

# **ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS NARRATIVE FY 2023**

## **(CBR-1 Section 2 Supplemental)**

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### **ORGANIZATION'S MISSION, VISION, AND TAX-EXEMPT PURPOSE (Supplemental Question 5) IRS Schedule H, Sect. VI**

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St. Anthony Hospital (SAH) was founded in 1902 by the Sisters of St. Francis to provide healthcare to the rural farming and ranching community of Pendleton in Eastern Oregon. It has an open medical staff with privileges available to all qualified physicians in the area. Its Board of Trustees is comprised of independent community representatives.

SAH was granted tax exempt status on July 23, 1937 as a Hospital. It is also qualified as a Critical Access Hospital. In addition, it provides services through our federally qualified Rural Health clinic.

In 1997, St. Anthony joined Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) as a market-based organization. This was a blending of the health care ministries of multiple congregations of women religious. While each congregation had carried out the health care ministry of Jesus for many decades, they did so in different locations and in accordance with different traditions. Still, they shared a commitment to building healthy communities in which everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable, would have access to services needed for healthy minds, bodies and spirits. For this reason, it is also committed to serve all persons in the community on a non-discriminatory basis. It operates a 24-hour emergency room 365 days per year that is open to all persons regardless of ability to pay.

In February 2019, CHI merged with Dignity Health and formed CommonSpirit Health. We continue our commitment to building healthy communities for everyone.

Community service has always been at the core of St. Anthony Hospital's activities. Each year, our services and programs are expanded to promote a healthy community. The programs and services described throughout this report not only serve the community, but also reduce the burdens on the government. This commitment is so essential to SAH that it anchors the organization's mission and vision statements which it shares with CommonSpirit:

**OUR MISSION:** As CommonSpirit Health, we make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are

vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

**OUR VISION:** A healthier future for all, inspired by faith, driven by innovation, and powered by our humanity.

**OUR VALUES:**

**COMPASSION** "We show care with listening, empathy, and love and accompany and comfort those in need of healing."

**INTEGRITY** "We inspire trust through honesty and demonstrate courage in the face of inequity."

**EXCELLENCE** "We serve with fullest passion, creativity, and stewardship, and exceed expectations of others and ourselves."

**COLLABORATION** "We commit to the power of working together while building and nurturing meaningful relationships."

*With the continuation of COVID-19, many of our Community Benefit programs, sponsorships, and community involvement had limited availability. Thus, the decrease in total Community Benefit for FY 2023 in some areas of service.. We will continue with FY 2024 as the COVID-19 changes, and we will rediscover other venues to increase our Community Benefit involvement.*

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## **Assessing the Health Care Needs of the Community & Implementation Strategy Plan Development (Supplemental Question 1)**

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Good Shepherd Health Care System and St. Anthony Hospital are pleased to present the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment. It is a systematic, data-driven approach to determining the health status, behaviors, and needs of residents in the service area of CHI St. Anthony Hospital. Subsequently this information may be used to make informed decisions and guide efforts to improve community health and wellness.

A Community Health Needs Assessment provides information so that communities may identify issues of greatest concern and decide to commit resources to those areas, thereby making the greatest possible impact on community health status. This Community Health Needs Assessment will serve as a tool toward reaching three basic goals:

- . To improve resident health status, increase their life spans, and elevate their overall quality of life. A healthy community is not only one where its residents suffer little from physical and mental illness, but also one where its residents enjoy a high quality of life.
- . To reduce the health disparities among residents. By gathering demographic

information along with health status and behavior data, it will be possible to identify population segments that are most-at-risk for various diseases and injuries. Intervention plans aimed at targeting these individuals may then be developed to combat some of the socio-economic factors that historically have had a negative impact on resident health.

. To increase accessibility to preventive services for all community residents. More accessible preventive services will prove beneficial in accomplishing the first goal (improving health status, increasing life spans, and elevating the quality of life), as well as lowering the costs associated with caring for late-stage diseases resulting from a lack of preventive care.

This assessment was conducted on behalf of CHI St. Anthony Hospital (in collaboration with Good Shepherd Health Care System) by PRC, a nationally recognized health care consulting firm with extensive experience conducting Community Health Needs Assessments in hundreds of communities across the United States since 1994.

This assessment incorporates data from multiple sources, including primary research (through the PRC Community Health Survey and PRC Online Key Informant Survey), as well as secondary research (vital statistics and other existing health-related data). It also allows for comparison to benchmark data at the state and national levels.

The survey instrument used for this study is based largely on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), as well as various other public health surveys and customized questions addressing gaps in indicator data relative to health surveys and customized questions addressing gaps in indicator data relative to health promotion and disease prevention objective and other recognized health issues. The final survey instrument was developed by CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Good Shepherd Health Care System, and PRC.

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### **Identified Geographic Area and Populations Served (Supplemental Question 3)**

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St. Anthony Hospital and its clinics deliver healthcare primarily to residents in the east end of Umatilla County. This includes the Pendleton community 17,025 and the surrounding area 59075. This includes the communities of Athena, Adams, Helix, Weston, Echo, Ukiah and Pilot Rock. This is a combined population of this primary service area is 64,470. Our primary service area is determined both by proximity of the residents serviced and the fact

the majority of these residents come to St. Anthony Hospital for their health care needs. The majority of the population are White (62.8%), with the remaining population made mostly of Native American (4.3%), Hispanic (27.6%), African Americans (1.2%), Asian (1.1%), and Two or More (3.0%). (Source: Census, 2020)

SAH also serves a significant Native American population of just over 4,000 who reside on the reservation of The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Cayuse and Walla Walla. The City of Pendleton shares a border with this reservation, which has the designation of being medically underserved.

The median age of the county is 36.5 and the median household income is \$60,425. The Unemployment rate is 4.9% (October 2019). The percentage of residents living in poverty in 2019 is 11.7%. (Source: Census 2020).

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## **INFORMING AND EDUCATING PATIENTS ON ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE**

### **(Supplemental Question 2)**

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Patients receiving emergency services shall be treated in accordance with the hospital's emergency services policy, developed in accordance with EMTALA and other requirements. Reasonable registration processes shall include asking whether an individual is insured and, if so, the name of the insurance program, if such inquiry does not delay screening or treatment. The registration process shall not discourage patients, from remaining for further evaluation. Financial issues will only be discussed after the patient has been screened and stabilized.

Once EMTALA requirements are met, patients identified through the registration process as being without Medicare/Medicaid, other local health care financial assistance or adequate health insurance shall receive a packet of information that addresses the financial assistance policy and procedures, including an application for such assistance, or immediate financial counseling from staff including the presentation of the application for financial assistance.

In addition to the financial packet, emergency and inpatient admissions will be assisted by the Medical Eligibility & Counseling Service (MECS). They will screen for possible Oregon Health Plan (OHP) eligibility. If they meet the requirement MECS will submit application to OHP. If approved, it will be made retro to the Date of Service of the service date. The non-emergency patient scheduling an admission or other procedure shall receive a packet of information that addresses the financial assistance policy and procedures,

including an application for such assistance, or financial counseling assistance from staff, including the application for financial assistance, if they are without Medicare/Medicaid, other local health care financial assistance or adequate health insurance.

In both instances, the packet of information clearly indicates that St Anthony Hospital provides care, without regard to ability to pay, to individuals with limited financial resources, and explains how patients can apply for financial assistance.

Assistance is available for patients not proficient in reading, writing or speaking English. St Anthony Hospital clearly posts signage in English and Spanish to advise patients of the availability of financial assistance. Signs will be posted in other languages in instances where 10% or more of the local population speaks a foreign language to be determined by Administration. Staff members shall communicate the contents of signs to people who do not appear able to read.

St Anthony Hospital identifies the availability of financial assistance in information booklets provided to patients and in general information provided on the St Anthony Hospital website.

Physician practices or clinics that are an integral part of St Anthony Hospital or its non-profit subsidiaries shall adopt this charity care policy. These organizations shall comply with the same charity care policy and procedures adopted by the St Anthony Hospital board of trustees for the tax-exempt healthcare provider.

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## **QUALITATIVE DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT (Supplemental Question 4)**

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### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR THE POOR**

#### **Care Rides**

SAH collaborates with the City of Pendleton by paying for one quarter of the cost of transportation for low-income patients in the community. This is to help ensure that this population has easy access to health care. Without it over thousands of rides would have not been provided and many may have hesitated addressing their needs in a timely manner, increasing the cost of care for all.

#### **Salvation Army Meals**

SAH helps provide meals weekly for the poor at the Salvation Army in Pendleton, Oregon. The demand for this service continues to increase. St. Anthony Hospital will continue to work collaboratively with our community to provide support during these difficult economic times.

#### **Pioneer Relief Nursery**

SAH provides supplies, utilities and free space for Pioneer Relief Nursery (PRN). The

nursery provides respite childcare and training to parents who have challenges with childcare; which is a chronic unmet need. Its goal is to prevent child abuse and neglect in Umatilla County through intensive family support. They address the cycle of child abuse and neglect by providing therapeutic early childhood classrooms, parenting education, planned respite and comprehensive family support. PRN utilizes research-based strategies to help families build skills to cope with the stresses of raising children in families with risk factors such as poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence and isolation.

#### **Pendleton School District Children's Needs Fund**

The Pendleton School District Team identifies children in the district who are in need that they serve. The percentage of students in the district on free or reduced lunches is 48%. There are approximately 2,500 students in the K-8. The monies will be used on a variety of items including: birth certificates, clothing, alarm clocks, power bills, rental assistance, medications, medical expenses and other items that parents aren't able to provide and help students be more successful at school. St. Anthony Hospital donates annually to this fund.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR THE BROADER COMMUNITY**

#### **Flu Shot Clinic**

SAH provides flu shots free to the public each fall and as needed. This service helps prevent possible flu epidemics, which could lead to compromised health problems and or death.

#### **Childbirth Class Series**

SAH provide five-week series, offered six times a year. These classes cover all kinds of issues surrounding childbirth including breathing techniques, pain management, vaginal birth, and cesarean birth. They can help prepare parents for many aspects of childbirth: for the changes that pregnancy brings, for labor and delivery, and for parenting once your baby is born. Participants often come from outside the immediate area to take the classes. With COVID-19, the number of classes and participants continue to be reduced for FY 2023.

#### **Domestic Violence Services**

This is a private non-profit agency. It provides emergency services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Its mission is to work toward ending this type of violence within the community. SAH supports this service through donations and volunteer hours. This service also provided crisis calls, counseling and education.

### **COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH**

#### **School Based Health Center**

We collaborate with the local school district in providing access to health care in the school setting. SAH provides the salary and for a full-time nurse practitioner who provides support for the high school and middle school clinic. The hospital also supports the clinic's advisory committee with membership representation and space for their meetings to take place. The services provided are what would be found in a local pediatrician's office or

family practice office. Services include the diagnosis and treatment (including prescriptions) for acute and chronic illnesses. It also provides the treatment of and injuries, immunizations, sport physicals and well-child checks. In essence, SBHCs bring the medical clinic into the school so school staff can refer students immediately for the care they need regardless of their ability to pay. Plus, they miss less class time! Ninety-nine percent of the students are able to be seen and treated without being referred to their Primary Care Physician. The lack of availability of the nurse practitioner would hinder the ability to address health concerns early, before they become critical or chronic leading to poor school attendance.

#### **Athletic Trainer**

SAH supports the athletic program of Pendleton High School by providing an athletic trainer for their athletes. This service supports the promotion of healthier life styles, quicker access to health care and the prevention of severe injuries. Without SAH support for this service these institutions would either have to limit their athletic programs they offer or jeopardize the health of the athletes.

#### **Breast Cancer Fund/Cancer Renewal Project**

These programs help address an important unmet need of those who battle with breast cancer. The BREAST CANCER FUND helps support women who are being treated for breast cancer. Its main purpose is to provide immediate emergency relief money to breast cancer patients with emergent and/or special needs; such as mastectomy products and transportation assistance. The CANCER RENEWAL PROJECT helps support survivors of cancer by offering them services that help in their recovery. SAH helps these programs by supporting the fundraising event "Tough Enough to Wear Pink," with both volunteer support and cash donations.

#### **Cancer Conference**

St. Anthony Hospital sponsors this monthly conference, sometimes virtual. It is an essential forum to provide multidisciplinary consultative services for patients, as well as to offer education to physicians and allied health professionals. This is the only forum of this kind in the area.

### **HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION**

#### **Health Care Professionals Training**

This past year we assisted in the training and education of future health care professionals. We do this to help address the need for better healthcare access in rural communities. We subsidized the salary of a nurse educator for the Blue Mountain Community College Nursing Program as well as providing a clinical site and supervision for its nursing students. In addition, we provided a clinical site and supervision for students of a number of other health professions education programs: Diagnostic Imaging, Pharmacy, Clinical and Physical Therapy; as well as ER Trauma and Paramedic students. Nursing students from OHSU, Chemeketa, and LaGrande also participate in the Nursing Education Program. This ensures the availability of health care professionals our rural community. Other

teaching for any department of the Hospital is always welcomed and we will continue to do so as we progress into the future.

## **COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

St. Anthony Hospital is very active in community building and leadership activities. SAH sees this as an essential part of its community benefit activities. They may not necessarily be seen as healthcare related, but since almost 90% of what causes individuals to need healthcare is life style related the hospital sees its involvement in these activities key to promoting healthy communities. The programs that hospital supports focus on the support and collaboration with community groups and organizations that seek to address identified needs in the community such as affordable healthcare, nurturing healthy activities that help prevent obesity and diabetes, and participation in coalitions that seek to address the needs of the homeless, housing and job shortages. However, with COVID-19 this area of service continues to be limited for FY 2023.

### **Umatilla County Community Health Partnership**

St. Anthony Hospital is an active member of this county wide coalition. The purpose of the coalition is as follows:

- (1) Complete a Comprehensive County-Wide Community Health Needs Assessment and Report.
- (2) Collaboratively work with the Partners to develop a 3-Year strategic plan based on the assessment (which was completed in 2022).
- (3) Participate in the Healthy Communities Partnership in a coordinated effort to address community health needs. However, with COVID-19 this area of service continues to be limited for FY 2023.

### **Pendleton Progress Board**

Pendleton, like many communities, has been hit hard during this economic downturn. Hundreds of individuals have lost their jobs and with it their ability to pay for basic needs such as healthcare. This is reflected both in the results of the community needs assessment and in the continued demands on the hospital's charity care. For this reason, St. Anthony Hospital has several members of the Hospital Leadership participating on the Pendleton Progress Board. The Progress Board works on an advisory capacity to the City Mayor. They are committed to making the community an enjoyable and rewarding place to live and work. This includes retention and recruitment of business employers and addressing the community's housing shortage. However, with COVID-19 this area of service continues to be limited for FY 2023.

### **Community Service Groups**

Service groups provide a variety of support to the Pendleton Community and surrounding area. This includes education, support groups, scholarships, healthcare and leadership training. Many of the groups St. Anthony sponsors and collaborates with in the service they provide. For others, the support for them comes by providing space and complementary meals for their meetings. In a small community like Pendleton, resources are limited. SAH



support of these groups helps the health of whole community as a whole and nurture future collaborative work. However, with COVID-19 this area of service continues to be limited for FY 2023.