

Executive Summary

Community Health Needs Assessment of Northeast Georgia

District 2 Public Health

Habersham Medical Center

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Gainesville

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Barrow

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Lumpkin

Stephens County Hospital

Approved by:

The Hospital Authority of Habersham County, Georgia, September 17th, 2019, posted to www.habershammedical.com

Northeast Georgia Medical Center Board of Directors, August 27, 2019, posted to www.nghs.com

Northeast Georgia Health System Board of Directors, September 24, 2019, posted to www.nghs.com

Stephens County Hospital Authority Board, September 16, 2019, posted to stephenscountyhospital.com

Executive Summary

The following organizations have partnered and collaborated to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for communities they (CHNA Partners) serve in northeastern Georgia:

- District 2 Public Health
- Habersham Medical Center
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Gainesville
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Braselton
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Barrow
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Lumpkin
- Stephens County Hospital

These CHNA Partners understand the importance of serving the health needs of their communities. In order to do that successfully, they must first take a comprehensive look at the issues that patients, families, and neighbors face when making healthy life choices and health care decisions.

Beginning in November 2018, the CHNA Partners began the process of assessing the health needs of the communities served by the hospital facilities and the health department with a collaborative community health needs assessment. IBM Watson Health (Watson Health) was engaged to help collect and analyze the data for this process, and to compile a final report to be made publicly available by September 30, 2019.

The communities served by each of the CHNA Partners overlapped and combined to include all or part of 16 counties in northeast Georgia. While a collaborative approach was utilized, a needs analysis was conducted for each CHNA Partner's defined community; community-specific subsections are included in this report. Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) defined four communities served by their four hospital facilities: NGHS Greater Braselton Service Area (GBSA), NGHS Primary Service Area (PSA), NGHS Secondary Service Area 400 (SSA 400), and NGHS Secondary Service Area North (SSA North).

Watson Health performed a quantitative and a qualitative assessment. Over 129 public health indicators were examined, and a benchmark analysis of the data was conducted. The analysis compared community values to the overall state of Georgia and United States (U.S.) values. For the qualitative assessment, input from over 500 people was included via several different qualitative methods; focus groups, interviews, in-person surveys, and listening sessions. Participants in these sessions included District 2 Public Health as well as individuals or organizations serving and/or representing the interests of medically underserved, low-income, and minority populations in the community.

Needs were first identified when an indicator for a community was worse than the Georgia state benchmark. A need differential analysis conducted on all of the low performing indicators determined the relative severity by using the percent difference from benchmark. The outcome of this quantitative analysis aligned with the qualitative findings to create a list of health needs in the community. Each health need received assignment into one of four quadrants in a health needs matrix. The matrix shows the convergence

of needs identified in the qualitative data (interview and focus group feedback) and quantitative data (health indicators) and identifies the top health needs for each community.

In June 2019, a session was held with the CHNA Partners and their community advisors to identify and prioritize the significant health needs for each CHNA Partner’s community. The meeting was moderated by Watson Health and included an overview of the CHNA process for the communities of northeast Georgia; the methodology for determining the top health needs; and the selection and prioritization of significant health needs for the communities served.

The group was provided an overview of the CHNA process undertaken for northeast Georgia. The participants reviewed the CHNA findings and the Health Needs Matrix for each community. Working in community specific work groups, they identified the significant community health needs to prioritize. The community work group participants used criteria selected by the CHNA Partners to score each community’s significant health needs. The list of significant health needs for each community was then prioritized based on the overall scores.

In the prioritization session described above, each community work group was tasked with recommending up to five (5) priority needs their respective CHNA Partner should address through their CHNA implementation strategies. After each work group established their recommendations, the groups reconvened to review their recommended priorities across the communities. Common priorities were identified, and collectively the group discussed areas of potential collaboration and synergies in implementation efforts between the CHNA Partners. The recommended priority health needs are as follows:

Recommended Priority Health Needs

District 2 Public Health	Habersham Medical Center	Northeast Georgia Health System - PSA	Northeast Georgia Health System - GBSA	Northeast Georgia Health System - SSA 400	Northeast Georgia Health System - SSA North	Stephens County Hospital
Mental Health Stigma and Services	Mental Health	Mental and Behavioral Health	Mental and Behavioral Health	Mental and Behavioral Health	Mental and Behavioral Health	Mental Health
Substance Abuse						Substance Abuse
Transportation	Access to Care	Access to Care	Access to Care	Access to Care	Access to Care	Access to Care
Child Mortality & Teen Pregnancy						Maternal and Child Health
Physical Activity	Diabetes		Diabetes	Diabetes	Diabetes	
		Septicemia		Cardiovascular Disease		
					Septicemia	

Note: priority needs that are common across communities are shaded based on their commonality by category
 Source: IBM Watson Health, 2019

A description of these needs is included in the body of the report. The hospital facilities will each develop implementation strategies with specific initiatives to address the chosen health needs, to be completed and adopted by each hospital partner by February 15, 2020.

An evaluation of each hospital's implementation strategy drafted after the 2016 assessment is included in the full CHNA report.

The Community Health Needs Assessment for northeast Georgia has been presented and approved by each hospital partners' governing body, and the full assessment is available to the public at no cost for download and comment via each CHNA Partner's website:

- District 2 Public Health: <http://phdistrict2.org/>
- Habersham Medical Center: tellus@hcmcmcd.org
- Northeast Georgia Health System: <http://www.nghs.com/community-benefit-resources>
- The Stephens County Hospital: stephenscountyhospital.com

The CHNA partners collaborated with Watson Health to develop an interactive Tableau dashboard that displays the quantitative data collected as part of the 2019 CHNA. The Community Health Data provides access to over 120 county-level public health indicators as well as proprietary Watson Health estimates for demographics, community need, disease prevalence, insurance coverage, and emergency department visits. The dashboard is available to the community at <http://www.nghs.com/community-benefit-resources>.

This assessment and the corresponding implementation strategies are intended to meet the requirements for hospital community benefit planning and reporting as set forth in federal law, including but not limited to the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(r).