



2022
Murray and Whitfield
Counties, GA
Implementation
Plan for CHNA



Hamilton
Health Care System

Perspective / Overview

About Hamilton Health System

Hamilton Health Care System is a not-for-profit, fully united system of care serving the northwest Georgia region. The Dalton-based flagship of the system, Hamilton Medical Center, is a 255-bed regional acute-care hospital that offers major medical, surgical and diagnostic services, including award-winning, accredited stroke and chest pain centers.

Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Hamilton Health Care System offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly, and tranquil healing environment.

Our mission is to provide leadership, partnerships and seamless resource coordination to meet healthcare needs that advance the quality and dignity of life.

Hamilton Medical Center offers many things to its patients and community. Here are just a few recent activities that prove there is a Hamilton Advantage.

Technology Minded

The battle against cancer can be a trying process physically and emotionally. Peeples Cancer Institute provides the therapeutic and support services necessary to fight the disease. For residents across Northwest Georgia, the Peeples Cancer Institute offers some of the most advanced techniques for the treatment of cancer all under one roof.

To serve the families of Northwest Georgia, as well as neighboring communities in the region and beyond, Hamilton Health Care System has opened Anna Shaw Children's Institute. Dedicated to the memory of Anna Sue Shaw, the Institute is a regional leader of and advocate for the care of children and families who are experiencing the challenges of developmental delays.

Cutting-edge diagnostic and treatment capabilities position Hamilton Medical Center as a regional and national health care leader.

Hamilton was the first hospital in this area to offer the latest generation of the da Vinci® surgical robot featuring advanced 3-D visualization capabilities.

Digital mammography at Peeples Cancer Institute provides advanced technology for diagnosing breast cancer with the GE Senographe workstation, the latest breast cancer diagnosis equipment.

Hamilton's Mashburn Cardiac Pavilion's two cardiac catheterization labs feature fully digital Artis Zee® angiography systems with flat-panel detectors that enable physicians to view high-resolution images allowing them to see interventional devices such as guidewires, catheters, and coronary stents in precise detail and from almost any angle. Hamilton's hybrid suite features the first multi-axis system with robotic technology, the Siemens Artis Zeego angiography system. It is used for cardiac and non-cardiac procedures, including endovascular procedures.

Perspective / Overview, cont.

About Hamilton Health Care System, cont.

Angioplasty is now available at Hamilton Medical Center as part of Hamilton's participation in Georgia's C-PORT program. HMC was selected as one of 10 Georgia hospitals to participate in this national program that has allowed hospitals without an open-heart surgery program to perform angioplasty for its patients.

HMC is the first in the region with Interstim Therapy, a procedure for patients who have an overactive bladder or urinary urge incontinence and have not benefited from medications.

New computerized tomography (CT) system joins HMC's arsenal of diagnostic and imaging equipment. It remains among the most advanced CT scanners in the world.

Regional Neonatal Specialists operate Hamilton's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). They work with Dalton area obstetricians and pediatricians to provide specialty care to pregnant women and newborn infants at Hamilton.

Community Focused

More than 25 years of promoting healthy lifestyles and fighting disease through preventative measures at Bradley Wellness Center.

Hamilton Convenient Care was created for illnesses and injuries that require prompt attention but are not emergencies. We treat adults and children over 2 years of age.

Qualified physicians like specialists in vascular surgery, gynecology, urology, psychiatry, internal and family medicine.

Renovated Emergency Care Department including enlarging Hamilton Medical Center's ER space from 12,600 to 27,700 square feet and increasing the number of treatment rooms from 29 to 35.

Award-Winning

Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center (HASC) is a free-standing facility specifically designed for outpatient procedures such as arthroscopies, biopsies, tubal ligations, hernia repairs, cholecystectomy, and many others. HASC received the prestigious Summit Award from Press Ganey Associates, Inc. for the eighth (2013) year in a row.

Full accreditation from the Accreditation Review Committee making Hamilton Medical Center the seventh accredited Chest Pain Center in Georgia and the 243rd in the nation

Key Findings

Community Health Assessment

Results

Based on the previous CHNA priorities, secondary data, focus groups, and surveys, the summit participants selected the following significant health needs to be the focus of the work of community over the next three years.

1. Mental Health
2. Access to care
3. Healthy Eating/Active Living
4. Socioeconomics/Social determinants of care
5. Substance use disorder
6. Chronic disease management
7. Education

Process and Methods

Both primary and secondary data sources were used in the CHNA.

Primary methods included:

- Focus groups with community members
- Community online surveys
- Community Health Summit

Secondary methods included:

- Public health data – death statistics, County Health Rankings, cancer incidence
- Demographics and socioeconomics – population, poverty, uninsured, unemployment
- Psychographics – behavior measured by spending and media preferences

The following Implementation Strategy for addressing the Community Health Needs Assessment priorities, as outlined above and in the full 2022 CHNA Report, was approved by Hamilton Health Care System's Executive Committee on February 14, 2023.



Photo Credit: HHCS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some goals and actions from the previous CHNA period could not be as broadly implemented as intended. Because the current CHNA reflects similar health priorities, when appropriate, Hamilton will carryover some goals and actions from the 2019-2022 Implementation Plan.

Health Need: Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder	Action(s)
Objective(s) Increase the community's knowledge capacity to identify mental health and substance abuse needs and link to services and resources.	Hamilton will continue to increase education and screening opportunities in the community through health and wellness events, partnership with Live4It organizations, and community partners. Hamilton will post and share information from community partners through social media, website, and other communications to link with community partners' centralized resource listing. Hamilton will continue to provide and expand resiliency training and mental health education to Hamilton's 2500+ associates through Hamilton's employee wellness programs and additional employee education events. Hamilton's Mobile Integrated Healthcare/Community Paramedic Program will begin services in calendar year 2023 in Whitfield County. The community paramedic will often be a frontline resource for patients and families who are without primary care providers and may recognize mental health and/or substance abuse concerns during such medical calls.
Objective(s) Expand available behavioral health services	Hamilton restarted outpatient behavioral services in May 2022 and will continue to monitor and evaluate opportunities to increase services. Hamilton will continue recruitment and training of primary care providers in screening for areas of mental health needs and substance use disorder as they are often the front-line of assistance when symptoms or needs arise at medical appointments. Hamilton will continue to support the Whitfield County Health Department and DEO Clinic as they provide primary care assistance to those in need, which will serve as a means for regular screening and intervention.
Objective(s) Provide tobacco cessation program	Hamilton has recently implemented a tobacco cessation program and is expanding the frequency it is offered to quarterly. The program is eight weeks, and while there is a fee for the program, upon completion, most of the fee is refunded to the participant.
Health Need: Access to Care	Action(s) During the COVID-19 pandemic, many community events were limited, if available at all. Hamilton will restart and increase free health screening opportunities in the community through health fairs and wellness events. In addition, Hamilton will provide information and education, as well as provider resource listings. See additional health screenings and events under the Chronic Disease Management health need. As with the Mental Health priority, Hamilton will post and share information from community partners through social media, website, and other communications to link with community partners' centralized resource listing.
Objective(s) Increase free health screenings and education events	Hamilton will continue to recruit primary care and specialty care providers. Hamilton's residency programs continue to grow and provide additional access to care in both Whitfield and Murray counties in the areas of family medicine and internal medicine. Hamilton offers telehealth appointments for most specialties. Additionally, Hamilton recently began offering and will expand a new telehealth service that operates 365 days/year and is open 7am-7pm.
Objective(s) Expand primary care, mobile, and specialty services.	Hamilton's Mobile Integrated Healthcare/Community Paramedic Program will begin services in calendar year 2023 in Whitfield County.
Health Need: Healthy Eating/Active Living	Action(s) Hamilton will work with population health and wellness groups, such as Live4It, to provide community events, mobile applications for wellness, nutrition and activity tracking, and physical activities that are fun, able to be reproduced in daily life, and connect attendees with resources for health nutrition. Hamilton will track event counts and attendance. Hamilton will provide and track engagement with healthy eating and activity education through social media posts and website content. Provide nutrition and healthy living education through Bradley Wellness Center classes and Hamilton Diabetes and Endocrinology Center. Hamilton will partner with community physicians and providers to educate and engage patients and their families with healthy nutrition and physical activity options according to the Live4It principles. Address nutrition and activity needs with community physicians for their own personal wellness, to then share their journey with their patients and improve provider physical and mental wellness, including reducing provider burnout. Provide opportunities for safe, accessible, equitable, and engaging physical activity in partnership with Hamilton's Bradley Wellness Center, Live4It and other community groups, including restarting the Bill Gregory Healthcare Classic which has been on hold since the beginning of COVID-19.

<h3>Health Need: Socioeconomics/Social Determinants of Health</h3> <p>Objective(s) Provide support through collaboration with community partners to reduce health inequities caused by social determinants of health.</p> <p>Provide mobile and telehealth resources to help address transportation needs.</p>	<p>Action(s)</p> <p>In collaboration with food banks, civic organizations, United Way, community groups, Hamilton's population health team, Live4It, and other social support agencies, provide health fairs, free screenings, educational events, and resources to community members in need through planned neighborhood outreach. Continue to support the health departments and DEO Clinic. Also, Hamilton's foundation, Whitfield Healthcare Foundation, provides support for socioeconomic needs such as nutrition, utilities, healthcare expense, and medication costs.</p> <p>Hamilton's 365 days/year telehealth operates extended hours and is available for same day appointments. Also, this telehealth option has a self-pay fee for those not covered by insurance.</p> <p>Hamilton's Mobile Integrated Healthcare/Community Paramedic Program will begin services in calendar year 2023 in Whitfield County.</p>
<h3>Health Need: Chronic Disease Management</h3> <p>Objective(s) Increase education, prevention, and treatment options for chronic diseases.</p>	<p>Action(s)</p> <p>Hamilton's cardiovascular services recently expanded to include open heart surgery, structural heart surgery, and other procedures. Hamilton will continue to increase and expand these new services.</p> <p>Hamilton's Peoples Cancer Institute opened just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Services and access have continued to increase since its opening and this service line is expected to continue to grow given the high need for cancer treatment in the community.</p> <p>Hamilton's diagnostic capabilities will expand with additional equipment and availability to support early diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases.</p> <p>Hamilton's Diabetes and Endocrinology Center have added providers and will continue to increase education classes, community outreach activities, and resources for prediabetes, gestational diabetes, and new diagnosed diabetics. Attendance for these events and classes are recorded and evaluated for opportunities for expansion and engagement.</p> <p>As mentioned with other priorities, Hamilton will offer free health screenings for chronic diseases to include but not limited to glucose, blood pressure, PSA, heart CT calcium scoring, prostate exams, breast exams, and other preventive screenings.</p> <p>Hamilton will post and track educational content on social media and the website on chronic disease prevention, management, and treatment options at least on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Hamilton's Mobile Integrated Healthcare/Community Paramedic Program will begin services in calendar year 2023 in Whitfield County and will assist with chronic disease management.</p>
<h3>Health Need: Education</h3> <p>Objective(s) Support and provide educational resources to area schools.</p>	<p>Action(s)</p> <p>Hamilton is actively involved and will continue to increase involvement with school CTAE programs, including providing advisement, materials and supplies through donations and sponsorships, as well as guest speakers in clinical and career areas.</p> <p>Hamilton will continue to provide and support the Junior Achievement Discovery Center with a store front and materials to enhance middle schoolers' experience with Hamilton and future healthcare opportunities.</p> <p>Hamilton recently graduated the first class of internal medicine residents and has started a second residency program in family medicine. The programs continue to grow and offer educational opportunities that bring future physicians to the community.</p> <p>Hamilton is a training resource for medical students and nursing students who complete clinics in our facility.</p> <p>Hamilton provides athletic trainers to the area high schools and to Dalton State College, providing education and clinical care.</p> <p>Hamilton will continue to provide educational materials and speakers on select healthcare topics, including nutrition, heart health, career planning, and other topics for all grade level students.</p> <p>Hamilton's Anna Shaw Children's Institute serves as a resource for area schools and parents for early diagnosis of and treatment of developmental disorders in children, including those on the autism spectrum. Expanded resources through social media and the website are available for parents of children not receiving care at Anna Shaw Children's Institute as a service to the community.</p>