

**Implementation Strategy and Community Benefit Plan**

Avera Dells Area Hospital

For FY22-25

## I. Summary

- Avera Dells Area Hospital is a licensed 23-bed critical access hospital located in the northern most part of Minnehaha County, South Dakota. Avera Dells Area Hospital is a leased facility operating under Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Services of Sioux Falls, S.D., which is part of the greater Avera Health system. Avera Health is a ministry of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters. This network supports parts of eastern South Dakota and surrounding states with hospitals, clinics, home care, long term care, and other health services at more than 300 locations.
- The Avera Health community is guided by the Gospel values of compassion, hospitality and stewardship. Our mission is “to make a positive impact in the lives and health of persons and communities by providing quality services guided by Christian values.” Our vision is “to provide a quality, cost-effective health ministry, which reflects Gospel values. We shall improve the health care of the people we serve through a regionally integrated network of persons and institutions.”
- This report summarizes Avera Dells Area Hospital’s plans to address the prioritized needs from the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment.

## II. Community Served

- Avera Dells Area Hospital’s service area covers portions of three counties (Minnehaha, Moody, and Lake County) and eight rural communities, consisting of 8,126 South Dakota residents. The eight rural communities include: Dell Rapids (3,996), Garretson (1,228), Baltic (1,246), Colton (738) and Sherman (81), located in Minnehaha County; Colman (634) and Trent (206), located in Moody County; and Chester (257), which is located in Lake County.

## III. Prioritized List of Significant Health Needs Identified in CHNA

- The Avera Dells Area Medical Staff, Advisory Board, and Hospital Leadership Team worked diligently with the information provided from survey results to prioritize the community’s current health needs based on the following criteria: significance to the community; the need for additional resources; alignment with organizational mission; and impact on vulnerable populations. After the surveys were conducted and all notes/comments recorded, the hospital staff began identifying focus areas based off the feedback received from the community and the criteria listed above. Those focus areas identified were: public awareness and use, availability/variety of local hospital services, convenience to care, tobacco education/cessation, mental health, physical activity, outreach services, and nutrition education. The respondents were asked to rank the focus areas based on greatest need/importance; they were to choose their top two. Throughout this prioritization process, Avera Dells was able to identify two focus areas for the 2022 CHNA:
  - i. Variety of local healthcare services
  - ii. Access/convenience to medical care

## IV. What Avera Dells Area Hospital will do to address community health needs:

- Avera Dells Area Hospital has set the following goals to address the community health needs:

- i. Offer additional health services at Avera Dells Area Hospital.
  - ii. Improve convenience to care by extending hours and offering services on additional days.
- Action Plans:
    - i. **Variety of local services:** Avera Dells Area Hospital already offers many health services outside of primary, emergent, and inpatient care including;
      - 3d mammography
      - Podiatry
      - Orthopedics
      - Heart health screenings (Planet Heart)
      - Sleep studies
      - Exercise stress tests
      - Computerized tomography
      - X-ray
      - Bone density scans (DXA)
      - Physical therapy
      - Occupational therapy
      - Speech therapy
      - Respiratory therapy
      - Outpatient infusion
      - Dietetic consults
      - General surgery.

While this is a robust list of services, Avera Dells Area Hospital will further expand the list of services offered by seeking out new internal and external partnerships. The focus will be on services identified in the survey portion of the CHNA prioritization, especially wound care. We will partner with Restorix, a wound care company that is willing to see patients at our facility for their wound care needs. The hospital is committed to educating the community of these services once implemented.

The anticipated impact of bringing on this new wound care service is a potential of 100-200 patient encounters performed locally rather than the patient having to travel for these services. For many of our patients transportation is a challenge, therefore the ability to obtain these services locally provides great benefits.

To track progress of this goal, Avera Dells Area Hospital will closely monitor usage of these services to verify the strategy is effective. Results will be shared with the leadership team at Avera Dell Rapids as well as the advisory board throughout the next three years.

- ii. **Access to care:** As stated above, Avera Dells Area Hospital already offers a robust list of services. Many of these services are only offered once or twice per month. To provide patients with more convenient access to care, Avera Dells

Area Hospital will focus on expanding access through additional days and times for both the current services and any additional services that are implemented as part of this CHNA.

The outreach clinic in Garretson, SD will add an additional half day per week, adding the potential for 10 additional patient visits. This will provide care closer to home and hopefully add some convenience for the patient. Avera Dells Area Hospital will educate the community on these additional hours/days once implemented.

To track the progress of this goal, patient volumes will be assessed during expanded hours to ensure added value to patients. Results will be shared with the leadership team at Avera Dell Rapids as well as the advisory board throughout the next three years.

**V. Significant health needs not addressed:**

- i. Avera Dells Area Hospital identified the following needs not being addressed in the 2022 Implementation Strategy: tobacco education/cessation, mental health, physical activity, outreach services, and nutrition education. Each of these needs were presented to the Avera Dells Area Medical Staff, Advisory Board, and Hospital Leadership Team during the prioritization process, all of which felt there were other more impactful areas to focus on (variety of local services and access to care).

On 10-31-22 the Avera Dells Area Hospital Advisory Board approved the Avera Dells Area Hospital Community Health Needs Implementation Strategy.

Board Chair:   
Mike Park

Date: 10-31-2022