

**December 2016**

**Harris Regional Hospital**

**Jackson County, NC Community Health Needs Assessment (2015)**

### *Overview*

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) defines priorities for health improvement, creates a collaborative community environment to engage stakeholders, and an open and transparent process to listen and truly understand the health needs of the community. This document is the Community Health Improvement Implementation Plan outlining how HRH plans on addressing significant health needs in the community.

The CHNA is contained in a separate document.

The Harris Regional Hospital board of directors approved this assessment and the implementation plan on December 13, 2016.

Starting on December 31, 2016, this report will be made widely available to the community via:

Paper copies of this document may be obtained at Harris Regional Hospital, 68 Hospital Road Sylva, NC 28779 or by phone 828.586.7000. This document is also available electronically via the hospital website <http://www.myharrisregional.com>

### *Community Health Improvement/Implementation Plan 2016*

To successfully make our community healthier, it is necessary to have a collaborative venture which brings together all of the care providers, citizens, government, schools, churches, not-for-profit organizations and business and industry around an effective plan of action. The community health needs assessment was completed and posted on the above websites.

Based on the results of the CHNA, The Partners have selected three (3) of the identified significant health needs to address.

1. Physical activity and nutrition
2. Injury and substance abuse prevention
3. Chronic disease

HRH plans to meet the significant health needs by:

1. Continuing to focus and promote preventive health care services by providing high quality primary care and specialty care. Harris Regional Hospital has employed a cardiologist and has expanded cardiovascular services including becoming an accredited chest pain center through the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. The Health Management Department of the facility will provide community programs 'Tuesdays to Thrive', 'WNC Get Fit Challenge' & 'Blast Off' to address the chronic disease, physical activity and nutrition needs of the population. A comprehensive employer-based health and wellness program is offered to all area employers and includes focus on physical activity, nutrition and chronic disease prevention. Through the emergency services at Harris Regional Hospital a focus is placed on substance abuse including the use of Narcan and specialized training to our EMT staff.
2. The anticipated impact of these actions will be determined based on qualitative and quantitative data using the community health needs assessment results in partnership with the local public health department. Specifically the rates of fruit and vegetable consumption, adults meeting physical activity guidelines, chronic disease rates and injury/mortality rates related to substance abuse will be monitored. Keeping in mind that a sole organization cannot move the needle on these data points alone.
3. The hospital will support the efforts of all departments to work in collaboration to fulfill these action items. Specifically the Health Management Department devotes two full-time staff members to working with community partners to provide the interventions as listed above. An internal community health action team has been assembled and includes representatives of most departments. The hospital will also focus on promoting a healthy environment by implementing or updating existing hospital policies including a tobacco free campus policy, healthy food policy and others. The hospital also offers access to walking routes surrounding the main campus. The hospital participates in annual Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment to facilitate access to affordable healthcare. The hospital administration understands the importance of these efforts and will commit any resources needed.
4. The hospital will continue to collaborate with the local public health department, area employers including the public school systems, Western Carolina University, Southwestern Community College, local physician practices and the community at-large. Other partnerships will be cultivated as the need arises. Of note the hospital is a partner in the local Healthy Carolinians Coalition through the public health department. We are also a proud partner of WNC Healthy Impact, an organization

that connects hospitals and health departments to accomplish initiatives to address community health needs.

Harris Regional Hospital does not intend to address the following significant health need identified for Swain County:

- Promote a Healthy Environment

Swain Community Hospital in its implementation plan will plan and participate in activities that promote a healthy environment. Please see Swain Community Hospital implementation plan.

There is a link on the above website for the community to provide written input into the CHNA and implementation plan.