

AtlantiCare

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COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Atlantic County, New Jersey



INTRODUCTION:

As a leading healthcare provider in southeastern New Jersey, AtlantiCare is committed to delivering high-quality care and an outstanding patient experience to the thousands of individuals and families we serve each year. We're also committed to enriching and improving the well-being of those we are proud to serve.

In 2019 AtlantiCare conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment pursuant to the requirements of Section 501(r) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Community Health Needs Assessment and its findings were posted to AtlantiCare's website, www.atlanticare.org/community.

This Community Health Needs Implementation Strategy documents the ongoing commitment of AtlantiCare to address the numerous health and social needs identified for Atlantic County, and prioritized by its residents, during the assessment. Initiatives included in this report represent high-level strategies that are part of AtlantiCare's overall strategic plan for 2019 through 2021. All strategies mentioned below have been supported with a combination of external and internal resources to ensure they become actionable. Additional external funds and partnerships continue to be sought to further their implementation.



2019 Community Health Needs Assessment Findings:

The following themes and findings were identified as key opportunities for our community. For classification purposes, we combined these findings into key themes. These themes include Unmet Health Care Needs, Health Influencing Behaviors, and Neighborhood and Societal Factors.

Unmet HealthCare Needs

Behavioral Health & Substance Use Treatment

Goal: Ensure that all in our community are able to obtain the mental health care and/or substance use treatment they need.



OBJECTIVES:

- Increase access to behavioral health services.
- Reduce opioid-related deaths
- Eliminate stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders.

ACTIONS:

1. Introduce new therapies to the region to broaden the available services to treat mental health conditions.
 - ◆ Offer Electroconvulsive Therapy to assist with the treatment of severe depression and other mental health conditions.
2. Further the expansion of behavioral health specialists into AtlantiCare primary care practices
 - ◆ The offering of behavioral health specialists into the primary care practice assists in reducing stigma associated with mental health and ensures that the coordination of care for a patient's physical and mental health.
3. Utilize telehealth capabilities to increase access to behavioral health services
 - ◆ Telehealth can ensure the timely access to behavioral health services. Leveraging these resources for behavioral health services reduces the many barriers to care.
4. Expand the use of Medication Assisted Treatment for Substance Use
 - ◆ By training additional providers and offering additional treatment sites, AtlantiCare can close care gaps that still exist for those seeking treatment for substance use disorders.
5. Establish community supports for individuals in recovery.
 - ◆ AtlantiCare continues to identify and implement new ways that it can support those in recovery through the offering of supportive programming and services.
6. Train and educate clinicians on behavioral health and substance use disorders.
 - ◆ Eliminating stigma in the provision of care is one way AtlantiCare can work to break down the barriers that impede the delivery of care to those most in need.

Care for the Elderly/Home Care

Goal: Ensure that there are adequate services for the aging population.



OBJECTIVES:

- Design and deliver services which are tailored to meet the needs of our senior population.

ACTIONS:

1. Continue to recruit and leverage AtlantiCare's LIFE Connection program to meet increased care needs for aging in place seniors.
 - ◆ AtlantiCare's LIFE Connection program ensures comprehensive care to seniors most vulnerable in our community.
2. When able, bring services to seniors by reducing barriers to care (ie: transportation)
 - ◆ Work with the Atlantic City Housing Authority to establish onsite services
3. Leverage telehealth and mobile technologies to close care gaps and ensure continuous monitoring.



Dental Care

Goal: Close care gaps as it is related to dental care for all in our community.



OBJECTIVES:

- Explore partners to bring dental services for populations with limited resources.

ACTIONS:

1. Identify potential partners for dental care.
2. Create plan to offer dental services in areas where the need is greatest.

Health Influencing Behaviors

Stress Management

Goal: Enable all populations in our community to thrive.



OBJECTIVES:

- Build and strengthen resiliency skills in all populations throughout our community.

ACTIONS:

1. Offer resiliency programming to our workforce.
2. Support local schools with the delivery of resiliency and mindfulness programming to area youth through established partnerships.
 - ◆ AtlantiCare Healthy Schools, Healthy Children program will identify and leverage existing and additional resources to support schools in their mindfulness, resiliency programming and training.
3. Expand training and capabilities to vulnerable populations.



Physical Activity

Goal: Increase opportunities for affordable physical activity in communities with limited resources.



OBJECTIVE:

- Offer a variety of activities for the residents of Atlantic City.

ACTIONS:

1. Explore, expand, and support either AtlantiCare-led or externally-led opportunities for physical activity within the City.
 - ◆ AtlantiCare is working with the Atlantic City Housing Authority to provide exercise offerings to its senior residents.
 - ◆ Exercise offerings are integrated into the Summer Meals Lunch and Learn Series for youth and families.
2. Bring exercise offerings to identified community centers and/or high-rise complexes.



Substance Use

Goal: Reduce the number of individuals who inappropriately use substances across our community.



OBJECTIVES:

- Provide education and other community resources to prevent participation in harmful substance use.

ACTIONS:

1. Educate the community on the dangers of vaping and other forms of e-cigarettes.
2. Provide safe places for controlled medications to be disposed of safely.





Neighborhood & Societal Factors

Affordable Housing

Goal: Ensure that enable all in our community have their basic needs met - including a place to live - allowing them to achieve their optimal health.



OBJECTIVE:

- Identify and address opportunities that enable safe, adequate, and affordable housing.

ACTIONS:

1. Educate our organization and community about the connection between good health and housing.
2. Establish a committee consisting of internal and external partners that is exploring and evaluating community opportunities for housing initiatives.
3. Obtain actionable data.
4. Facilitate a community-led neighborhood revitalization process which will lead to actionable improvement plans that are equitable for all.
5. Plan and implement housing initiatives for select populations throughout our community.

Employment

Goal: Prepare and train the workforce of the future.



OBJECTIVE:

- Increase the number of local individuals who are trained and eligible for healthcare careers.

ACTIONS:

1. Work with local middle and high schools to encourage healthcare careers and provide career guidance.
2. Align internal and external workforce development opportunities with hard-to-fill positions.
3. Offer expanded internship opportunities to have youth experience a full gamut of healthcare careers.

Healthy Food Access

Goal: Eliminate food insecurities through the provision of healthy foods.



OBJECTIVE:

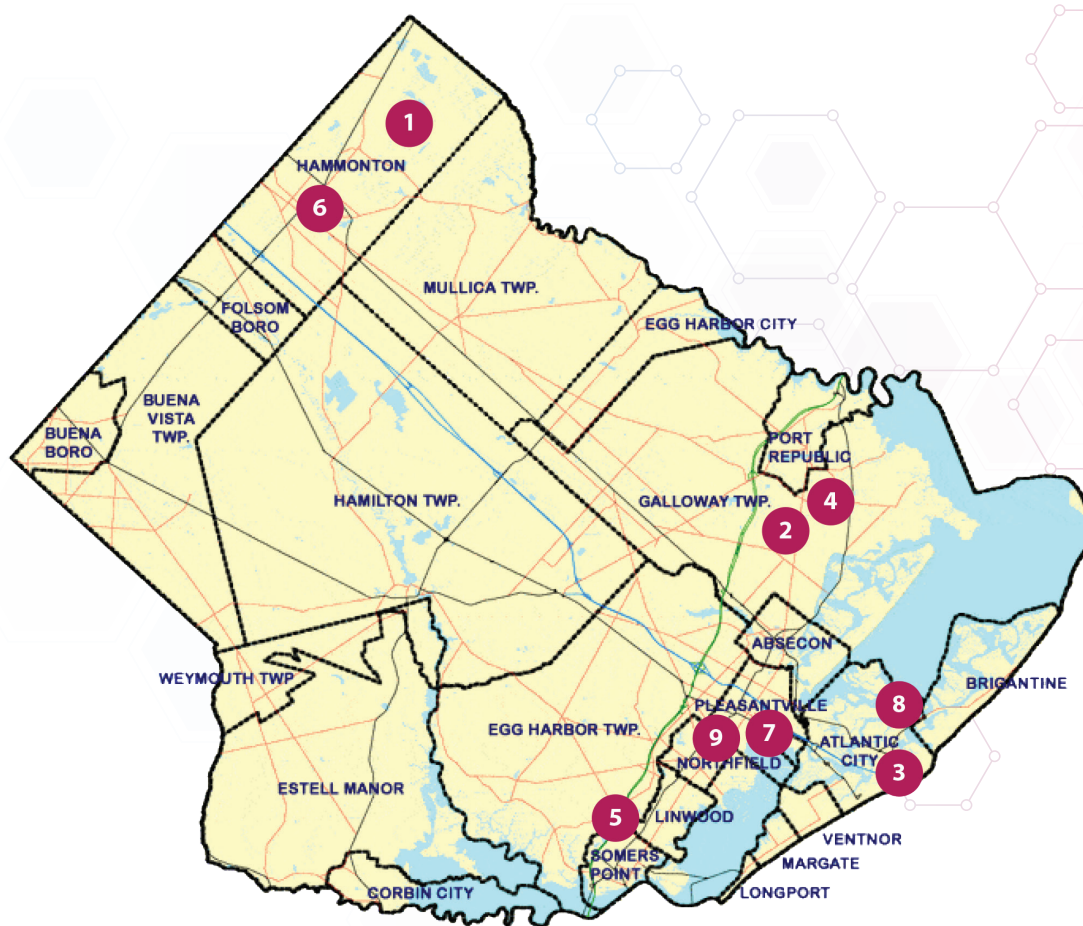
- Identify opportunities to create access points to healthy foods for populations who are most vulnerable.

ACTIONS:

1. Continue to offer the Pantry at the Plex as an opportunity to immediately address food insecure patients.
2. Continue to offer Pop-Up Farm Markets at the AtlantiCare HealthPlex and in the Atlantic City community to ensure access to healthy foods.
3. Expand summer meals programming to ensure that all vulnerable youth have access to food in the summer.
4. Connect patients in need of financial alignment assistance with SNAP benefits.
5. Pilot a mobile food delivery program in partnership with a food retailer to ensure access to healthy foods.

Over the next three years, AtlantiCare will work toward implementing the listed strategies to address the concerns identified by our community. While AtlantiCare offers a broad range of services to care for patients and promote health and wellness, in some cases we may be unable to solely address every community need identified in the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. To bridge this gap and to further capitalize on available resources, AtlantiCare will continue to foster and strengthen relationships with many social services agencies and other community partners that offer assistance to Atlantic County residents. Through partnerships, we can meet the needs of our community, and improve the overall health and wellbeing of our residents. These collaborations enable AtlantiCare to live out its vision of building healthy communities, together.

Atlantic County Map



1 - AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Satellite Emergency Department, Hammonton

2 - AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Pomona

3 - AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Atlantic City and AtlantiCare HealthPlex, Atlantic City

4 - Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation, Pomona

5 - Shore Medical Center, Somers Point

6 - Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, Inc., Hammonton

7 - Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, Inc., Pleasantville

8 - Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, Inc., Atlantic City

9 - Atlantic County Division of Public Health, Northfield



Atlantic County, New Jersey