



CHRISTUS[®] DUBUIS
Hospital of Fort Smith

Community Health Implementation Plan

2017-2019

2017-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan for CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith

MISSION FOR IMPLEMENTATION

CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith, Arkansas is a long term acute care hospital located within Mercy Hospital Fort Smith. CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith is part of CHRISTUS Dubuis Health System, a non-profit long term acute care hospital (LTACH) system sponsored by CHRISTUS Health to provide care to patients who require acute care over an extended period of time. CHRISTUS Health was formed in 1999 to strengthen the Catholic faith-based health care ministries of the Congregations of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of Houston and San Antonio that began in 1866. Founded on the mission “to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ,” CHRISTUS Health’s vision is to be a leader, a partner, and an advocate in creating innovative health and wellness solutions that improve the lives of individuals and communities so that all may experience God’s healing presence and love.

As part of this effort and to meet [federal IRS 990H requirements](#), this document serves as a community health improvement plan (CHIP) report for CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith. This report is the companion piece to the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) report that was finalized June 2016 (see separate document), and based, in part, off of several needs identified in that document.

TARGET AREA/ POPULATION

CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith sees patients from the following counties in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Due to the nature of the long term acute care industry, the regulatory bodies that oversee and govern the types of services that are provided, and the limited resources available to address the needs highlighted within the CHNA, patients admitted to CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith will serve as the target population for most of the implementation strategies discussed in this report.

CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith Counties	
Arkansas	
Crawford	Scott
Franklin	Sebastian
Johnson	Yell
Logan	
Oklahoma	
Adair	Le Flore
Haskell	Sequoyah
Latimer	

PRIORITY HEALTH NEEDS

Leadership for CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith was provided with a draft community health needs assessment report May 2016. A panel of experts comprised of both CHRISTUS staff and external partners representing various members of the community was tasked with reviewing the findings and determining which priority issues would be selected to address over the next three years as part of a community health implementation plan.

The panel took a number of things into consideration when choosing priorities. Some priorities were selected based off of issue prevalence and severity according to county and regional secondary data. Input provided by key informants, focus group participants, and other community stakeholders was also heavily considered, especially for priority areas where secondary data were less available. The official Community Health Needs Assessment report was finalized June 2016 (see separate document). Based on the process described above, the priority health needs selected by CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith are:

1. Living Conditions/ Poverty
2. Access to Care
3. Chronic Conditions

SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The following implementation strategies outline actions CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith will take over the next three years to address the priority health needs listed above.

LIVING CONDITIONS/ POVERTY PRIORITY STRATEGY

Increase community awareness of organizations or programs available in the Hot Springs region that provide assistance or social services to low-income families

Major Actions	Sub-actions
Develop and print a resource guide that lists services available to low-income populations	1. Partner with local United Way or others to assist on gathering a list of services available in the community <i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Partnering with United Way and other organizations to develop a printed list of services and resources for low-income families ensures that the list is inclusive of the many organizations serving the community.
	2. Distribute guide widely by providing to local churches and other organizations, promoting at health fairs, etc. <i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Wide distribution better ensures that more community members can be informed of the many poverty assistance and services for which they are eligible.

ACCESS TO CARE & CHRONIC CONDITIONS PRIORITY STRATEGY

Connect patients and community members to the information, programs, and organizations that can assist with the prevention and/or management of chronic disease and improve health care access

Major Action(s)	Sub-actions
Promote preventative health services specifically for the low-income, uninsured, and underinsured	1. Partner with other organizations to sponsor or participate in area health fairs <i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Working with other organizations to promote various health services and provide screenings during a health fair is one way to educate the community on what is available to them and improve access to care.
Maximize opportunities to provide patients with prevention education and medication assistance	1. Explore ways to provide disease management & prevention education (e.g. information on nutrition) as a complement to normal discharge planning <i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Providing this type of education offers the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent some chronic conditions or, at least, mitigate poorer health outcomes that can occur as a result of these conditions. <hr/> 2. Assist patients with medication access by working with pharmaceutical assistance programs <i>Anticipated Outcome:</i> Some pharmaceutical manufacturers provide financial assistance programs for patients who can't afford their medications, which can increase access to such medications.

OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS THAT CANNOT NOT BE ADDRESSED

In an effort to maximize any resources available for the priority areas listed above, leaders and staff at CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith determined that the following issues would not be explicitly included in their community health improvement plan (CHIP):

- Mental health
- Violence/domestic abuse

While hospital leaders acknowledged both issues are tremendously important to the community, CHRISTUS Dubuis of Fort Smith does not have the expertise to address these issues in an impactful way.