

Limestone Medical Center Community Needs Assessment 2017

A Community Health Needs Assessment forum was conducted for South Limestone Hospital District dba Limestone Medical Center/Family Medicine Center on October 5th 2017 in the hospital board room. On October 20th, 2017 hospital representatives met with a diverse group of local citizens comprising of former attorneys, former hospital board members, school officials, and county commissioners at a popular local eatery round table coffee session. The group consisted of persons of different ethnicities that represent the communities of which the hospital serves.

On October 26, 2017, meetings were conducted at the Groesbeck Senior Center and individual meetings with Pastor Clifton Fox, Groesbeck Church of Christ and Gabrielle Washington, M.S., Family and Community Health Agent.

On October 27, 2017, an interview with Groesbeck Mayor Ray O'Docharty was conducted at Limestone Medical Center.

The value of an Assessment is that it allows healthcare organizations to better understand the needs of the communities they serve, with the goal of improving the overall health of the patients they serve. The Community Health Needs Assessment is an extremely valuable tool for the healthcare organization to plan and strategically provide for the future of healthcare needs of specific populations.

The Mission of Limestone Medical Center is "to provide optimum health care services while remaining fiscally responsible to the citizens in the South Limestone Hospital District". Representatives from the community were identified for personal interviews based on specific roles/expertise. By listening to members of the community and reviewing demographic data, the hospital can gain further information on health status, and on where the needs in healthcare delivery currently exist. It solidifies the hospital's role in the community as a partner in improving the overall health of its constituents and economic development. The hospital identified its primary market area as South Limestone Hospital District, which follows the boundaries of the Groesbeck Independent School District, and Mexia, with its secondary market to include the counties of Freestone and Leon.

In addition to Limestone Medical Center which operates 20 beds as a Critical Access Hospital, other hospitals in the area include:

Parkview Regional Hospital, Mexia

Investor Owned Corporation- Life point

58 Beds

12 miles from Groesbeck

Providence Healthcare Network, Waco

Ownership- Church related

237 beds

40 miles from Groesbeck

Baylor Scott and White Hillcrest Medical Center, Waco

Ownership-Church related

576 beds

40 miles from Groesbeck

Baylor Scott and White Medical Center-Temple

Ownership- Church related

614 beds

70 miles from Groesbeck

Central Texas Veterans Health Care System

Ownership- Government –Federal

999 beds

70 miles from Groesbeck

Demographics of Limestone County:

The median household income is \$34,748 with an unemployment rate of 6.7%. The percentages of Limestone County residents with a High School Diploma are 72.2%. Residents with a Bachelor's degree are 11.1%.

Ethnicity and/or Race are important demographic measure for the hospital to consider, as African Americans and Hispanics tend to have a higher presence of Diabetes and Hypertension. These two chronic diseases can lead to other illnesses, including cardiovascular diseases. Access to primary care and specialty care is an issue, especially in rural communities, and therefore increases the impact that chronic diseases can have on at risk populations. The population of Limestone County consists of 60.5% White, 17.2% Black, 20.3% Hispanic, and Other 2.0%.

The population's insurance coverage for Limestone County includes a variety of ages, socio-economic groups, and insured/non-insured individuals. As the number of residents who are age 65 and older continues to grow, the utilization of Medicare resources grows. This growth is not only with the number of individuals, but also in the increase of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, cardiac health, circulatory diseases, and mental health issues. The number of uninsured/underinsured is growing as unemployment increases, and as small businesses chooses to not offer health benefits.

Limestone County's population consists of 28% uninsured and 72% insured.

Using the Medicaid rolls from November, 2011 the number of Medicaid enrollees by County is reflected, followed by the number of Medicare enrollees and the number of CHIP enrollees.

Medicaid for Limestone county total enrollment is 3,638 with the total enrollment of children being 2,370. Medicare enrollment for Limestone County is broken down into two categories. Medicare enrollment for the elderly 3,257 and Disabled Medicare enrollment is 918. Texas CHIP enrollment is 554.

The Community Health Needs Assessment process and methods will assist in understanding where the needs are, and where and how to spend the available health dollars in the community. The assessment describes the importance of the hospital working together as a partner with other local organizations to improve the health of all citizens, from infancy to senior adult. The mission statement indicates that the hospital recognizes its' role in the community.

Forums and interviews were held with the CEO, CFO/COO, Director of Marketing/Public Relations and various hospital department heads present. The interview planning process involved consideration of persons/organizations that could best represent the community. This process included minority populations and those that are medically underserved. The variety of organizations and people interviewed was instrumental to the depth of information gathered and the success of the project.

The assessment just completed for the hospital included interviews/forums with representatives of the following constituencies:

1. Business Leaders
2. Elected Officials
3. Senior Citizens
4. Community Volunteer
5. Nursing School Instructor
6. Pastor
7. Agri-Life Extension Office

Each person interviewed was asked a series of standard questions, with further discussion on areas and populations specific to their community role and perspective that they regarded as pertinent to community needs.

1. What do you think does the biggest health concern is in your community that's not being addressed?
2. What are the things you believe the hospital does best in the community?

3. What are some of the areas you think the hospital could improve on?
4. How do you feel about transportation and housing in Limestone County?
5. How do you feel about appointment availability when calling Family Medicine Center?

In addition to the health care needs the Community Health Needs Assessment revealed additional areas of concern regarding issues within the community. The responses were recorded with the following needs identified.

Access to health care-expand rural clinic hours

Urgent care clinic

Dialysis Center

Diabetes

Diabetes Education

Lack of Behavioral Health Providers

Housing

Drug abuse

Mammography services

Walking availability-more sidewalks in the city

Medication management for the elderly

In summary, the feedback from the various participants is of great importance to Limestone Medical Center, as the future of the hospital is considered. The hospital is acting on the information provided through the Community Needs Assessment process by evaluating its current programs and planning for future programs as part of its ongoing community benefits planning.

Many of the participants spoke positively of the Hospital and Clinic. Every participant spoke highly of the food that is served in the hospital dining room, meals are affordable and good. Comments included, hospital is engaged in the community, hospital has cutting edge technology; hospital promotes health awareness, Physical Therapy Department is great, appreciate Specialists that provide services in Groesbeck. The participants appreciate having Limestone Medical Center in the community.

The quality of services presently being provided by the hospital is an example of what can be accomplished when the Hospital Board, Administration, Providers, Staff, Hospital Volunteers and Hospital Foundation work together to provide the best health care possible in a rural setting.

Data Source:

www.city-data.com

www.findthefacts.org

www.quickfacts.census.gov

www.hhsc.tx.us

www.county-health.findthedata.org

www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/CHIP/MonthlyEnrollment/12_07.html