

2022 Community Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Plan Summary

St. Luke's Wood River

The following implementation plan illustrates the strategies St. Luke's and its community partners will employ in fiscal year 2023 to address the most significant health needs identified in our 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment for the Wood River area.

Health Behaviors – Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment

The effects of substance misuse are far-reaching. They can impact almost every organ in the human body. In fact, more deaths, illnesses and disabilities are associated with substance misuse and abuse than any other preventable health condition, including tobacco and poor diet/lack of physical activity.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Increase availability of substance use disorder services.	Awareness, education and skill building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance use prevention and treatment health talks.
Reduce incidence of substance use disorder.	Early detection and intervention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Community Health outreach to schools and community events.
Reduce poor health and societal outcomes from substance use disorder.	Increase access to substance use disorder and behavioral health services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer cooking classes and education on health eating and grocery shopping for sober living house residents. • Referral to and payment assistance for mental health therapy and substance abuse treatment for clients of the Center for Community Health.

Clinical Care – Availability of Mental and Behavioral Health Services

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, nearly a quarter of Idahoans are living with a mental illness. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports that all Idaho counties have shortages of mental health professionals.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Increase availability of mental health services.	Awareness, education and skill building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support delivery of gatekeeper trainings. • Provide and promote mental and behavioral health education. • Hiding in Plain Sight community conversation. • Support the 5B Suicide Prevention Alliance.
Decrease suicide rates.	Early detection and intervention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Community Health outreach to schools and community events. • Engaging Blaine County School District and other local schools in building a comprehensive strategy. • Mental health and depression screenings.
Decrease rates of serious mental illness without access to treatment.	Increase access to mental and behavioral health services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build suicide prevention and postvention strategies. • Referral to and payment assistance for mental health therapy and substance abuse treatment for clients of the Center for Community Health.

Social and Economic Factors – Housing Stability

Access to stable housing leads to better physical and mental health outcomes for all. According to a report published by the Idaho Asset Building Network, “In communities with enough affordable homes, primary care visits go up by 20%, emergency room visits go down by 18%, and accumulated medical expenses go down by 12%.”

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Decrease incidence, recurrence and length of homelessness. Increase affordable housing options. Decrease the number of community members who are severely cost burdened.	Prevention, identification and outreach. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support development and implementation of social determinants of health screening tool in the electronic medical record (EPIC) to assess the housing needs of patients.• Member of the 5B Housing Matters Coordination Project team.
	Increase housing availability. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expand St. Luke’s workforce housing.• Center for Community Health assists clients with referrals and with applications for low-income housing.• Center for Community Health as a resource for clients who need to learn about shelter and emergency housing options.
	Increase support services to help people secure and maintain safe, stable housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support of quality early learning programs.• Center for Community Health connecting clients to energy assistance and other financial support.

Physical Environment – Accessible Modes of Transportation

Those facing the biggest transportation challenges are often those who are economically and/or socially marginalized, including lower income families, children and older adults. Ensuring access to transportation also improves access to healthier food options, medical care and employment.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
Decrease commuting time and trips in single-occupancy vehicles. Improve air quality. Increase physical activity.	Create and maintain safe walking/biking paths and programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribute children’s bike helmets at community events.
	Support infrastructure for public transportation and shared ridership models. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist our partners with improving transportation for Spanish-speaking riders.

