



THOMAS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2017 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Thomas Memorial Hospital Service Area Public Health Issue Priorities

Thomas reviewed the priority health issues identified by the Coalition and United Way of Central West Virginia. The priorities Thomas will pursue are based on the top priorities of these two needs assessments.

Priority #1: Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Priority #2: Obesity and Diabetes

Priority #3: Access to Affordable Counseling and Mental Health Services

Implementation Plan

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

- Thomas recently recruited a psychiatrist with fellowship training in addiction medicine and a Family Practice physician with training in addiction management.
- Thomas recently expanded its substance abuse program with the 28 day program. This is an ongoing effort and is continually reevaluating and improving.
- Thomas is exploring the use of paramedical professionals in visiting substance abuse patients to get them into treatment.
- Thomas continues with pregnancy connections to get pregnant mothers in to counseling and therapy during the first trimester as well as counseling those beyond the first trimester who are found to be substance abusers.
- Thomas participates, and will continue to participate, with the West Virginia Council of Churches in discussing the substance abuse epidemic in our region and how partnering with churches and other organizations could improve and build upon the Recovery aspect of the patient.
- Thomas will study and evaluate the efficacy of offering additional substance use disorder treatment services.

Obesity and Diabetes

- Thomas Health is working with a national company that provides wellness services through wellness assessments to employers that help educate patients about Obesity and Diabetes.
- Thomas' outpatient diabetes education team is involved with helping address obesity and diabetes through community education and assistance to individuals and their families.

Access to Affordable Counseling and Mental Health Services

- Thomas' plans include moving its outpatient behavioral health services to Saint Francis Hospital placing it nearer the county health department and other counseling services in downtown Charleston, West Virginia.
- Thomas continues to operate Behavioral Connections, a resource patients and/or family members can contact to get patients counseling or other mental health services.
- Thomas Health will continue to evaluate opportunities for partnership to offer affordable psychiatric services, including counseling and mental health services within the community.