



2025-2028 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Bonner General Health

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Board of Directors

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OVERVIEW

Bonner General Health (BGH) is committed to improving the health and well-being of the communities it serves. As a nonprofit hospital, BGH conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years in accordance with the requirements of Section 501(r)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The CHNA identifies significant health needs through analysis of quantitative data, community input, and consultation with public health experts and stakeholders.

This Implementation Strategy outlines the actions BGH will take over the next three years (2025–2028) to address the priority health needs identified in the 2025 CHNA. The plan reflects BGH’s commitment to collaboration, accessibility, and measurable improvement in community health outcomes. The following four priority health needs were identified and adopted by BGH’s Senior Leadership Team and Board of Directors:

- Women’s Health
- Mental Health
- Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles
- Access to Care

Women's Health

The 2025 CHNA identified significant gaps in women's health services, including the loss of local labor and delivery services, limited access to OB/GYN providers, and a shortage of specialized care for peri- and menopause. Residents must often travel outside the community for care, creating barriers related to time, cost, and continuity of care.



➔ **Goal:** Improve access to comprehensive, high-quality women's health services for the residents of Bonner County.

➔ **Current Activities & Resources:**

Women's Health Committee:

- Operates a Women's Health Committee consisting of BGH leadership, clinicians, retired practitioners, and community members. The committee meets monthly to coordinate and support women's health initiatives, including community education, informational forums, and outreach activities focused on available women's health resources.

Women's Health Clinical Care:

- Provides women's health services through Sandpoint Women's Health and Bonner General Family Practice, including preventive care, annual wellness exams, contraception and family planning, mental wellness support, perimenopause and menopause management, and evaluation and treatment of gynecological conditions.

Women's Behavioral Health Services:

- Offers outpatient behavioral health services for women through the Bonner General Behavioral Health Clinic, including care provided by a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner with experience in postpartum depression, psychiatric medication management during pregnancy, and other women's mental health conditions.

Menopause-Focused Care:

- Employs a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner with advanced training in menopause care, including menopause hormone therapy (MHT).

Breast Health and Surgical Services:

- Provides breast-related surgical services, including procedures supporting breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, through a General Surgeon.

Lactation Support Services:

- Offers lactation consulting services through the Infusion & Procedures Clinic.

Diagnostic Imaging for Women:

- Provides women's diagnostic imaging services, including mammography, DEXA scans, and ultrasound.

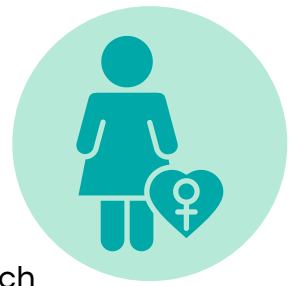
Postpartum and Infant Primary Care:

- Provides primary care services for postpartum mothers and infants to support ongoing care following delivery.

Community Education:

- Hosts free community education events related to women's health topics and available services, including menopause-focused educational programming such as The M Factor.

Women's Health (continued)



→ Strategies & Actions

Continue Existing Activities and Resources:

- Continue current women's health programs, services, and community outreach activities, and expand as resources allow.

Recruit and Retain Women's Health Providers:

- Recruit and retain women's health providers, including a GYN physician and additional advanced practice providers, to support access to preventive, routine, and specialty women's health care.

Expand Use of Advanced Practice Providers:

- Expand the role of Nurse Practitioners in delivering preventive and routine women's health services, including annual exams, contraception, menopause care, and gynecological evaluations.

Enhance Women's Behavioral Health Services:

- Continue to provide and expand access to women's behavioral health services, including care related to postpartum depression, medication management during pregnancy, and other women's mental health conditions.

Explore Telehealth and Specialty Partnerships:

- Evaluate opportunities for telehealth partnerships and specialty collaborations to support access to gynecologic consultation and specialized women's health services not available locally.

Strengthen Community Education and Outreach:

- Continue and expand community education initiatives and events related to women's health topics, including reproductive health, perimenopause, menopause, preventive screenings, and navigation of available services.

Evaluate Opportunities to Expand Local Services:

- Assess opportunities to expand or restore local women's health services where feasible, based on community need, staffing availability, and financial sustainability.

→ Anticipated Impact

- Increased awareness of available women's health services and resources
- Improved access to preventive, routine, and specialized women's health care locally
- Reduced need for residents to travel outside the community for care
- Improved coordination and continuity of women's health services

Progress will be monitored through service utilization, program participation, and continued evaluation as part of the next CHNA cycle.

→ Planned Collaborations

- Regional health systems
- Public health agencies
- Community organizations

Mental Health

Mental health was identified as a significant community concern, with high levels of stress, anxiety, depression, substance use, and stigma. Barriers include limited access to services, lack of awareness of available resources, and insufficient space to meet growing demand for behavioral health services.



 **Goal:** Improve access to and awareness of behavioral health services in Bonner County.

 **Current Activities & Resources:**

Outpatient Behavioral Health Services:

- Operates the Bonner General Behavioral Health Clinic, providing outpatient mental health services for adult and pediatric patients. Staffing includes two Psychologists, two Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, a Clinical Professional Counselor and a Clinical Social Worker.

Pediatric Behavioral Health Services:

- Provides pediatric mental health services, including the implementation of pediatric neuropsychological testing.

Inpatient Psychiatric Consultation:

- Provides psychiatric evaluation and consultation services for patients in the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Women's Behavioral Health Services:

- Offers specialized care for women, including treatment for postpartum depression, psychiatric medication management during pregnancy, and other women's mental health conditions.

Community Partnerships and Coalition Participation:

- BGH staff participate in local organizations focused on mental health and suicide prevention, including the Bonner County Children's Mental Health Coalition, NAMI Far North, the Ethan Murray Foundation, and the LillyBrooke Family Justice Center.

Suicide Prevention and Crisis Response:

- Supports and participates in community suicide prevention efforts, including sponsorship of and participation in awareness events such as Walk for Hope and NAMI Walks.
- Two BGH providers serve on the suicide crisis response team in collaboration with the Lake Pend Oreille School District, providing on-site support and counseling following student suicide events.

Judicial and Correctional Collaboration:

- Providers participate in the Bonner County Drug Court, supporting individuals involved in the justice system.

Mental Health (continued)



School-Based Mental Health Programming:

- Provides the DBT Light program, an 8-week skills-based course delivered in collaboration with the Lake Pend Oreille School District and Sandpoint High School counselors. The program introduces Dialectical Behavior Therapy–informed skills to support emotional regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness among high-risk students.

Professional Education and Training:

- Hosts continuing education and professional development opportunities for community mental health providers, including training on ethics, digital practice considerations, ADHD, and trauma.
- Provides professional training sessions for community partners, including trauma-informed training for fire and law enforcement personnel and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) training.
- Community Education and Support Programs:
 - Hosts and facilitates community classes and support programs on a range of mental health topics, including integrative parenting, co-parenting, ADHD, trauma-informed parenting, grief support, the science of grief, and Kids' Grief Camp, in partnership with organizations such as the Bonner Homeless Task Force and Early Head Start.
 - Medication Safety Initiatives:
 - Supports and promotes medication drop-off sites within the community.

Employee Assistance and Outreach:

- Provides behavioral health outreach and counseling services to BGH employees and their families.

Strategies & Actions

Continue Existing Activities and Resources:

- Continue current behavioral health programs, clinical services, community partnerships, and educational initiatives, and expand as resources allow.

Expand Behavioral Health Staffing and Capacity:

- Expand behavioral health staffing and clinic capacity to support growing demand for adult and pediatric outpatient mental health services.

Expand Pediatric Behavioral Health Services:

- Continue and expand pediatric mental health services, including neuropsychological testing and school-based programming, in collaboration with local school systems.

Strengthen Suicide Prevention and Crisis Response:

- Continue participation in suicide prevention efforts and crisis response partnerships, including collaboration with schools, community coalitions, and local organizations.

Mental Health (continued)



Enhance Community Education and Awareness:

- Increase community education on mental health topics and how to access behavioral health services through classes, outreach events, and partnerships with community organizations.

Expand Professional Training and Workforce Development:

- Continue to provide professional education and training opportunities for community mental health providers and partners, including ethics, trauma-informed care, and specialized topic training.

Support Justice-Involved and High-Risk Populations:

- Continue participation in the Bonner County Drug Court and other community partnerships serving individuals involved in the justice system or experiencing elevated mental health risk.

Provide Employee Behavioral Health Support:

- Continue to offer behavioral health outreach and counseling services to BGH employees and their families.

Anticipated Impact

- Improved access to adult and pediatric behavioral health services
- Increased awareness of available mental health resources and how to access care
- Enhanced coordination among healthcare, education, and community partners
- Strengthened community capacity for suicide prevention, crisis response, and mental health education

Progress will be monitored through service utilization, participation in programs and training, and continued evaluation as part of the next CHNA cycle.

Planned Collaborations

- Schools
- Law enforcement
- Regional behavioral health providers and organizations
- Community Organizations supporting mental health

Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles



The CHNA identified high rates of obesity and chronic disease, with community members citing lack of time, access to healthy foods, and limited opportunities for physical activity as key barriers. These factors contribute to long-term health risks such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

➔ **Goal:** Promote healthy lifestyles and reduce risk factors for obesity and chronic disease among residents of Bonner County through nutrition education, physical activity promotion, and community, school, and employee-based wellness initiatives.

➔ **Current Activities & Resources:**

Nutrition Services and Diabetes Education:

- Provides diabetes education services through a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator, supporting individuals with diabetes and related chronic conditions.

Inpatient Nutrition Improvements:

- Has updated inpatient dietary menus to better reflect options for special dietary needs and restrictions.

Community Wellness Events:

- Continues to support and sponsor community events focused on physical fitness and wellness, including run, walk, bike, and swim events.

Foundation-Supported Physical Activity Promotion:

- Supports the Bonner General Health Foundation's "Find Your Strength" 5K & 1K, an annual event promoting physical activity for youth and families. The event is in its fifth year. BGH offers a reduced registration fee for employees and their families to encourage participation.

Food Access and Nutrition Support for Children:

- Provides ongoing support for the Food for Our Children Program, which supplies nutritious weekend food and mid-morning snacks to children during the school year.

School and Youth Wellness Partnerships:

- Sponsors the LPOSD 7B – Healthy Me! Challenge, which introduces a new healthy behavior or food choice to elementary-aged students each month and includes a challenge and rewards model.
- Supports additional community programs focused on youth health and wellness.

Employee Wellness Support:

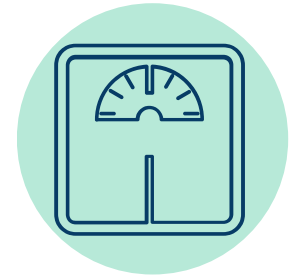
- Offers discounted gym memberships to BGH staff and provides free registration for employees to participate in community physical fitness and wellness events.

Health Education and Awareness:

- Conducts educational outreach through in-house visual displays highlighting healthy eating habits, physical activity, and lifestyle behaviors throughout the year.

Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles (continued)

→ Strategies & Actions



Continue Existing Activities and Resources:

- Continue current programs, services, and community partnerships addressing obesity and healthy lifestyles, and expand as resources allow.

Expand Diabetes Education and Nutrition Counseling:

- Expand diabetes education and nutrition counseling services provided by the Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator to support individuals managing diabetes and related chronic conditions.

Support and Grow Community Wellness Programs and Events:

- Continue to support and grow community-based wellness initiatives and physical fitness events, including run, walk, bike, and swim activities, in collaboration with community partners and the Bonner General Health Foundation.

Increase Access to Nutrition Education and Healthy Food Resources:

- Increase access to nutrition education and healthy food resources through continued support of child and family nutrition programs and educational outreach efforts.

Partner and Expand Wellness Initiatives with Schools and Employees:

- Partner with local schools to support youth wellness initiatives and continue employee-focused wellness programs, including participation in physical activity and fitness opportunities.

Promote Physical Activity Opportunities and Awareness:

- Promote physical activity opportunities and healthy lifestyle awareness through community engagement, employee wellness efforts, and educational materials.

→ Anticipated Impact

- Increased awareness of available nutrition, wellness, and physical activity resources within the community
- Increased participation in community, school-based, and employee wellness programs
- Improved access to nutrition education, healthy food resources, and diabetes education services
- Enhanced community engagement in physical activity and healthy lifestyle initiatives

Progress will be monitored through participation levels, utilization of services, and continued evaluation as part of the next CHNA cycle.

→ Planned Collaborations

- Schools
- Community organizations
- Local businesses
- Bonner General Health Foundation

Access to Care



The CHNA identified access to care as a key community need, with residents citing limited availability of primary care and specialty providers, long wait times for appointments and referrals, high rates of uninsured and underinsured individuals, and challenges navigating healthcare and referral processes.

➔ **Goal:** Improve access to timely, affordable, and coordinated healthcare services for residents of Bonner County.

➔ **Current Activities & Resources:**

Expanded Primary and Specialty Care Capacity:

- Acquired Internal Medicine Associates and opened Bonner General Internal Medicine Clinic in 2023 to expand access to adult primary care services.
- Expanded Family Practice and Behavioral Health Clinics by adding providers and services, including screening, medication management, primary care, and educational services.

Care for Uninsured and Underinsured Patients:

- Continues to support Bonner Partners in Care in providing services to uninsured community members.
- Continues to provide care to patients regardless of insurance status, consistent with BGH financial assistance policies.

Behavioral Health and Trauma Response Services:

- Enhanced the SANE Program, now known as the MAST Team (Medical Assessment of Specialized Trauma), staffed by specially trained RNs and APRNs who provide 24/7 medical assessments and care for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. The MAST Team works in partnership with Kaniksu Community Health, Lillybrooke Family Justice Center, area law enforcement, and the prosecutor's office and currently includes six on-call nurses available 24/7.

Diagnostic and Ancillary Services Expansion:

- Expanded Diagnostic Imaging Services with additional equipment and increased capacity.
- Doubled outpatient laboratory space, adding draw rooms and increasing capacity for lab services.
- Introduced cash-pay options for MRI and CT imaging services to improve affordability and access.

Expanded Surgical Services:

- Expanded the Surgical Services Department through additional equipment, robotic technology, and providers, including Orthopedics, Orthopedic Spine, and General Surgery, to increase service offerings and capacity.

Access to Care (continued)



Rehabilitation and Specialty Therapy Services:

- Added specialty rehabilitation equipment to Performance Therapy Services, including Idaho's only outpatient exoskeleton therapy program, supporting patients recovering from stroke, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and other conditions.
- Additional equipment includes a recumbent bike, bariatric therapy table, and EMG and nerve conduction study capabilities.

Transitional and Post-Acute Care:

- Added a Transitional Care (Swing Bed) Program to inpatient services, allowing patients to transition from acute to post-acute care within the hospital, reducing delays in care and transfers outside the community.

Telehealth and Care Coordination:

- Provides telehealth services for select clinical areas and supports care coordination and referral processes for patients requiring services within BGH or through regional partners.

Strategies & Actions

Continue Existing Activities and Resources:

- Continue current programs, expanded services, and access-support activities, and expand as resources allow.

Recruit and Retain Providers:

- Recruit and retain primary care, specialty care, behavioral health, and surgical providers to increase capacity and reduce wait times.

Expand Telehealth Services:

- Expand telehealth services to reduce transportation, geographic, and scheduling barriers to care.

Improve Care Navigation and Coordination:

- Enhance care coordination, referral processes, and transitional care services to support continuity of care across settings.

Improve Financial Access to Care:

- Continue to provide care regardless of insurance status and expand affordability options, including financial assistance programs and cash-pay service options where appropriate.

Address Facility and Capacity Needs:

- Continue to assess and expand clinic space, diagnostic services, rehabilitation services, and surgical capacity to meet growing community demand.

Strengthen Community Partnerships:

- Continue collaboration with community organizations, public safety, social services, and regional providers to address access barriers, trauma response, and post-acute care needs.

Access to Care (continued)



→ Anticipated Impact

- Improved access to primary, specialty, behavioral health, diagnostic, and rehabilitative services
- Reduced wait times and increased service capacity
- Improved affordability and access for uninsured and underinsured patients
- Improved continuity of care and reduced need for patients to leave the community for services
- Enhanced coordination among healthcare, public safety, and community partners

Progress will be monitored through service utilization data, access metrics, and continued evaluation as part of the next CHNA cycle.

→ Planned Collaborations

- Regional Health Systems and Specialty Providers
- Community Health Organizations and Safety-Net Providers
- Social Service and Community Support Organizations
- Behavioral Health and Mental Health Partners
- Transportation and Community Resource Partners

Resources and Potential Collaborations

The following groups and organizations have been identified as potential resources and collaborators to support Bonner General Health in addressing identified needs.

- Bonner General Health Outpatient Clinics and support services
- Bonner County Coalition for Health
- Bonner County Children’s Mental Health Coalition
- Bonner County Drug Court
- Bonner Partners in Care Clinic
- CASA
- Early Head Start
- Food for Our Children
- Kaniksu Community Health
- Kootenai Health
- Lake Pend Oreille School District
- LillyBrooke Family Justice Center
- Mountain States Early Headstart
- Newport Hospital
- Northwest Hospital Alliance
- Panhandle Alliance for Education
- Panhandle Health District
- Private Practice Providers
- Sandpoint Community Resource Envision Center
- School Counselors
- VA Medical Services
- WIC
- YMCA/Community Recreation

Needs Not Addressed

The 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment identified multiple health needs affecting the community through analysis of quantitative data, community health surveys, stakeholder input, and consultation with public health partners. After review of the assessment findings, Bonner General Health prioritized four health needs—Women’s Health, Mental Health, Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles, and Access to Care—based on the level of community need, input from community members and stakeholders, and the organization’s ability to meaningfully address these areas.

Bonner General Health determined that the selected priorities represent the most significant and actionable health needs identified through the CHNA process. All prioritized health needs are addressed through this Implementation Strategy, and no identified priority needs were excluded from consideration.

Adoption of the Implementation Strategy

This Implementation Strategy was developed by Bonner General Health in response to the identified priority health needs outlined in the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment and in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 501(r)(3). The Implementation Strategy was reviewed, approved, and adopted by the Bonner General Health Board of Directors on **April 24, 2026**.

Public Availability

Bonner General Health will make this Implementation Strategy widely available to the public in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 501(r)(3). The Implementation Strategy will be posted on the Bonner General Health website and will remain publicly accessible for the duration of the three-year CHNA cycle. Copies of the Implementation Strategy will also be available upon request.

Community Input and Comments can be sent to:

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-  208-263-1441
-  development@bonnergeneral.org
-  bonnergeneral.org/share-your-thoughts/

