

**Stormont Vail Health**  
**FY 2025 – 2027 Topeka Campus Hospital Implementation Plan**  
**Addressing Priorities Identified in the**  
**2024 Shawnee County Community Health Needs Assessment**

*Adopted by the authorized governing body effective: October 24, 2024*

**Stormont Vail Health**

Stormont Vail Health (SVH) is committed to providing the best possible health care for our community. Our commitment to community partnerships and attention to social determinants of health exemplifies our mission, “Working together to improve the health of our community”. SVH has a long history in our community. We are the product of a 1949 merger between Christ’s Hospital (1884) and the Jane C. Stormont Hospital and Training School for Nurses (1895). Stormont Vail Hospital and Cotton O’Neil joined in 1995 to form Stormont Vail Health.

[Stormont Vail Hospital](#) is a nonprofit integrated health system based in Topeka, Kansas that has served the healthcare needs of Kansas for more than 130 years. It is comprised of Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka (a 586-bed acute care hospital), Stormont Vail Flint Hills Hospital in Junction City (a 92-bed acute care hospital), Stormont Vail Manhattan Campus (a primary care, specialty care, and imaging clinic), and Cotton O’Neil Clinic (a multi-specialty physician group with more than 500 providers). Stormont Vail Health has been recognized as a Magnet organization since 2009 by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, achieving its fourth designation in 2024. SVH has the region’s only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care and the only American College of Surgeons (ACS) verified trauma center in the region.

Stormont Vail Health has a deep commitment to the community and to Kansas to provide compassionate, high quality health care. Stormont Vail Health is a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, a group of more than 40 health care organizations who have joined together to complement their local expertise with the knowledge and experience of Mayo Clinic health care professionals. Stormont Vail's local partnerships include housing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program of the Baker University School of Nursing, providing athletic training services to Washburn University Athletics and being a founding partner of the Powercat Health Partnership with Kansas State University.

## **2024 Community Health Needs Assessment**

A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is an important tool used for examining and improving the health of a community. It provides insight into the current health status of a community by identifying needs and potential means of fulfilling them. The CHNA includes comprehensive information about health risks and outcomes based on systematic collection and analysis of data and conversations with community members and leaders. A Steering Committee comprised of representatives from Stormont Vail Health, the Shawnee County Health Department, Live Well Shawnee County, United Way of Kaw Valley, GraceMed Health Clinic, Family Service and Guidance Center, Valeo Behavioral Health Care, and The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus determined and implemented the method of collecting information for the 2024 CHNA. The CHNA was completed March 11–April 30, 2024.

As of the 2023 census, Shawnee County was home to an estimated 177,746 residents. The 2024 CHNA included a perception survey completed by 3,816 community members, feedback from 12 roundtables with 140 under-represented voices, a Town Hall community conversation attended by 55 individuals representing 41 organizations, and data compiled from County Health Rankings and community demographic data.

Community members prioritized the following four identified needs from the 2024 Shawnee County CHNA:

- Behavioral Health (mental health and substance use)
- Neighborhood Safety and Housing
- Healthy Eating Options
- Health Equity (addressing disparities including sexually transmitted infections and infant mortality)

### **Purpose of the Implementation Strategy**

Federal tax law in Internal Revenue Code section 501 (r) requires hospital facilities owned and operated by 501 (c) (3) organizations to conduct a CHNA at least every three years. The federal tax law also requires adoption of an Implementation Strategy outlining plans to address some of the community health needs identified in the CHNA. This Implementation Strategy describes Stormont Vail Health’s response to the needs identified through the 2024 CHNA process.

Stormont Vail Health leaders reviewed the health priorities identified in the 2024 CHNA process for alignment with our mission and expertise, availability of resources to make a measurable difference, and support from community organizations in executing solutions to address underserved populations. Considerations included: the number of people impacted by the problem, severity of the problem, inequities and disparities that disproportionately impact the poor, underserved, and vulnerable, and the potential to leverage existing partnerships, leadership, and/or hospital resources and programs. The SVH Implementation Plan includes internal strategies as well as our involvement in community-based workgroup strategies to support all identified CHNA priorities over the next three years.

## **FY 2025-2027 Stormont Vail Health Shawnee County CHNA Implementation Plan**

### **Priority # 1 – Strategies to Improve Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Use)**

#### Behavioral Health Strategies

- The Behavioral Health Department will increase capacity for inpatient admissions.
- The Director of Behavioral Health will explore additional outpatient therapy space to accommodate additional staffing and students to improve access.
- The Director of Behavioral Health will improve schedule optimization according to national benchmarks.
- The Behavioral Health Service Department will offer virtual appointments outside of normal business hours for SVH patients regardless of where they live.
- The Director of Behavioral Health and Manager of Wellpower Culture and Wellness will offer a grant funded behavioral health resiliency training for up to 50 employees of social service/non-profit organizations on October 24, 2024. They will explore options to continue to offer this training for the community.
- The Behavioral Health Department will seek to extend and continue implementation of the Zero Suicide grant.
- SVH will provide all trauma patients with a psychiatric consultation when admitted to the hospital to help with early education and support as they process traumatic events.
- The Trauma Prevention Coordinator and Behavioral Health Director will participate in the Suicide Prevention Community Coalition.
- The Emergency Department will offer a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) and Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).
- Regional Relations and the Behavioral Health Department will sponsor and participate in local events to increase awareness of suicide prevention. This will include attending employer health fairs to increase awareness and access by conducting screenings and providing education.
- The Behavioral Health Director will participate in Health Innovations Network of Kansas mental health initiatives targeted at farming and ranching communities including the Perish the Thoughts initiative sharing educational information through small coffee shops, sale barns, feed mills, and truck stops.
- The Director of Behavioral Health will participate in the community continuing education partnership with local providers bringing common understanding of best practices.
- The Behavioral Health Director will participate in LiveWell Shawnee County Behavioral Health Collaborative.
- The Director of Health Equity and Policy will partner with other health systems to evaluate advocacy opportunities to increase legislative and state funding for behavioral health services.

## Substance Use Strategies

- The Opioid Stewardship Committee will assure use of Suboxone and Naloxone are tracked and documented.
- The Opioid Stewardship Committee will assure providers complete DEA required opioid education.
- The Opioid Stewardship Committee will identify and lead identified buprenorphine champions across the organization.
- The Laboratory will include fentanyl screening on the medical drug screening panel for use in the Emergency Department for suspected overdose events as well as use by clinicians monitoring fentanyl prescription use.
- The Opioid Stewardship Committee will work with the EPIC team to implement electronic health record tools to support clinician adherence to substance use best practices, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Joint Commission standards and update the health record as these evolve. The Quality Committee monitors data regarding use of these EHR tools and compliance with CMS standards.
- The Opioid Stewardship Committee will develop collegial relationships with Central Kansas Foundation and Shawnee County Health Department to improve communitywide access to SUD treatment.
- SVH will contract with the Central Kansas Foundation (CKF) including their new local sober living bridge house for women and children to assess and refer patients to needed substance use disorder treatment.
- The Pharmacy will offer safe medication disposal at our pharmacy and participate in medication Take Back days.

## **Priority # 2 – Strategies to Improve Neighborhood Safety and Housing**

- The Trauma Department will support the Habitat for Humanity Capable grant for senior home modifications.
- The Trauma Department will participate with CIVIC and Cities United to reduce community violence with special focus on racial equity.
- SVH will seek grant funding for implementation of a hospital-based violence intervention program and continued development of a Trauma Survivors' Network to provide programs and resources patients need to manage their recovery.
- SVH will increase trauma informed care across the system, incorporating best practices and structures.
- SVH will screen inpatients and clinic patients for Social Determinants of Health including referrals for assistance with safe affordable housing. This includes coordination with the Topeka Rescue Mission and landlords that accept federal offenders and sex offenders.
- The Care Transformation and Community Engagement Departments will explore Mercy Housing options available to our community.

- The Primary Care Department will continue Mobile Clinic presence with other community providers at weekly Mobile Access Partnership events providing care and services for neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- The Community Engagement Department will monitor community efforts to implement Built for Zero homeless intervention strategies for potential intersection with SVH initiatives. This could include SVH's mobile clinic participation in one stop shop efforts.

### **Priority # 3 – Strategies to Improve Healthy Eating**

- SVH will screen inpatients for Social Determinants of Health and refer those who indicate they are food insecure to community food pantries and healthy food resources.
- SVH will continue integration of the Kansas State University Extension interactive community food resources asset map with MyChart and EPIC After Visit Summaries for patients indicating food insecurity on their Social Determinants of Health questionnaire.
- Stormont Vail Foundation and Care Transformation will research grants to sustain and grow the prescriptive food pantry. A grant received from Advisors Excel in 2020 provides food-insecure patients with high A1Cs with healthy food boxes. SVH will seek additional funding to increase the number of patients assisted with healthy produce and lean meat options.
- The Community Engagement and Care Transformation Departments will continue participation as a grant partner in the LINK Partnership, a community collaboration that aims to increase access to community resources including nutritionally adequate foods for low-income uninsured patients. SVH and partners HealthAccess and Valeo Behavioral Health Care work together to assist patients with food insecurity and other needs related to Social Determinants of Health by providing community support navigation to access available community resources.
- SVH will encourage Sodexo, SVH's contracted nutritional services provider, to continuously evaluate and provide healthy food choices that promote and encourage healthy eating for hospital patients and team members.
- SVH Dieticians and Weight Management team members will participate with the Regional Relations Department in community health fairs to provide education. Examples include: Washburn University, Security Benefit, and Kansas Highway Department Lunch and Learn.
- SVH team members will continue to volunteer to deliver Meals on Wheels to community members daily.
- The Community Engagement Department will participate in the Shawnee County Farm and Food Council to implement policies, systems and environmental changes to improve access to healthy foods and strengthen Shawnee County's food system. This work includes increasing access to farmer's markets and expansion of SNAP availability.
- The Community Engagement Coordinator will participate in the LiveWell Healthy Eating community workgroup.

## **Priority # 4 – Strategies to Improve Health Equity and Decrease Disparities (sexually transmitted infections, maternal/infant mortality and morbidity)**

### Sexually Transmitted Infection Strategies

- SVH will identify a team member to participate on the newly established Sexual Health Collaborative to improve sexual health outcomes in Shawnee County subpopulations.
- The Primary Care Department, which includes the mobile clinic, offers screening for HIV, Hep C, Syphilis, Herpes, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Trichomonas.

### Maternal/Infant Mortality and Morbidity Strategies

- The Maternal Child Department will implement Social Determinant of Health screening and research potential to make community referrals using the closed loop Wellsky platform.
- The Maternal Child Department will evaluate available funding to integrate a Social Worker at Lincoln Center OB/GYN.
- The Maternal Child Department will evaluate available funding to integrate a Women's Health Navigator position to assist patients from preconception through baby's first year.
- The Maternal Child Department will explore opportunities to partner with community doulas.
- The Maternal Child Department will research teen birth disparities and identify strategies to address any identified needs.
- The Chief Nursing Officer and Director Maternal Child Department will continue working with pastors of color in the community to provide care to individuals earlier in their pregnancy.
- The Community Committee of the SVH Board will assist, inform, provide oversight and recommend actions to improve the health of our community, especially as it relates to infant and maternal morbidity and mortality of Black birthing persons and babies. The SVH President/Chief Executive Officer and Senior Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer will continue to work with this committee.
- The Maternal Child Department will sustain Black maternal/infant health initiatives related to Team Birth and antiracism training for team members.
- The Maternal Child Department will incorporate recommendations of the antiracism workgroup to update department policies, practices and educational materials.
- The Marketing Department will use grant funding from Kansas Health Foundation to increase awareness and engagement regarding available resources for expectant parents and babies in specific populations.
- The Maternal Child and Community Engagement Departments will host bi-annual Welcome Baby Jubilee community events connecting expectant parents and their support persons with community resources and childbirth education.
- The Maternal Child Department will explore grant opportunities to increase strategies that address maternal/child health disparities.

- The Maternal Child Department will publicize the Bright by Text community initiative to parents of children birth through age 11 offering parents' health education and developmentally appropriate information.
- The Trauma Services Program will offer free car seat safety checks for the community.
- The Pediatric Nurse Manager and NICU Administrative Director will continue to participate in the LiveWell Shawnee County Healthy Babies workgroup to increase awareness of preconception options and support birthing persons.
- The Community Engagement Director will participate on the United Way Whole Family Community Coalition.

#### Additional SVH Health Equity Related Initiatives

- The Care Transformation and Case Management Departments will offer assistance with patient enrollment in Medication Assistance Programs.
- The Care Transformation and Case Management Departments will utilize Social Determinants of Health patient survey responses to make referrals to community organizations using the community-led WellSky closed loop referral platform.
- The Community Engagement Department will offer free monthly community Walk With a Doc events which allow community members an opportunity to ask informal questions of a physician as they walk around the Washburn University campus.
- Care Managers and Social Workers will refer low-income uninsured residents of Shawnee County to HealthAccess for assistance with donated healthcare and prescriptions.
- SVH will support HealthAccess by donating office space, phones, janitorial, and shredding services.
- The Community Engagement Department and the Cultural Ambassadors will organize opportunities for staff to make donations that assist with community needs such as food, sleeping bags, and warm coats.
- The Community Engagement Director will participate on community Mobile Access Partnership leadership team coordinating outreach services for neighbors who are homeless.
- The Population Health Department will participate in the Retain Works grant assisting community members in returning to work after an injury.
- SVH will encourage team member service on the boards of community organizations including United Way, TARC, KCSL, United Methodist Homes, etc.
- The Human Resources Department will explore opportunities to expand the dual language and translator/interpreter program.
- The Community Engagement Department will publicize community volunteer opportunities that address CHNA priorities and SVH strategic plan goals to encourage collective and focused community involvement with initiatives impacting Social Determinants of Health.
- SVH will improve data collection to drive equality of care using an equity dashboard designed to identify areas of health care disparities using internal data and County Health

Ranking Data. Dashboard information compares team demographics to patients served as well as Shawnee County demographics. Strategies will be developed to reduce identified disparities. The SVH Director Health Equity and Policy is leading the We Ask Because We Care efforts.

- SVH will incorporate suggestions brought forth by the internal Inclusion Diversity Equity Impact (IDEA) committee to improve identified disparities.

### **Work Completed Towards the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan**

Much has changed since the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment was released. The Director of Community Health Engagement serves on the LiveWell Shawnee County leadership team and many SVH team members serve on the variety of community workgroups working on the identified strategies and interventions outlined in the 2022-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan. Stormont Vail Health worked closely with LiveWell Shawnee County, formerly Heartland Healthy Neighborhoods, which is the community-based implementation arm of the Community Health Improvement Plan. Examples of community-led work initiated since the release of the 2021 CHNA include K-State Research and Extension's Food Distribution Map, gaining increased organizational leadership involvement from the Behavioral Health sector, obtaining the Kansas Fights Addiction grant, the Shawnee County Health Department development of an Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, organization of the Whole Family Coalition, the Breadbasket Farmers Market hosting Kids at the Market, and United Way of Kaw Valley's strategy development based on CHNA priorities. LiveWell's first paid staff member, a Director, was brought on to lead the coalition in 2022. The number of partnerships making up the coalition have grown as well as the number of workgroups including the Sexual Health Collaborative, Mental Health Collaborative, and Tobacco/Aerosol Prevention Workgroup. LiveWell also completed Phase II of the Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant initiative in addition to obtaining other grants supporting social determinants of health.

Stormont Vail Health's internal efforts specifically included strategies related to the needs of low-income community members while addressing each of the identified 2021 CHNA priorities:

Food Access: EPIC integration of the KSU interactive food map, Care Transformation expansion of food pantry, employee volunteerism at Meals on Wheels and Harvesters.

Substance Use: Safe medication disposal at the Pharmacy, contract with Central Kansas Foundation for substance use disorder screening and treatment, Opioid Stewardship Committee.

Behavioral Health: improved access, receipt of Zero Suicide grant, continuing education partnership.

Health Equity: Implementation of the Community Committee of the Board, We Ask Because We Care campaign to improve racial and ethnic data collection, EPIC integration of Wellsky referral platform, Black maternal and infant health initiatives including work with the March of Dimes Maternal HealthCARE Collaborative including



implementation of Team Birth, hosting multiple community Welcome Baby Jubilee educational events for the community, implementation of monthly Walk With a Doc, referrals to and support of HealthAccess program for low-income uninsured residents of Shawnee County through donation of office space, implementation of a mobile primary care clinic operating at a variety of locations in the community including participation in Mobile Access Partnership outreach with other community organizations to provide services and care for neighbors who are homeless, and implementation of the language/interpreter program.

**The goals and strategies outlined in this Implementation Plan are not a complete inventory of Stormont Vail Health activities supporting the health needs of our community. Stormont Vail Health and the Stormont Vail Foundation continue to invest resources as appropriate as new opportunities arise and we can leverage organizational assets in partnership with our local communities and partners.**

#### **Process to Provide Feedback on Hospital Implementation Plan**

If you would like to provide feedback on the 2025-2027 Shawnee County Community Health Needs Assessment Hospital Implementation Plan, please contact Karla Hedquist, Director Community Health Engagement, Stormont Vail Health, 785-270-0139 or [khedquis@stormontvail.org](mailto:khedquis@stormontvail.org).