



Wahiawa General Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment – Implementation Plan for FY 2022 thru 2024

A comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (“CHNA”) was conducted for O’ahu Island (Honolulu County) by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) and utilized by Wahiawa General Hospital (WGH) to assess the needs of its defined service area. This CHNA utilized relevant health data and stakeholder input to identify the significant community health needs in O’ahu Island, HI (Honolulu County, HI) for the 2021 CHNA cycle. For comprehensive details for the CHNA methodology and results, please see the link to the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment on this site.

The WGH CHNA Team included the following hospital personnel:

- Brian Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer
- Tammy Kohrer, Director of Nursing
- Brandon Tomita, Chief Operating Officer
- Linda Kurihara, Director of Clinical Operations

The WGH CHNA Team, reviewed the HAH 2021 CHNA for Hawaii and O’ahu Island (Honolulu County) to fully comprehend the community health needs and priorities. The five Priorities identified through the CHNA were:

- 1. Financial Security**
- 2. Housing**
- 3. Food Security**
- 4. Mental Health**
- 5. Trust & Equitable Access**

The WGH CHNA Team assessed the health priorities specified within the CHNA report to determine the organizations ability to address these needs based on our capability and capacity as a small hospital. Given our hospital’s current capability and capacity, it was determined that we did not have the resources to significantly impact the first 3 Priorities (**Financial Security, Housing and Food Security**), and that we should focus our more limited resources on the last 2 Priorities which are **Mental Health and Trust & Equitable Access**. The specific WGH CHNA Implementation Plans (*Rationale, Objectives, Action Steps and Progress Updates*) related to these two Priorities follow.

***The WGH Board reviewed and adopted the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan on July 27, 2022.**

Priority 1 – Mental Health

Rationale (from the 2021 CHNA):

“Overall, communities across the state saw a decrease in the accessibility to mental health resources. Providers and patients alike shared an overall decrease in appointment availability, resulting in lengthy delays for patients needing to access mental health providers in the community. As appointments transitioned to telehealth, patients without access to a phone or computer, or with anxiety around use and lack of privacy at home, were negatively impacted.”

Objective 1:

Participate in initiatives and create opportunities to increase access to mental health services and providers in the service area

Action Steps	Responsible Leader(s) or Department	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
		Progress Update	Progress Update	Progress Update
1. WGH Emergency Room staff, physicians, social workers and case managers will address patients who present to the Emergency Room with a mental or behavioral health condition by connecting those applicable patients with available services within the community.	CNO, Emergency Department Manager, Discharge Planners			
2. WGH will continue to provide suicide prevention educational materials within the Emergency Department to all appropriately identified patients.	CNO, Emergency Department Manager			
3. WGH has partnered with Queen’s Health System to provide Telemedicine Psychiatry consults to WGH’s Emergency Department for patients in need.	CNO, Emergency Department Manager			

Priority 2 – Trust & Equitable Access

Rationale (from the 2021 CHNA):

“Both community members and hospitals highlighted various forms of access issues throughout the assessment process. Underserved communities are often so because there are barriers to accessing, understanding, or being aware of those services and offerings. Focusing on equitable access becomes an opportunity for hospitals to meet people where they are, apply trauma-informed care principles, and help build meaningful relationships with those communities. In doing so, trust can be built, or in some cases rebuilt, to allow communities to try to gain meaningful access and better address the population's needs.”

Objective 2:

Participate in initiatives and create opportunities to increase access to affordable care and reduce health disparities among specific populations

Action Steps	Responsible Leader(s) or Department	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
		Progress Update	Progress Update	Progress Update
1. WGH provides translation services through a language line as necessary.	CNO, Nursing Staff			
2. WGH continues to grow our Specialty Clinic Services to provide our community with various Specialist visits close to home.	COO, Director of Clinical Services			
3. WGH maintains a Financial Assistance Policy that provides for discounted fees and charity care based on qualified need.	CEO, CFO			