

SHODAIR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Helena, Montana

2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Report

We are pleased to share with you the findings of our 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that was conducted by Shodair Children's Hospital (Shodair) during 2018 through early 2019. We hope you will find this report both informative and useful.

Our last CHNA was conducted in 2016 and provided the impetus for major initiatives such as:

- Developing recruitment and retention strategies
- Sponsoring and hosting camps for students interested in careers in the medical field as well as providing opportunities for students to intern at Shodair
- Providing Youth Mental Health First Aid training to hospital staff as well as staff of other groups and organizations providing services to youth in our communities
- Embarking on an organization-wide adoption of the Sanctuary Model, creating a trauma-informed cultural transformation of Shodair's staff

The purpose of conducting a new CHNA is to reassess and identify the significant mental health needs of the children and youth in the communities we serve as the needs may have changed over the past three years.

In 2018, Shodair provided inpatient services to children and youth from 43 of the 56 counties in the State of Montana. Its primary service area, though, is of those communities that are within a 2-3 hour drive of its Helena based campus. As such, it was imperative for Shodair staff to visit as many of these communities as possible to gather first hand feedback of the mental health needs of the youth in these communities. The results of these visits are summarized in the pages to follow.

In addition, Shodair sent out an on-line survey to community providers throughout the state of Montana in order to gather additional perspectives from educators, hospitals, individual providers and leaders of the Native Indian populations. The results of this survey will also be summarized in the pages to follow.

From the information gathered using these methods plus the reviewing of other secondary data sources, several community mental health needs were identified. Of these needs Shodair has selected three priority areas to focus its community health improvement efforts over the next three years:

1. Education to schools, community providers and leaders in its primary service area on youth mental health issues including causes, treatments and resiliency strategies.

2. Work with community providers and leaders of one of Helena's low-income neighborhoods in identifying the underlying social determinants affecting the health and well-being of its residents and developing plans and activities to address these determinants.
3. Work with one Native American population and partner with community providers and leaders to raise awareness of the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences and how to work together on developing resiliency strategies.

The 2019 CHNA and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) including the adoption of the three priority areas, was approved by the Shodair Children's Hospital Board of Trustees on May 15, 2019.

The CHNA and CHIP reports are available to the public and interested parties via our website: Shodair.org. In addition paper copies are available upon request at the Administrative Office on Shodair's campus.

If you would like to provide written comment on this CHNA Report and Improvement Plan, please send your comments to:

Shodair Children's Hospital
Attn: CHNA Coordinator
P.O. Box 5539
Helena, MT 59601

Thank you to the many organizations that were so willing to arrange community meetings for Shodair staff and gather key stakeholders together who provided invaluable feedback to us so we could create a meaningful and impactful community health improvement plan to better the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,



Craig Aasved, CEO



Edward Tinsley, Chair, Board of Trustees

