

Lower Umpqua Hospital District

2023-24 CBR-1 Supplemental Narrative

The current Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was completed during the District's fiscal year which ran from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The Board of Directors adopted the CHNA at their February 28, 2024 Board meeting and it was published the same day.

Identified Key areas of opportunity to improve the overall health of the population included:

1. Expansion of access points to healthcare
2. Improve the provider ratio in the service area by maintaining existing primary care capacity and growing specialty providers.
3. Expansion of mental health support to the service area.

These needs affect the District's Primary Service area population which consist of the communities of Reedsport, Gardiner, Winchester Bay, Scottsburg, and Lakeside. The communities age is much higher and economic means much lower than the State averages. The median age is 56 compared to Oregon median of 39. Population median income is \$48,600 vs Oregon's \$75,800

Strategies and examples of ongoing initiatives that address the above needs include:

- a. Increasing primary care and specialty services and access by:
 - i. Recruiting and Retaining a Medical Staff appropriate to meet the community needs. In 2023-24 an additional Primary Care provider was added. This addition allowed for expansion of Same day clinic hours. Patients, established and non established, are able to be seen on short notice.
 - ii. Evaluating and assessing the need for new service lines continue. Orthopedics was added in 2023-24. Recruitment continues for other specialty providers including Gyn. Additionally, Care coordinators were added to expedite and improve the process of internal and external referrals with community partners.
- b. Mental Health Service access expanded with the hiring of a Social Worker. Additionally, our Rural Health Clinic has adopted a more wholistic approach. Primary care Providers have increased their Mental health assessments on a larger number of visits.
- c. A wholistic approach to the needs of the community is also reflected in the Districts outreach efforts which include free Nutrition and lifestyle courses. In concert with these efforts the District provides no cost sports physicals at the school.

The Family Resource Center (FRC) continues to be a vital service in our community for clients that need more social than medical services. The FRC connects clients to these services through both casual and formal referrals.

The District became the Sole provider of Retail pharmacy services during 2024 when the local commercial retail pharmacy closed. Numerous enhancements to serve the increased need have been implemented. Even with the additional volume the Pharmacy lost over to \$250,000 due high cost of drugs and low reimbursement.

The District continues to partner with the school in the form of subsidizing the School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO meets both safety and mental health needs of students and staff. The District partners with the county in the form of subsidizing 911 dispatch services.

While our EMS services do not meet the definition of a Subsidized Health Service, the District incurred a loss of over \$400,000 by providing this service to the community. Without local EMS, patients needed emergency off campus services could wait 45 minutes to an hour for help to arrive as opposed to minutes.

Significant community benefits are included with our financial assistance program. For those community members who have no insurance and/or unable to pay for medical services financial assistance applications and instructions are provided on the hospital district's website.

LUHD is actively engaged in numerous programs designed to address the identified needs of our community. We strategically allocate our limited resources to serve the community most effectively, foster trust, and build stronger partnerships.