

UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY – 2017

As a result of Washington Regional's 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment, the following significant needs were identified:

1. **Access to primary care**
2. **Stroke care program**
3. **Wellness and health education**

In the months since the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment was completed, Washington Regional has made progress toward fulfilling its implementation strategy, including:

Community Health Need Priority #1

Access to primary care

Additional primary care providers are needed in the community, particularly in more remote geographic areas.

Objective #1

Washington Regional will coordinate closely with primary care providers to promote excellence throughout the entire continuum of care; Washington Regional will continue to improve the availability of primary care and increase community members' abilities to access primary care providers.

Implementation Activities:

- A. Washington Regional will continue to support the new executive-level position that was created to provide ongoing support to clinic physicians.
- B. Washington Regional will continue to actively recruit physicians and advanced practice providers who specialize in primary care.
- C. Washington Regional will continue to provide financial support to community health services such as the Washington County Department of Health and WelcomeHealth, a free health center that provides primary care.
- D. Washington Regional will provide support to its nine primary care clinics that applied and were accepted to be among 2,900 primary care practices nationwide to participate in Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+), a partnership designed to provide patients with improved access to quality healthcare at lower costs.
- E. Washington Regional, through its Faith in Action program, will continue to provide volunteer-based free services to homebound older adults, including assistance in arranging transportation to clinic appointments.
- F. Washington Regional, recognizing that area residents often require primary care with locations and extended hours that are convenient for busy lifestyles, will continue to consider adding urgent care clinics to meet demand, as it did in September 2016 with an Urgent Care clinic in Johnson, centrally located near I-49.
- G. Washington Regional, with the November 2016 opening of its new Women and Infants Center, will continue to provide a convenient location for the patients of Northwest Arkansas' two leading OB/GYN clinics, where many women receive their primary care.

Community Health Need Priority #2

Stroke Care Program

According to the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas has one of the nation's highest rates of death from stroke.

Objective #2

While Washington Regional's Stroke Care Program already has had a significant positive impact on the health of the community, Washington Regional intends to build on those gains by elevating the capabilities of the program, which provides education, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for cerebrovascular disease and stroke.

Implementation Activities:

- A. Washington Regional will maintain its status as a certified Primary Stroke Center as designated by The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers.
- B. Washington Regional will continue to actively recruit stroke care specialists and will add another stroke neurologist to the program by July 2017.
- C. Washington Regional will continue to participate in the Arkansas SAVES program (Stroke Assistance through Virtual Emergency Services), a partnership between Washington Regional, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Center for Distance Health, the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services.
- D. Washington Regional will present a stroke survivors celebration – offering encouragement, education and rehabilitation tips – by May 2017.
- E. Washington Regional, in partnership with the American Heart Association, will participate in the production of a community stroke education video.
- F. Washington Regional will continue its financial support for the AHA health initiative known as Check.Change.Control., a blood-pressure management program that helps people take ownership of their cerebrovascular and cardiovascular health.
- G. Washington Regional will continue to provide information about cerebrovascular disease and stroke at health fairs and community events such as Day of Dance and Girls Night Out, on TV with *Your Health* morning-news segments and through publications distributed to the community, such as the *Your Health* online newsletter and the local newspaper's monthly health publication.

Community Health Need Priority #3

Wellness and Health Education

Due to barriers such as lack of education, it is often difficult for area residents to get wellness and health information that could be beneficial to improving the health of the community.

Objective #3

Washington Regional will continue to strengthen its population health initiative to promote well-being in the community through education and other wellness activities.

Implementation Activities:

- A. Washington Regional will continue to support a new executive-level position that was created to lead population health initiatives across the spectrum of care for patients in the Washington Regional Medical System.
- B. Washington Regional, through its a partnership with the University of Arkansas College of Education & Health Professions and the UA School of Nursing, will continue its Care Partners program. Care Partners trains pre-professional students to act as health coaches for patients who are at risk for medical complications outside the hospital, providing important one-on-one health education.
- C. Washington Regional will continue to offer the wellness activities and classes of the Washington Regional Center for Exercise to employees and the community.

- D. Washington Regional will continue to be a model for the community and other area employers by supporting an employee wellness program — featuring health insurance discounts for participating employees — and an employee-led Wellness Committee.
- E. Washington Regional, at its new Women and Infants Center, will provide specially designed education rooms for community classes such as breastfeeding support, daddy boot camp, sibling class and infant CPR.
- F. Washington Regional, through its Education Department, will continue to provide instruction on lifesaving skills such as CPR to the community.
- G. Washington Regional will continue to offer the services of its Mobile Dental Clinic, which since 2014 has been driven nearly 18,000 miles to deliver free dental services and preventive education to more than 2,500 individuals in three counties.
- H. Washington Regional will continue to provide health education and wellness tips at health fairs and community events such as Day of Dance, Girls' Night Out and World's Largest Baby Shower, on TV with *Your Health* morning-news segments and through publications distributed to the community, such as the *Your Health* online newsletter and the local newspaper's monthly health publication.