 - 2025 for the 2022 CHNA**

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) revealed two main health priorities in our area: 1) Behavioral/Mental Health and 2) Cancer Prevention and Screening. Several overall goals were established based on the preceding health priorities. Actions taken in 2022 – 2024 to address the health priorities are as follows:

For the health priority of Behavioral/Mental Health we will:

1. Continue providing job shadowing experiences and preceptorship programs for potential behavioral/mental health students entering the pipeline, and for current medical students completing field training. Recruit behavioral/mental health providers.
  - a. Over that last 3 years we have had a physician assistant student, a nurse practitioner student, and an LMHP student complete their psychology rotation with our mental health providers.
  - b. In 2024 we started recruiting for a counselor for the West Point Clinic.
2. Continue telemedicine access in the district—focusing on behavioral and mental health services.
  - a. Mary Brockmann, APRN; Alexis Albrecht, APRN; Tracie Martin, MD; and Pete Thiele, PA-C continue to use telehealth to reach patients and provide access to care for mental health visits.
3. Continued use of clinical assessments for all patient encounters in the medical setting for substance misuse and/or substance abuse disorders and suicide risk and triage.
  - a. We screen all patients, 12 years of age and older, annually for depression and suicide. If screening is positive, we provide appropriate referral for treatment.

For the health priority of Cancer Prevention and Screening we will:

1. Increase physical activity through instruction of evidence-based curriculums geared towards dietary improvements and healthy lifestyles. Evidence-based curriculums may include:
  - a. National Diabetes Prevention Project (NDDP)—both traditional and hybrid
  - b. Health Coaches
  - c. Eating Smart and Being Active
    - i. Health coaches meet with pre-diabetic and diabetic patients to discuss how they can change their lifestyle to be compliant with their disease. This includes how physical activity can play a part in their lifestyle.
2. Increase creation of (or enhanced access to) public places for public use to increase physical activity and improve physical fitness. Items to consider include creating walking trails, parks improvement, inclusive playgrounds, and partnerships with Core Health.

- a. Franciscan Healthcare has been instrumental in the West Point Trails and Pathways project as well as the Timmerman Park Inclusive Playground Area. We encourage our patients to utilize these spaces for physical activity.
  - b. Started an Inclusive Playground Project in the Oakland community.
  - c. Held physical fitness classes at Core Health at no fee or reduced fees for the community.
3. Increase access and utilization of free and low-cost cancer screenings. Such examples include: participation as healthcare provider in the Nebraska DHHS Every Woman Matters Program as provider of free pap tests, pelvic exams, clinical breast exams and lab fees, and mammography for eligible women.
  - a. Franciscan Healthcare continues to participate in the Nebraska DHHS Every Woman Matter Program.
  - b. Have a cash lab day once a month where patients can receive PSA screening at a reduced rate.
4. Increase referrals for age-appropriate routine cancer screenings through reminder/recall initiatives for breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, prostate cancer screening, colon cancer screening, and lung cancer screening for current or former smokers.
  - a. When a patient is scheduled for their annual physical, a health coach will reach out to them to help them schedule their lab work and mammography if appropriate. During the annual physical, the provider goes through the screening that are applicable to patients based on their age and risk factors and encourages them to do them as appropriate.
  - b. For lung cancer screening Franciscan Healthcare has teamed up with a Radiologist who has a grant to increase Low Dose CT Lung Scans for lung cancer screening. Franciscan Healthcare has improved documentation of smoking history and smoking pack years, including radiology techs documenting smoking history and has created a protocol for ordering and obtaining Low Dose CT Lung Scans when criteria is met.
    - i. Also have patient education cards available in areas of the hospital and clinic that patients can complete and self-refer for a scan if indicated.
    - ii. Through increased awareness of all staff, we have increased the number of Low Dose CT Lung Scans performed by 115% from 2022 to 2024.
  - c. Partnered with the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department to make outreach calls to women who are not up to date with breast or cervical cancer screenings.
5. Increase the administration of HPV vaccines through utilization of third-party reimbursement for insured clients and Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program for Medicaid, uninsured and underinsured clients.
  - a. Franciscan Healthcare continues to participate in the Vaccines for Children Program.
  - b. During patient's wellness visit, the nurse and physician offers the HPV vaccine if the patient qualifies.
6. Continue offering smoking cessation classes for individuals who desire to stop using tobacco products.
  - a. Two respiratory therapists have completed their smoking cessation certification to improve the smoking cessation program.

- b. Offer smoking cessation classes for patients. The class is offered to patients by the provider during clinic visits or hospital stays.

The CHNA only focuses on two main health priorities. However, it should be noted that some of the other opportunities for prioritization that were identified during the CHNA such as recruitment and retention of healthcare workforce, home stability, food insecurity, opioid overdose and misuse, Medicaid reimbursement for long-term care facilities, shortage of EMS providers, etc. are still issues that we face and work through often. Just because they are not part of the CHNA, does not mean that we are not focusing on them and working to improve the outcomes.