

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
TO ADDRESS LINN COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Mercy Medical Center
*2018 – 2020 Tax Years Covered***



Mercy Medical Center's Implementation Strategy Prepared By:
Melissa Cullum, MSN, MBA, RN
Director of Community Benefit and Patient Relations
Mercy Medical Center
September 16, 2019

I. Organization Mission

The mission of Mercy Medical Center (Mercy) is to care for the sick and enhance the health of the communities we serve, guided by the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy.

II. Community Served by the Hospital

Mercy serves a primary service area of Linn County and a secondary service area of eight counties (Benton, Buchanan, Cedar, Delaware, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, and Tama). The majority of Mercy's patients for both inpatient and outpatient services live in Linn County. Additionally, the community includes counties adjacent to Linn within reasonable driving distance of the hospital.

III. Implementation Strategy Process

In January 2018, the Together! Healthy Linn Coalition began the 2018 iteration of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process. The CHA and CHIP were led by Linn County Public Health and conducted in partnership with a multitude of community partners, including both Linn County hospitals (Mercy and UnityPoint-St. Luke's Hospital) and Eastern Iowa Health Center (Linn County's federally qualified health center). The alignment of the CHA and CHIP for all four entities in Linn County minimizes duplication and maximizes impact. A wide variety of community members and partners within the local public health system were engaged to inform and guide the process. The CHIP is a community-wide action plan for addressing strategic issues identified in the CHA over the next three years.

The Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) framework was selected due to the emphasis on engaging local public health system partners and community members in a collaborative assessment and planning process. MAPP is a community-wide strategic planning tool for improving community health.

The six phases of the MAPP framework include:

1. Organizing for success and partnership development
2. Visioning
3. Conducting the four MAPP assessments
4. Identifying strategic issues
5. Formulating goals and strategies

Strategic issues are defined as issues that must be addressed in order for Together! Healthy Linn to achieve its vision. To assist with strategic issue identification, the MAPP core group synthesized the findings of the assessments and categorized them into 13 potential strategic issue categories. A one- to two-page summary of the related assessment data for each category was created and provided to the steering committee prior to the strategic issue prioritization session.

The categories identified:

- Access to Healthcare
- Access to Healthy Food
- Access to Mental Health Services
- Affordable Housing
- Built Environment
- Chronic Disease
- Mental Health
- Natural Environment
- Obesity
- Safety and Violence
- Sexual Health
- Substance Use
- Transportation

The Together! Healthy Linn Steering Committee used a series of prioritization tools in combination with data reflection at an individual level, asset and community mapping, small and large group discussion, and an agreed upon set of prioritization criteria to determine which three issues needed to be addressed before the community vision could be realized. The steering committee was limited to the top three issues to maintain a realistic, focused scope of work. The prioritization criteria for strategic issues were:

- The issue is data driven, appearing in two or more of the assessments.
- Addressing the issue requires a collaborative, multi-sector approach.
- Alignment with the Together! Healthy Linn vision.
- Assets are available within the local public health system to impact the issue.
- The issue reflects a need that Together! Healthy Linn has the ability to influence.
- The size and significance of the issue has large impact.

At the end of the prioritization session, three broad issues were identified, in rank order: **Mental Health, Obesity, and Safety**. Steering committee members were asked to identify community members or partners to be invited to the next phase, formulating goals and strategies.

From October through December 2018, community meetings were held for each strategic issue in order to identify goals and strategies.

For the full version of the Linn County Community Health Improvement Plan, prepared by Linn County Public Health, please visit: <http://bit.ly/LCReportsandPublications>.

Mercy participated in the development of the Linn County Community Health Improvement Plan as part of the Together! Healthy Linn steering committee and priority issue meetings. The goals, objectives and strategies developed by this group are highlighted in the tables below. Mercy used Together! Healthy Linn's Linn County Community Health Improvement Plan to

formulate its specific implementation strategy for addressing the identified community needs. Additionally, Mercy continues to participate in priority area efforts to share, learn and collaborate with other partners working to address the significant health needs.

This implementation strategy was reviewed and adopted by the Mercy Medical Center Board of Trustees Quality and Patient Safety Committee on September 20, 2019.

For each significant health need identified in the CHNA, or through other means, Mercy has included:

- Description of the actions the hospital intends to take to address the health need and the anticipated impact of these actions.
- Resources the hospital plans to commit to address the health need.
- Description of any planned collaborations between the hospital and other facilities or organizations to address the health need.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: MENTAL HEALTH

Together! Healthy Linn Goal	Improved mental health through increased community awareness and equal access to mental health, substance abuse, and prevention services <i>Connection to Vision: The local public health system is collaborative, focused on prevention, and creates access for all</i>			
Together! Healthy Linn Objective	Reduce the rate of mental illness-related visits to the emergency rooms in Linn County by 10% prior to January 1, 2022			
	Measure	Baseline Year: 2016 Value: 162 per 10K	Goal Year: 2021 Value: 145.8 per 10K	Source: Linn County Outpatient
	Strategy 1:	Promote well-being through providing a timely and appropriate continuum of mental health care		
	Strategy 2:	Advocate for a fully funded comprehensive array of services for children and adults		

Together! Healthy Linn STRATEGY	ACTIONS	ANTICIPATED IMPACT	RESOURCES	PARTNERS
Promote well-being through providing a timely and appropriate continuum of mental health care	<p>Explore options for more psychiatric consultative roles within other MercyCare clinics by June 30, 2020. <i>Mercy currently employs therapists in six MercyCare clinics.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of psychiatric consults within primary care offices 	Increased mental health access	Staff	Mercy; MercyCare Clinics

	<p>Provide Linn-Mar and Prairie students access to mental health services each fiscal year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred students seen within 24-48 hours • Referred students receive up to three sessions with counselor • Pilot STEPPS group, for adolescents to identify, name, and manage their emotions in healthy ways, at Prairie in fall 2019 • Evaluate opportunities for expansion or adapted models at additional schools at least once annually <p>Participate in the development of the Linn County Mental Health Access Center on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Increased and timely access to mental health services</p> <p>Access to 24/7 high quality crises behavioral health treatment and support</p>	<p>Staff; funding for program</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>Mercy; Linn-Mar School District; Prairie School District</p> <p>Mercy; Abbe Center for Community Mental Health; Area Ambulance; Area Law Enforcement; ASAC; Foundation 2; Linn County Community Services; Penn Center; UnityPoint Health – St. Luke’s</p>
--	--	--	--	--

	<p>Increase early intervention services for suicide by assessing hospital patients risk for suicide and intervening to prevent suicide in those identified as at risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes assessment, appropriate placement, ongoing treatment/safety plan and interventions (providing education, appropriate referrals or follow-up appointments and suicide helpline resources) • Columbia screening tool implemented hospital-wide June 24, 2019 <p>Provide at least two behavioral health outreach offerings each fiscal year.</p> <p>Participate in community collaborations, partnerships or initiatives focused on addressing mental health and substance abuse issues on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Earlier identification of suicidal patients and creation of safety plan and interventions</p> <p>Increased knowledge of behavioral health and well-being</p> <p>Improved mental health access through collective impact</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>Mercy; National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; Foundation 2 (including Mobile Crises Outreach); Iowa Help Line; Crises Text Line</p> <p>Mercy</p> <p>Together! Healthy Linn mental health group; Linn County Family Treatment Court; Linn County Suicide Coalition; LAP-AID Mental Health Response;</p>
--	--	--	--	--

	<p>Provide walk-in access for assessment at Sedlacek Treatment Center every Friday.</p> <p>Screen all patients for substance abuse and provide follow up education and referral to treatment as appropriate. The nurse or social worker completes initial screening and flags social worker if positive screening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase percent of referrals for patients in need of substance abuse treatment by 20% by June 30, 2021 	<p>Increased and timely access to assessment services</p> <p>Earlier identification of substance abuse issues and connection to resources</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>Linn County Child and Youth Mental Health Committee; Linn County SED Wraparound Advisory Committee; Mercy representation on nonprofit boards (i.e. Four Oaks)</p> <p>Mercy</p> <p>Mercy</p>
--	--	---	---------------------------	--

	<p>Ensure a support system is in place to ease the transition for individuals recovering from substance abuse issues following treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide discharge care planning to all patients recovering from substance abuse issues to ease transition post-treatment • Offer weekly AfterCare support group to patients who complete treatment at Sedlacek or another facility. • Offer weekly family program support group to encourage individuals with loved ones addicted to alcohol or other drugs. 	Improved transition from treatment to post-treatment	Staff	Mercy
Advocate for a fully funded comprehensive array of services for children and adults	Provide representation at local- and state-level advocacy events related to behavioral health.	Improved funding for behavioral health services	Staff	Mercy; local and state legislators

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: OBESITY

Together! Healthy Linn Goal	Increase opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity to reduce the risk of obesity-related chronic disease for all residents			
Together! Healthy Linn Objective	By January 1, 2022, the percentage of adults who report being obese on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) will decrease by 2%			
	Measure	Baseline Year: 2016 Value: 31.3%	Goal Year: 2021 Value: 29.3%	Source: BRFSS
	Strategy 1:	Increase access to healthy food and access to nutrition and food preparation education		
	Strategy 2:	Develop and utilize consistent messages around healthy living		

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	ANTICIPATED IMPACT	RESOURCES	PARTNERS
Increase access to healthy food and access to nutrition and food preparation education	Provide nutrition education and counseling through Mercy's Nutrition Services' Outpatient Counseling on an ongoing basis.	Increased knowledge of nutrition and benefits of eating a healthy diet	Staff	Mercy
	Offer Mercy Weight-Loss Program, a 12-week program utilizing science-based strategies at least four times per fiscal year.	Increased knowledge of nutrition and benefits of eating a healthy diet	Staff	Mercy

	<p>Mercy will participate in community collaborations, partnerships, or initiatives focused on nutrition and/or physical activity to improve the health of individuals in our community on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Continue to purchase local food on an ongoing process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pounds purchased per year 	<p>Improved access to healthy food and food preparation education</p> <p>Improved obesity rate through collective impact</p> <p>Improved access to healthy foods</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Staff; cost of food</p>	<p>Together! Healthy Linn obesity CHIP group; Linn County Food Systems Council, Mercy representation on nonprofit boards (i.e. YMCA, Horizons)</p> <p>Mercy; local farmers</p>
<p>Develop and utilize consistent messages around healthy living</p>	<p>Provide specialized care for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent obesity. This effort includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and communication of a referral process to the experts, including specialized providers and community services with resources such as nutrition, exercise, and behavioral counseling by August 31, 2019 • Initiation of a 5-2-1-0 social marketing campaign regarding healthy eating, exercise, screen time, and sugar-sweetened beverages by October 1, 2019 	<p>Decreased obesity rate for children</p>	<p>Staff; additional clinic resources</p>	<p>Mercy; Iowa Healthiest State Initiative (5-2-1-0 Action Guide); ISU Extension; YMCA</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed evidenced-based treatment protocols into Mercy’s electronic medical record by February 28, 2020 • Become a 5-2-1-0 dedicated clinic site by May 31, 2020 <p>Utilization of 5-2-1-0 campaign regarding healthy eating, exercise, screen time, and sugar-sweetened beverages as part of Mercy’s employee wellness program and Mercy’s Baggot Street Bistro menu boards by July 1, 2020.</p> <p>Provide nutrition information to Mercy’s patients, visitors, and staff in the Baggot Street Bistro and as part of Patient Food Service on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Through Mercy’s Bariatric Surgery Clinic, provide surgical weight-loss options to help individuals achieve lifelong success with weight control and healthy living.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer educational seminars on bariatric weight-loss surgery options on a monthly basis. • Offer a bariatric surgery support group for those who are considering, or have had, bariatric surgery on a monthly basis 	<p>Increased knowledge of nutrition and benefits of active lifestyle</p> <p>Increased knowledge of nutrition</p> <p>Decreased obesity rate for adults</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Staff; additional clinic resources</p>	<p>Mercy; Iowa Healthiest State Initiative (5-2-1-0 Action Guide)</p> <p>Mercy; vendors for food and nutrition services</p> <p>Mercy; ISU Extension; YMCA</p>
--	--	---	---	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with community organizations that provide services or resources such as nutrition and exercise by December 31, 2019.			
--	--	--	--	--

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: SAFETY

Together! Healthy Linn Goal	Increase the effectiveness of community partnerships to change social norms and attitudes to reduce violence			
Together! Healthy Linn Objective	By January 1, 2022, there will be a 10% decrease in the combined violent crime rate for the cities of Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, and Marion			
	Measure	Baseline Year: 2016 Value: 269.5 per 100K	Goal Year: 2021 Value: 242.6 per 100K	Source: Uniform Crime Report
	Strategy 1:	Align community partnerships		
	Strategy 2:	Increase awareness of the connection between bullying and violence		
	Strategy 3:	Promote prevention and awareness		

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	ANTICIPATED IMPACT	RESOURCES	PARTNERS
Align community partnerships	Enhance efforts as short-term victim advocate to identify potential human trafficking victims and connect them to community services and/or resources on an ongoing basis.	Improved access to services	Staff	Mercy; Chains Interrupted; Friends of the Family
	Build relationships with, and make referrals to, long-term advocate agencies involved in anti-human trafficking work on an ongoing basis.	Improved and coordinated access to services	Staff	Mercy; Chains Interrupted; Friends of the Family
	Lead efforts to enhance work of regional anti-human trafficking taskforce	Decrease in number of human	Staff	Mercy; Chains Interrupted;

	<p>comprised of multiple local law enforcement and victim service providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce meets at least 10 times annually • Recommends policy or ordinance changes for local city and county municipalities • Creates communication plan and identifies gaps <p>Participate in community collaborations, partnerships, or initiatives focused on community safety on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>trafficking victims; improved and coordinated access to services</p> <p>Improved community safety through collective impact</p>	<p>Staff</p>	<p>Friends of the Family; local law enforcement agencies</p> <p>Mercy; Chains Interrupted; Together! Healthy Linn safety CHIP group; McKinley Middle School; Sexual Health Alliance; Sexual Assault Response Team; SAFE CR; St. Luke's SAFE</p>
<p>Increase awareness of the connection between bullying and violence</p>	<p>Address concerns related to bullying or violence as part of the mental health partnership with Linn-Mar and Prairie School Districts each fiscal year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred students seen within 24-48 hours 	<p>Increased awareness and support</p>	<p>Staff; funding for program</p>	<p>Mercy; Linn-Mar School District; Prairie School District</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referred students receive up to three sessions with counselor <p>Support efforts of McKinley Middle School faculty, staff and community partners to address bullying and violence on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Provide training on nurse-to-nurse bullying to Mercy nursing staff on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Increased awareness and support</p> <p>Increased awareness and support</p>	<p>Staff; funding for program</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>Mercy; McKinley Middle School; Kids First</p> <p>Mercy</p>
Promote prevention and awareness	<p>Provide support to local agencies working to make our community safer on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Provide anti-human trafficking education at least six times annually to healthcare providers, both internal and external to Mercy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise awareness and train clinicians to be alert to signs that their patients may be victims of human trafficking Assess participants' knowledge level before and after educational presentation 	<p>Increased awareness</p> <p>Increased awareness and identification of potential human trafficking victim</p>	<p>Staff; cash or in-kind donations</p> <p>Staff; printed resources; technology presentation platform</p>	<p>Mercy; Chains Interrupted; rural first responders; law enforcement</p> <p>Mercy; MercyCare Clinics; other non-Mercy healthcare organizations</p>

	<p>Provide anti-human trafficking education at least two times annually to community providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness and train community service providers, especially those who serve vulnerable youth, to identify and/or serve victims of human trafficking • Utilize trauma-informed care approach <p>Offer classes on de-escalation techniques at least once quarterly to Mercy staff or community-based providers.</p> <p>Offer active threat response training at least once monthly to Mercy staff or community-based providers.</p> <p>Implement physical environment safety improvements hospital-wide to ensure the security of our patients, visitors, volunteers, and staff on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Expand proactive efforts of Mercy's security department to build rapport with patients.</p>	<p>Increased awareness and identification of potential human trafficking victim</p> <p>Prevention of aggressive incidents.</p> <p>Increased awareness</p> <p>Improved safety</p> <p>Prevent escalation or potential for violence</p>	<p>Staff; printed resources; technology presentation platform</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Staff; capital expenses</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>Mercy; community-based providers</p> <p>Mercy; community-based providers</p> <p>Mercy; community-based providers</p> <p>Mercy</p> <p>Mercy</p>
--	---	--	---	---

	Complete Vizient Workplace Violence Benchmarking Study Survey and implement best practices by June 30, 2021.	Increased prevention and support initiatives	Staff	Mercy; Vizient and its member organizations
	Complete Workplace Violence Prevention Gap Analysis and develop/execute action plan by June 30, 2021.	Increased prevention and support initiatives	Staff	Mercy
	Survey Mercy staff to determine their awareness/experience of workplace violence prevalence and prevention by June 30, 2021.	Increased awareness and support	Staff	Mercy
	Expand annual Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training to more clinical staff members by June 30, 2021.	Prevention of aggressive incidents	Staff	Mercy
	Provide annual training on anti-discrimination/harassment and workplace violence prevention on an ongoing basis.	Increased awareness and support	Staff; volunteers	Mercy

The MAPP Core Group identified recurring themes that emerged across multiple assessments, which were important considerations to integrate into the CHIP. These themes were policy, systems, and environmental change; health equity; education and awareness; and transportation.

Cross-Cutting Themes Across Health Assessments

- **Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change** – Incorporating efforts to change public policies, procedures, and practices, and fostering community environments that support healthy living.
- **Health Equity** – Promoting the opportunity for each person to achieve full health potential, regardless of social position or other social circumstances.
- **Education and Awareness** – Ensuring community members are informed and aware of assets and resources available to them to help attain healthy living.
- **Transportation** – Barriers to accessing care or services due to limited personal or public transportation.

The role of Mercy’s Community Health Innovations pillar in the organizational strategic plan is to provide guidance and input in the development and implementation of Mercy’s community health efforts. These efforts collaboratively respond to and address community needs, including social determinants of health. The work of the pillar includes creating a sustainable and comprehensive community health strategy, with specific focus on those persons who live in poverty and are vulnerable, that is three-fold:

- Ensuring clinical management takes into account the social determinants of health.
- Assuring that Mercy’s structures and operations are responsive to community needs.
- Helping develop collaboration efforts to improve the social, economic, and environmental structures of the communities we serve.

Mercy currently supports and participates in My Care Community, which consists of social service, public health, and healthcare providers in Linn County. This group uses a technology platform to ensure a closed-loop-referral system and have a better understanding of community needs and/or gaps in local services and resources. The goal of the group is to have efficient community care coordination resulting in improved quality of life, health outcomes, and social determinants of health. As noted in the tables above, Mercy is involved with education and awareness strategies for these priorities. Mercy provides support to, or has a partnership in place with, transportation nonprofits in our community to help address barriers to accessing care or services.

Other Strategic Issues

There were other strategic issues selected that were not identified as the top three priority areas for the CHA. The information below lists some of the initiatives Mercy is working on to address these other community needs.

- Access to Healthcare
 - Mercy supplies providers as in-kind support at a local free health clinic and donates in-kind lab and radiology services for the two local free health clinics.
 - MercyCare Health Partners provides additional, comprehensive and coordinated care to patients with multiple complex medical issues. These patients often have barriers to accessing a traditional primary-care physician office.
 - Mercy's annual *Especially For You*® Race Against Breast Cancer raises dollars to support breast- and female-cancer services for those in need.
 - To increase access to medical care in rural Iowa, MercyCare Tama and MercyCare Monticello offer primary care services. Cancer, heart, surgery and urology specialists also travel to clinics outside Cedar Rapids to create easier access for patients in Manchester, Vinton, Anamosa, and Tama.
- Access to Healthy Food
 - Please refer to the Obesity Implementation Strategy table.
 - Mercy provides in-kind space to a local food pantry for \$1 rent/year.
 - McKinley Middle School is across the street from Mercy's main campus with a high percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced lunches. Mercy employees have organized food drives and Mercy provided cash donations to help fill McKinley's food pantry and support the local food reservoir.
- Access to Mental Health Services
 - Please refer to the Mental Health Implementation Strategy table.
 - Mercy has a 20 bed, inpatient behavioral health unit.
 - Mercy Family Counseling and Outpatient Psychiatry provide services that address a wide range of individual, couple, and family mental health issues.

- Affordable Housing
 - Mercy has a history of increasing access to and supporting affordable housing and equitable community development initiatives in the communities served by the organization. Mercy has partnered with developers in the procurement of property and/or provided financial assistance in the development of low-income housing in our area. Additionally, Mercy supports nonprofit organizations involved in affordable housing work through cash contributions, and Mercy provides assistance to local homeless shelters in a variety of ways, including in-kind printing, Mercy representation on nonprofit boards, and an annual collection of donated supplies.
- Built Environment
 - In recent years, the county and local municipalities have focused on creating trail connections, promoting bikeability and walkability. Mercy has representatives that serve on the local municipalities' Be Well Healthy Hometown Committees and in the MedQuarter's efforts to add green spaces and increased walkability.
- Chronic Disease
 - The Family Caregivers Center of Mercy is a comprehensive center for family caregivers. It provides support for a family member whose loved one is living with a chronic health condition.
 - The Community Health Needs Assessment identified that the Alzheimer's disease mortality rate is worsening. Mercy recognizes there is a gap in care and services provided to individuals living with dementia, their care partners and families. Mercy is working on transforming dementia care across the system. Over the next few years, Mercy has identified a number of dementia initiatives to implement. Mercy will be educating all staff, providers, and volunteers about dementia. In addition, education and training will be available to the broader community tailored to care partners, skilled nursing facilities, law enforcement, and other community groups. Mercy will be expanding the role of Mercy's Memory Clinic to improve access for those in need and staffing the clinic with a robust multi-disciplinary team. Mercy offers support groups for care partners of individuals living with dementia. Mercy is working on several initiatives on Hallmar aligning with a contemporary view of dementia rather than the traditional view. Mercy wants to create the systems and approaches required to provide exceptional and humane care and support to people living with dementia.
 - Mercy has services and programs dedicated to a variety of chronic disease, including but not limited to diabetes, cardiac disease, and cancer.
- Natural Environment
 - Mercy supports (through cash or in-kind donations) organizations in the community working to improve the natural environment. Additionally, Mercy staff work with McKinley Middle School to do trash clean up on both campuses at least once annually.

- Sexual Health
 - Please refer to the Safety Implementation Strategy table for Mercy's work related to anti-human trafficking.
 - Mercy has Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners located in the Emergency Department and they participate on the Linn County Sexual Assault Response Team. Mercy supports the work of Linn County Public Health (LCPH). LCPH offers services related to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Services provided at LCPH include offering HIV tests and free STD examinations and treatment; conducting STD partner tracking follow-up services; providing offsite STD/HIV testing to high-risk community agencies and events with high-risk populations; and monitoring population health changes through public health surveillance.
- Substance Use
 - Please refer to the Mental Health Implementation Strategy table.
 - Mercy's Sedlacek Treatment Center offers the highest level of comprehensive, outpatient treatment for those with substance use disorders in the community.
 - Mercy implemented an early-recovery-after-surgery program to decrease the use of prescription opioids linked to longer hospital recovery times. Mercy collaborates with a community task force to help address the opioid concerns locally.
 - MercyCare Health Partners offers two types of prescription medications in injectable forms as once monthly treatment for opioid and alcohol dependence.
- Transportation
 - In partnership with local human service and transportation agencies, Mercy social workers connect patients to free or reduced-cost services that relate to health. Additionally, Mercy provides cash contributions to community organization working to address identified transportation gaps for those in need in our service area

