

# Bonner General Health

## Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy



**2022**

# OVERVIEW

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Bonner General Health conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) between May and September of 2022 for the approximately 49,491 residents of Bonner County, including the communities of Sandpoint, Priest River, Sagle, Cocolalla, Ponderay, Hope, and Clark Fork.

The Community Health Needs Assessment fulfills the requirements set forth by a statute established within the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The statute requires not-for-profit hospitals to conduct a CHNA every three years. The report included qualitative and quantitative information from local, state, and federal sources. In addition, the input was received from persons representing a broad range of interests in the community, persons with public health knowledge and expertise, and persons serving medically underserved and vulnerable populations.

The findings of the Community Health Needs Assessment determined which significant health needs to address and upon which the implementation plan is built. Bonner General Health evaluated each of the health needs and concluded it would address four health needs. The plan is detailed on the following pages.

For each significant health need Bonner General Health plans to address, the current activities are listed along with proposed activities and collaboration we plan to commit to in the next three years.

# Need #1: Mental Health

## Current Activities:

- Bonner General Behavioral Health Clinic continues to provide outpatient mental health services for both adult and pediatric patients. BGH employs a Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, and Licensed Master Social Worker. Since 2019, the clinic has hired a second Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner (2021) and an additional Psychologist (2022).
- BGH continues to work with law enforcement, the court system, and physicians to improve the mental health hold process.
- BGH staff continue participating in community organizations dealing with mental health and suicide (Bonner County Children Mental Health Coalition, Underground Kindness, & Better Together Animal Alliance).
- BGH continues to support events and organizations promoting awareness of mental health & suicide prevention, such as Walk for Hope and Sandpoint Middle School Design for Change Walk for Suicide Awareness, & Sandpoint Pride Fest.
- Concussion testing in High School Student Athletes
- Participation in Bonner County Drug Court by our Bonner General Health Hospital Board and Foundation Board Member.
- Continuation of grief support groups, and grief kids camp.

## Proposed Activities:

- Continue to support our Behavioral Health Clinic and add providers as resources allow.
- Develop partnerships with other organizations and the Lake Pend Oreille School District to improve our community's access to mental health services.
- Identify, organize, and lead, when appropriate, support groups related to mental health.
- Encourage staff to participate in Boards or Committees of organizations focusing on mental health & suicide prevention.
- BGH will collaborate with community partners and advocate for reduced tobacco use, alcohol, and substance abuse by increasing education and awareness within the school and community.
- BGH will collaborate with the community, regional, and state partners to provide educational materials and programs to help individuals sustain an applicable lifestyle and behavioral change due to alcohol, drug, and tobacco use.
- Collaborate and support medication drop-off site(s) within the community.
- Expanding services by hiring a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor specializing in children and adolescents.

## Need #2: Preventative Health

### Current Activities:

- Purchasing an additional mammography machine to decrease wait times for screening mammograms.
- Opened a Family Practice clinic to provide comprehensive health and wellness for the entire family.
- Worked closely with EMS and Kootenai Cardiology to be accredited as a Level II Stemi Center.
- Hosting Sandpoint Safety Day in partnership with Safe Start Northwest, which focuses on safe sleep, car seat checks, and other children safety precautions.
- BGH is GOLD Level Certified Hospital with the Cribs for Kids National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification program.
- Participating in the Bonner County Coalition for Health monthly meetings to learn of community needs and resources.
- Growing our Rehabilitation services to treat and prevent injuries
- Participating in opportunities that provide free health screenings to our community, such as the One Health Clinic hosted by Better Together Animal Alliance.
- Supporting and sponsoring Panhandle Alliance for Education through fundraising events and distribution of books to parents when their child is born.
- Expanded our services by adding a pediatric dentist to the medical staff.

### Proposed Activities:

- Participate in the Bonner County Coalition for Health monthly meetings to learn about community needs and resources.
- Seek out and participate in opportunities that provide free health screenings or health education to our community.
- Continue supporting Panhandle Alliance for Education through fundraising events and distribution of books to parents when their child is born.
- Hire additional Family Practice Providers to increase access to our current and new patient population.

## Need #3: Access to Care

### Current Activities:

- Bonner General Health has continued to expand services and improve efficiency to increase access to care in our community. Some of these improvements include:
  - Growing our mental health services
  - Expanding our surgical services by adding another operating room.
  - Adding a third general surgeon, Dr. Hannah Robbins, to the medical staff.
  - Opening an Ophthalmology clinic
  - Hiring a PA for our Orthopedic Clinic
  - Renovating our Emergency Department and utilizing a triage room to more effectively treat patients.
  - Relocating our Immediate Care clinic to the main campus for easier access to the clinic and Emergency Room, if necessary.
  - Expanding imaging services by purchasing an additional mammography machine, trauma x-ray, and CT.
  - Purchasing a bulk oxygen tank to accommodate patient oxygen needs.
  - Hosted a vaccine clinic in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Added additional parking & relocated the outpatient lab for patient convenience.
- Continuation of the SANE Program; a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is a registered nurse who completed additional education and training to provide comprehensive health care to survivors of sexual assault.
- Collaboration with LillyBrooke Family Justice Center, which provides free services for victims of child abuse, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse, and domestic violence through collaboration with law enforcement, legal services, and partner social service agencies, all located at one secure, comfortable location.
- Five BGH employees serve on the Board of Directors for Bonner Partners in Care, advocating for care of the uninsured or underinsured population at a significantly reduced rate.

### Proposed Activities:

- Continue to support Bonner Partners in Care in providing services to the uninsured.
- Continue seeing patients regardless of their insurance coverage.
- Participate in opportunities that provide free health screenings to our community, such as the One Health Clinic hosted by Better Together Animal Alliance.
- Continue expanding our clinics and services to meet the needs of our growing community.
- Continuation of the SANE Program
- Continued collaboration with LillyBrooke Family Justice Center
- Continuation of the Bonner General Health Foundation Advisory Council for community feedback & input.



## Need #4: Obesity

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### Current Activities:

- Hosted the inaugural Bonner General Health Foundation's "Find Your Strength" 5k & 1k that promotes physical exercise and establishing healthy habits for youth through the completion of a kid's running log, with prizes for finishers.
- BGH offers Diabetes Education through our Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator.
- Continuing to support the Food for Our Children Program. The BGH Board Chair also serves on the Food for Our Children board.
- Continued support and sponsorship of community events focused on physical fitness and wellness (run/walk/bike/swim events).
- Offering discounted gym memberships to BGH staff.
- Offering free registration to community events focused on physical fitness and wellness to BGH Staff.
- Supporting community programs focused on youth sports, including lacrosse & skiing.

### Proposed Activities:

- Continue and grow the Bonner General Health Foundation's "Find Your Strength" 5k & 1k that promotes physical exercise and establishing healthy habits for our youth.
- Participate in community partnerships to promote and educate a healthy diet and nutrition.
- Participate in Food for Our Children program.
- Continue to sponsor and support community events involving exercise (run/walk/swimming/biking events).
- Implement a pediatric/family active lifestyle program through our Performance Therapy Services Department led by one of our Pediatric Occupational Therapists.
- Continue to support community programs that focus on youth sports, promoting health, strength, and self-confidence.