

Summary of 2018 Clayton Co. CHNA/HIP activities

In February 2018, MercyOne Elkader Medical Center and Clayton County Visiting Nurse Association met to begin planning the CHNA process. In March 2018, representatives from Central Community Hospital, Guttenberg Municipal Hospital, Clayton County Environmental Health, Clayton County Emergency Management, Medical Associates, Clayton County Visiting Nurses Association and Home Health met to formulate a survey that could be sent out to residents and organizations of Clayton County. The survey was developed and marketed to the community and local business through email, Facebook and the MercyOne Elkader Medical Center community newsletter (county-wide distribution) in the months of April and May. The survey closed on May 25, 2018.

On May 30, 2018, Clayton County Visiting Nurse Association and MercyOne Elkader Medical Center hosted a meeting for Clayton County stakeholders to review the results of the survey as well bring additional relevant data that could help in the CHNA process. During this meeting, the group reviewed and updated the 2016-2018 health improvement plans, reviewed the results of the survey as well as other data brought to the meeting by stakeholders and prioritized areas of need based on the data.

On August 30, 2018 this same group met again to review the prioritized areas of need based on the data and create a 2019 – 2021 community health improvement plan. This plan is a collaborative effort that addresses health problems in the community over a period of time and defines a vision of health of the community. For each priority area, existing efforts and resources were examined, new efforts identified, and goals and objectives established.

Five priority areas were identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment, all of which are addressed in the 2019 – 2021 Community Health Improvement Plan for MercyOne Elkader Medical Center and Clayton County VNA. Below is a listing of the five priorities identified along with a summary of the activities we have accomplished this past year.

Priority Area #1: Mental Health

1. Clayton Co. hospitals are working with Integrated Telehealth Partners to provide telepsychiatry consults for emergency room patients that are in crisis.
2. This subcommittee is partnering with County Social Services to identify any additional needs that aren't being met and identify possible solutions to address them.
3. Clayton Drug in Elkader is a new site in the county for drug drop off, in addition to the Clayton Co. Sheriff office and Hartig Drug in Guttenberg.
4. HIPPS (Hidden in Plain Site) exhibit was set up at the Clayton Co. Health Fair (May 2019) and Monona Hay Days celebration (6/8/19) to educate parents regarding drug and alcohol indicators that could be found a teenagers bedroom.
5. Escape Room exhibit was set up at the Monona Hay Days celebration on 6/8/19 to educate middle school age youth on marijuana facts.

Priority Area #2: Emergency Preparedness

1. Elkader EMS and Clayton Co. EMA have conducted two “Stop the Bleed” classes for training in 2019. Trainers will be offering classes to organizations or community meeting 2X/year.
2. We were able to purchase stop the bleed kits that will be given to organizations as they complete the training from Preparedness and Clayton Co. EMA funds.
3. MercyOne Elkader is in process of hiring coverage for 24/7/365 to address our EMS shortage.
4. Discussion is ongoing with an area college to set up clinicals for EMS students in our two local hospitals.

Priority Area #3: Obesity

1. Various community partners provided healthy nutrition information at the Clayton Co. Health Fair 5/2/19.

Priority Area #4: Caregiver Support

1. A Resource list of community agencies and contact information is currently being developed so all agencies in the county may utilize when working with families that need assistance.
2. 2 new Support groups for Cancer and Grief have been implemented in the Guttenberg area.

Priority Area #5: Environment

1. Newspaper article was submitted to 6 area newspapers on importance of radon testing.
2. Radon kits are available at the Clayton Co. VNA office for minimal cost.
3. Public site for community residents for sharps disposal has been established in Elkader for all to use. Will continue to work on other sites in the county.
4. Press release was published in 5 area newspapers regarding the new disposal site for all community residents to utilize.

Submitted by:

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