

NMC Community Health Needs Assessment

Fiscal Year 2020
Implementation Strategy Summary Report



Newton Medical Center

Family friendly. First class.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Newton Medical Center	2
Our Community	2
Priority #1: Improve Well-Being, Mental Health, Behavioral Health	3
1.1 – Caregiver Support	3
1.2 – Better Breathers Group	3
1.3 – Own the Bone® Program	4
1.4 – Palliative Care Program	5
1.5 – Falls Education Program	5
1.6 – Patient Immunization Education	6
Priority #2: Prevent and Manage Chronic Disease	7
2.1 – Vaccination Status	7
2.2 – No Tobacco Policy	7
2.3 – Smoking Status	8
2.4 – Tobacco Use Intervention Impact	8
2.5 – Pulmonology	9
2.6 – Sepsis Readmissions	9
2.7 – Diabetes Education Program	10
2.8 – Newton YMCA Medical Partnership	11
Priority Three: Develop Viable Transportation for Health Needs	12
3.1 – Walking Path Expansion P.1	12
3.2 – Walking Path Usage	12
3.3 – Walking Path Expansion P.2	13
3.4 – Community Partners and Patient Transportation	13
New in Fiscal Year 2019	14

Newton Medical Center

Newton Medical Center is an award-winning medical care system focused on improving health throughout Newton, Kan., and Harvey and surrounding counties. Featuring a 103-bed hospital located at the intersection of I-135 and Highway 50, and 10 primary care and specialty clinics, Newton Medical Center's services and specialties include emergency medicine, surgical services, rehabilitation, occupational medicine, home health and more. Formed in 1988, Newton Medical Center has evolved from an established tradition of excellence.

More than a century ago, Dr. John T. and Lucena Axtell founded Newton's first hospital, Axtell Hospital. For four decades, the Axtell's served the community until they passed on the hospital to the Kansas Christian Missionary Society. At that time, the name was changed to Axtell Christian Hospital, a Christian Church/Disciples of Christ organization.

At the turn of the century, Reverend David Goerz and Sister Frieda Kaufman founded Bethel Deaconess Hospital as a mission of the Mennonite Church. Mennonite deaconesses remained involved with the hospital's operations until 1983. On Jan. 1, 1988, the two hospitals merged to become Newton Medical Center.

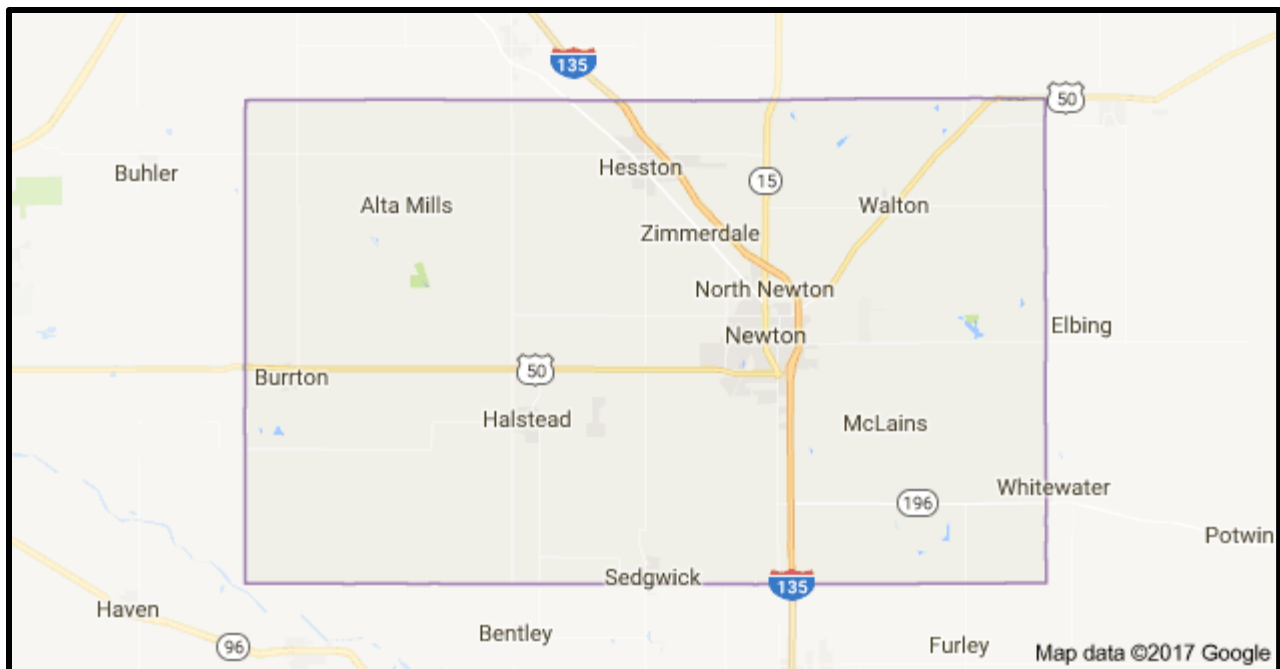
Mission: To excel in providing healthcare by understanding and responding to the individual needs of those we serve.

Vision: To improve health.

Values: Respect. Excellence. Service. Trust. Transparency.

Our Community

Newton Medical Center defines our community as those residing in Harvey County, Kansas. Our service area includes all residents of Harvey County and does not exclude low-income or underserved populations.



Priority #1: Improve Well-Being , Mental Health, Behavioral Health

1.1 Caregiver Support

Strategy: Reduce Barriers

Activity: Expand Caregiver Support

Resource: Generations Social Worker

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Secure a consistent place to meet with easy access for elderly patients
 - **Progress:** Meeting space secured in the South Conference Room of the hospital
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Held a minimum of four Caregiver Support Meetings
 - **Progress:** Ten caregiver support group meetings held in FY 2019
- **FY 2020**
 - **Goal:** Maintain reach of care and support services through direct service, community partners and volunteers resulting in 3-5 new members each quarter and 2-3 support service referrals per support group session.
 - **Progress:** Attendees remained constant, with regular and new members, throughout the year at 3-5. Two to three referrals to community resources were made for attendees each session. The pandemic provided challenges for gatherings; therefore, in-person sessions were cancelled in March - May. Online resources were offered to potential attendees. The attendees also completed a survey during FY 2020. Areas of need identified for this group are “hands on help” and “time to self-care”.

Future Plans: The Generations’ team of social workers will continue support groups and develop a brochure with resources including “hands on help” and “time to self-care”.

1.2 Better Breathers Group

Strategy: Enhance Skills

Activity: Expand Better Breathers Group

Resource: Director of Therapy Services

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Investigate methods to increase participation and referrals to Better Breather’s Group
 - **Progress:** Engaged Pulmonologist and communicating this with patients. Average number of Better Breather’s Group participants was 5.75.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Increased number of participants in Better Breather’s Group by 10%
 - **Progress:** Goal met with 7-10 attendees. Respiratory Care served as a resource to Schowalter Villa for COPD support group development.

- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:**
 - Increase the number of Better Breathers Club attendance by 10%. (Total of 8 attendees consistently).
 - Collaborate with Newton Home Health, Harvey County Health Ministries and NMC Case Management to become a resource to Long Term Care facilities for the development of COPD support groups.
 - The Respiratory Care team will be available for two or more presentations during the 2020 FY.
 - **Progress:**
 - The Better Breathers Club met consistently in 2019 with the last in person meeting being in December of 2019 with 15 attendees. Candidates for the support group have been offered to attend once the group resumes following the pandemic.
 - The Stoplight Zone tool developed in collaboration with Case Management and Home Health has an intended implementation by June 2021.
 - One community presentation was completed in FY 2019.

Future Plans: Better Breather’s Club will meet virtually twice during the next year and twice in person. The content of the meeting will continue in a similar format with education topics presented each session. A new initiative to recruit potential attendees will be to identify candidates through the Pulmonary Rehabilitation program.

1.3 Own the Bone® Program

Strategy: Provide Support and Enhance Skills

Activity: Reduce the number of bone fractures through Own the Bone Program

Resource: Chief Medical Officer

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Expand participants in Own the Bone Program by identifying potential participants through the Emergency Department.
 - **Progress:** Approximately 50 Own the Bone Program participants.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Increased participants in Own the Bone Program by 5% (to 55 participants).
 - **Progress:** Shifted location of identifying qualified participants from the ED to the Orthopedic Clinic. During May (Osteoporosis Awareness Month) NMC posted Facebook content on “Own the Bone” program
- **FY 2020**
 - **Goal:** Own the Bone program will increase enrollment by 10% (to 88 participants)
 - **Progress:** Own the Bone program has 132 enrollees at this time. Participants are screened in Newton Medical Center’s orthopedic clinic and are offered appropriate testing and medication to prevent osteoporosis. The enrollee’s ongoing care is then turned over to the Primary Care provider.

Future Plans: A marketing campaign related to appropriate screening for osteoporosis will be implemented as this is a component of the screening assessment as reported by the Newton Orthopedic & Sports Medicine physician assistants and advance practice registered nurse.

1.4 Palliative Care Program

Strategy: Provide Support and Enhance Skills

Activity: Incorporate a Palliative Care program at Newton Medical Center

Resource: Population Management Advanced Practice RN and Chief Clinical Officer

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**

- **Goal:** Investigate models and develop a plan.
- **Progress:** Palliative Care Consult developed and implemented in the acute care setting. To date, four palliative-care consults completed by Dr. Spurlock or Karen Lehman, ARNP. Case Management provided 813 patients with Advance Care Planning information and 21% of these have completed their Advanced Care Plan or named a Durable Power of Attorney. Advance Care Planning visits developed and implemented in home health setting. FY18 Baseline rate 0% due to lack of process in place to address this need for Home Health patients.

- **FY 2019:**

- **Goal:** 50% of patients participating in the Right on Track Program and NMC Home Health, identified as not having a Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA) appointed, will appoint a DPOA through the Advanced Care Planning Program.
- **Progress:** Documentation implemented for Home Health ACP visits. Decision Day held at NMC March 2019. Speaking engagements presenting the importance of DPOA designations were given at Kiwanis, Newton Chamber of Commerce, and Bethel College Lifetime Learning program. These speaking engagements would have reached an estimated 250 persons. Palliative Care screens and consults were submitted by Case Management and providers based on patient need.

- **FY 2020**

- **Goal:**
 - Advanced Care Planning will continue to be provided by APRN for in-patients referred from Case Management.
 - Decision Day will be offered at multiple locations a minimum of two times in FY 2020
 - >75% of the Home Health new admissions will have Advanced Directives completed
- **Progress**
 - Advanced Care Planning has been provided for patients following notification to Case Management. Decision Day was offered during the Harvey Co. Safety Fair on Saturday March 7, 2020. 100 information packets were distributed. 10 advanced directives were completed on-site and 12 were returned to Newton Medical Center Case Management via mail.

1.5 Falls Education Program

Strategy: Provide Education

Activity: Incorporate an education program on falls in our community

Resource: Population Management Advanced Practice RN

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Develop and implement a Community Fall Prevention Education Program.
 - **Progress:** Rolled out “Stepping On” program spring 2018, but minimum number of participants (8) to hold program was not met. Partnered with Newton Fire/EMS Fall Prevention Program and offering free home safety inspection for Emergency Department patients. 5.4% of Emergency Department patients seen between 7/1/17 to 5/31/18 were seeking emergency care related to a fall.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Hold at least one “Stepping On” program in FY 2019
 - **Progress:** The “Stepping On” program was scheduled three times in FY 2019 with no attendees therefore, the course was cancelled. In April 2019, a KDHE grant was received directed toward payment of enrollment fees for the “Stepping On” program. Program to be hosted at Trinity United Methodist Church beginning July 19, 2019.
- **FY 2020**
 - **Goal:** NMC Case Management, Outpatient therapy, and Home Health will utilize fall risk criteria screening tools to increase referrals to Community “Stepping On” Program at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church.
 - **Progress:** The Trinity Heights United Methodist Church has assumed facilitation of the “Stepping On” program.

Future Plans: The Stepping On program will remain under the maintenance and direction of the Trinity Heights United Methodist Church.

1.6 Immunization Education for Patients

Strategy: Provide Information

Activity: Make education on the safety and benefit of immunizations available to NMC patients

Resource: Quality and Analytics Department

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Find and adopt a current resource for distribution to NMC Patients
 - **Progress:** Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Information Sheets from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are provided to all inpatients at the time of vaccination. NMC assessed influenza vaccination status on 97.7% of inpatients during the 2017-2018 Influenza season, and provided influenza vaccination to patients who wanted to receive it.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** NMC assessed 98% of all inpatients for influenza vaccination during the flu season from October 1, 2019 through April 29, 2019 (season extended from March 31, 2019 due to local influenza activity).
 - **Progress:** NMC assessed 98% of all inpatients for influenza vaccination. NMC Clinics documented flu vaccinations for patients whether they were given in an NMC Clinic or at another location (i.e. flu shot clinics)
- **FY 2020**
 - **Goal:** 98.5% of the Newton Medical Center in patients will have influenza vaccination during the October 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020
 - **Progress:** 98% of inpatients received immunization for the 2019-2020 Flu Season.

Future Plans:

- Newton Medical Center will assess 98.5% of all inpatients for seasonal vaccinations during the 2020-2021 flu season.
- If the opportunity arises for a Covid-19 vaccination during the FY 2021, additional goals will be defined.
- Newton Medical Center will continue to offer employees seasonal immunizations per CDC guidance.

Priority #2: Prevent & Manage Chronic Diseases

2.1 Vaccination Status

Strategy: Reduce Barriers

Activity: Use new Electronic Medical Record platform to better capture and communicate vaccination status

Resource: Quality and Analytics, Clinical Informatics, Clinics

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Share results on capturing vaccination status and providing the vaccination by provider
 - **Progress:** Health E-Filings implemented to track and report clinic metrics. Newton Medical Center assessed influenza vaccination status on 97.7% of inpatients during the 2017-2018 Influenza season.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** 23% of the NMC Clinic patients received flu immunizations at one of the NMC clinics. Data incomplete due to report malfunction. This percentage does not account for the patients who had flu immunizations given at community settings but recorded in the NMC EMR history.
 - **Progress:** Data mining has not yielded the total number of patients in the clinics who have had a flu vaccination. Data is available for patients who have had their flu vaccination given at one of the NMC Clinics which was 23% as of March 28, 2019.
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:** NMC Family Practice (FP) Clinics will increase the number of patients assessed for flu shots by 10% for the 2019-2020 flu season
 - **Progress:** A total of 1359 flu vaccinations were administered in the Newton Medical Center Family Practice Clinics this past season.

Future Plans: The NMC FP Clinics will continue to offer seasonal immunizations per CDC guidance.

2.2 No Tobacco Policy

Strategy: Change Consequence

Activity: Implement a “no tobacco” policy before elective surgery

Resource: Chief Medical Officer

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**

- **Goal:** Investigate which providers already have a “no tobacco” policy before elective surgery and determine the feasibility of spreading this policy to all Newton Medical Center surgery providers.
- **Progress:** All Newton Medical Center surgeons have implemented a “smoke-free” policy for elective surgeries during FY18.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** NMC Surgical Department will report a 1-2% increase in patients who are reported tobacco users and have not used tobacco within 30 days of their “planned” surgery.
 - **Progress:** A Meditech module has been created to capture smoking status at the time of registration for “planned” surgeries. This data submitted to the CMO.
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:**
 - Smoking status data to be analyzed for the 1-2% increase in patients who are reported tobacco users and have not used tobacco within 30 days of their “planned” surgery.
 - CMO will provide data on smoking status within 30 days of “planned” surgery to surgeons twice in the fiscal year and will consult regarding smoking cessation goals for patients prior to “planned” surgeries
 - **Progress:** Newton Medical Center surgeon’s statistics were provided to the Chief Medical Officer quarterly for discussions with surgeons. Surgeons can utilize this data per their discretion.

2.3 Smoking Status

Strategy: Reduce Barriers

Activity: Use new Electronic Medical Record platform to better capture and communicate smoking status

Resource: Quality and Analytics, Clinical Informatics, Clinics

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Share results on capturing smoking status and using interventions
 - **Progress:** 61% of Inpatients identified as smokers received smoking cessation interventions
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Increased percent of patients identified as smokers who received Smoking Intervention by 10%.
 - **Progress:** 93% of Inpatients identified as smokers received smoking cessation counseling
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:** Increase the number of inpatients who are identified as smokers and offered tobacco counseling to 95%.
 - **Progress:** 93% of inpatients were identified as a smoker and received smoking cessation counseling for FY 2020.

2.4 Tobacco Use Intervention Impact

Strategy: Reduce Barriers

Activity: Increase impact of intervention for Newton Medical Center patients who use tobacco

Resource: Quality and Analytics, Clinical Informatics, Clinics

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Begin tracking follow-up with KanQuit to understand impact.
 - **Progress:** Initiated tracking system with KanQuit. Initiated reporting of percentage of smoking cessation offerings provided to smokers identified in the acute care setting. 61% (229/378 unique patients identified as smokers) were provided smoking cessation education intervention. 17.7% of those who accepted smoking cessation education agreed to enroll in KanQuit.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Increased referrals to KanQuit for NMC patients identified as smokers by 10%.
 - **Progress:**
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:** Of the patients accepting cessation counseling, 20% agree to enroll in KanQuit.
 - **Progress:** Approximately 75 patients per quarter are identified as smokers. Zero patients have been willing to enroll in KanQuit for the FY 2020.

2.5 Pulmonology

Strategy: Enhance Access

Activity: Utilize Pulmonologist to address chronic disease prevention and management

Resource: Director of Therapy Services

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Partner with Pulmonologist to define and develop goals
 - **Progress:** Newton Medical Center had a total of 77 admissions related to primary respiratory diagnosis, and Pulmonologist completed 149 inpatient consultations in FY18. Pulmonary Rehabilitation Initial Evaluations FY 18-24.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Increased post-acute care pulmonology services for inpatients at NMC by 10% by December 2019.
 - **Progress:** Pulmonary consultations for FY19-145 through 6/6/19. Pulmonary Rehabilitation Initial Evaluations-39 as of 6/6/19.
- **FY 2020**
 - **Goal:** Pulmonary Rehabilitation services will host Pulmonary Education Classes for participants at least 6 times per year with presentations by the NMC Pulmonary Rehabilitation Director
 - **Progress:**
 - A pulmonary education course is offered each month.
 - 111 participants have participated in these educational sessions. Sessions have been interrupted since March 12, 2020 due to the pandemic.

2.6 Sepsis Readmissions

Strategy: Reduce Barriers

Activity: Reduce Sepsis readmissions

Resource: Case Management

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Include Sepsis discharges in the Right on Track program; Incorporate Sepsis focus into Transitional Care Task Force
 - **Progress:** Patients with sepsis were fully integrated into the Right on Track program and the Transitional Care Task Force. Sepsis readmission rate pre-implementation was 21% and post-implementation was 18%
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Reduce Sepsis readmissions by 2%
 - **Progress:** Sepsis readmissions have been reduced as follows: Q1-9%, Q2 13%, Q3-2%, Q4 (available after 6/30/2019).
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:**
 - Sepsis survivors will be offered enrollment in the Right On Track program (ROTP).
 - ROTP will explore addition of social work and volunteer physician involvement for high risk acute care patients by December 2019
 - ROTP enrollees will increase by 5% as evidenced by increase in 5 patients for FY 2020
 - **Progress:** All patients are assessed for inclusion in the ROTP.
 - In FY 2020, 116 patients were enrolled in the ROTP. This is down 27 patients from the previous year.
 - The addition of social work and physician involvement were deferred due to the pandemic impact.

2.7 Diabetes Education Program

Strategy: Enhance Skills and Provide Support

Activity: Reduce overall Hemoglobin A1C for patients who participate in Newton Medical Center Diabetes Education program from 8.8% to 7.0%

Resource: Diabetes Educator

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Focus Diabetes Education on reduction of Hemoglobin A1C.
 - **Progress:** Average A1C for Diabetes Education participants who completed the program and had follow-up lab reported six months post-program was 6.8%.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Maintained average Hemoglobin A1C of 7.0 or below for patients participating in diabetes education program.
 - **Progress:** Average A1C for Diabetes Education participants who completed the program and had follow-up lab reported six months post-program was 7.0% (as of Dec 2019, new data as of June 30,2019).
- **FY 2020**
 - **Goal:**
 - Maintain average Hemoglobin A1C of 7.0 or below for patients participating in diabetes education program
 - Diabetes Educator will be available for at least two community presentations

- Diabetes Support Group will be offered on a monthly basis
- **Progress:**
 - The average A1C for patients who participated in the Newton Medical Center Diabetes Education program was 6.8% for FY2020 with Q4 rate at 6.5%. The Hemoglobin A1c data is reported every 6 months.
 - Three community presentations were given by the Newton Medical Center Diabetes Educator.
 - The Diabetes Support Group was offered monthly through March. Fourth Quarter meetings have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

Future Plans: Maintain average Hemoglobin A1C of 7.0 or below for patients participating in diabetes education program. Diabetic Educator will be available for at least two community presentations. Diabetes Support Group will continue to be offered on a monthly basis.

2.8 Newton YMCA Medical Partnership

Strategy: Increase Access

Activity: Newton Medical Center and the Newton YMCA develop a medically-based partnership model

Resource: Chief Operating Officer

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Investigate feasibility and existing models, pursue grant funding, and develop a plan
 - **Progress:** Progress was made in understanding existing models. There are YMCA guidelines and a definition of what it means and what it takes to offer ‘medically-based’ programming. This definition and these guidelines will form a basis for one element of a partnership model for the Newton YMCA and Newton Medical Center
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** A leader from the Newton YMCA and a leader from NMC (or delegates) will conduct two site visits at medically-based YMCAs
 - **Progress:** An on-site visit to a medically based YMCA in Des Moines, IA was conducted in 2018. The new YMCA director comes from a YMCA that had partnered with a local hospital; he has first-hand knowledge and experience. An analysis of the conversations held with the YMCA director will be completed by 7/30/2019. A Recommendations Report is expected 08/30/2019.
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:** By June 2021 NMC will have achieved a portion of a medically-based partnership model
 - **Progress:** Newton Medical Center and the YMCA have developed a program of “warm hand-offs” from the Cardiac Rehabilitation program. NMC is currently underwriting the cost of the YMCA’s Live Strong Cancer-survivor program for 15 individuals.

Future Plans: Newton Medical Center and the YMCA will collaborate on a program for In Patient Rehabilitation Unit patients to continue their therapy/activities at the YMCA.

Priority #3: Develop Viable Transportation Options for Health Needs

3.1 Walking Path Expansion P.1

Strategy: Change Physical Design

Activity: Walking Path Expansion

Resource: Provider Services Manager

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Investigate feasibility, pursue grant funding, and develop a plan
 - **Progress:** Met with the city to discuss next steps and ensure compliance with codes and regulations
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Pursued grant funding to expand and improve the safety and appearance of Walking Path
 - **Progress:** Pathways grant will be coupled with a recent grant received by NMC's Dr. J. Koontz for exercise equipment along a walking path
- **FY 2020**
 - **Goal:** BCBS Pathways grant and an Exercise path grant received by Dr. Koontz will be combined to improve the pathways around NMC.
 - **Progress:** Pathway with exercise stations dedicated 10/03/2020

Future Plans: A contemplation pathway component, an initiative of the NMC Chaplin, will be added the existing path to enhance mental /spiritual wellness by June 2021.

3.2 Walking Path Usage

Strategy: Change Physical Design

Activity: Improve the appearance of the walking paths to encourage use

Resource: Provider Services Manager

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Investigate feasibility, pursue grant funding, and develop a plan
 - **Progress:** Sourcing funding.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Pursued grant funding to expand and improve the safety and appearance of Walking Path
 - **Progress:** A Walking Path plan is in development utilizing grant funding.
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:** BCBS Pathways grant and an exercise path grant received by Dr. Koontz to be combined to improve the pathways around NMC.

- **Progress:** Funding received from Blue Cross and Blue Shield as a Pathways Grant, and from the American Academy of Sports Medicine and the Harvey County Medical Society. Path with exercise stations dedicated 10/03/2020. Path enhanced with additional tree plantings in winter of 2019-2020.

3.3 Walking Path Expansion P.2

Strategy: Change Physical Design

Activity: Newton Medical Center farmland used to support patient therapies

Resource: Provider Services Manager

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Investigate feasibility, pursue grant funding, and develop a plan
 - **Progress:** Provider Services Manager to sit on the Food/Farm Council.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Two acre food plots grown in summer donated to local food pantries
 - **Progress:** Director of Case Management attends Food and Farm Council meetings. Two plots totaling 5 acres have been designated for produce growth and donation to local food pantries during summer of 2019
- **FY 2020:**
 - **Goal:** A minimum of two plots will be planted with the purpose of donation to local food pantries
 - **Progress:** Only one food plot was established due to excessive rain in the spring of 2019. Food donated from the one plot was 2000 pounds of food to local pantries and homeless shelters and approximately 3600 pounds of pumpkins to Tanganyika Wildlife Preserve.

Future Plans: A one acre plot has been planted on NMC property to be shared with community. Additionally, the YMCA youth cooking programs will utilize the garden produce for inclusion in menu planning or specific cooking projects.

3.4 Community Partners and Patient Transportation

Strategy: Enhance Access and Reduce Barriers

Activity: Pursue a greater understanding of community partner role(s) in providing transportation for patients if not admitted to the hospital

Resource: Director of Case Management Services

Outputs:

- **FY 2018:**
 - **Goal:** Affordable, secure transportation for patients
 - **Progress:** NMC has established a new contract with a non-emergent, secure transportation company to provide door-to-door transportation beginning 6/18/18.
- **FY 2019:**
 - **Goal:** Reduced costs of non-emergent, secure transportation for Newton Medical Center patients requiring transfer to another healthcare facility or provider by 10% in Fiscal year 2019

- **Progress:** Newton Medical Center expanded cost effective transportation options for patients by working with local non-emergent transportation provider Simply Safe. Fee for the non-emergent trip demonstrated a 58% reduction in cost for the consumer.

- **FY 2020**

- **Goal:** To support ongoing success of the following : Maintain cost per ride reduction, serve as a pilot site for the Harvey County Volunteer Transportation program, Newton Private Duty staff providing transportation for their clients.
- **Progress:** Cost per ride remains steady with Simply Safe, Newton Private Duty staff providing transportation for their clients and the beginning of the ‘Find-A-Way’ program.

Future Plans: Transportation vouchers for the volunteer program, “Find-a-Way”, will be given to Newton Medical Center patients via Case Managers. Assurance of ongoing safe and cost-effective transportation will remain a focus for care of NMC patients.

New In Fiscal Year 2019

Newton Fire and EMS, Newton Police Department, Newton Medical Center, Newton Home Health and Prairie View are all integrated into the Para-medicine program with criteria established for screening with direct referrals to Prairie View.

FY 2020:

- **Goal:** To optimize this program and enhance collaboration with the new Chief of Fire and Emergency Management Services.
- **Progress:** With the addition of a Social Worker in the Emergency Department, referrals are being made more efficiently. Examples of resources referred to are long term care facilities, home health, skilled nursing and department of children and families. 96% of the Para-medicine referrals were contacted and services were provided based on need for FY 2020.

Future Plans: The Para-medicine program coordination will continue through the Emergency Department Social Worker.

Thank You

Questions and concerns about Newton Medical Center's Community Health Needs Assessment – Implementation Strategy Summary Report may be directed to the Department of Quality and Analytics via email to Sondra.leatherman@newtonmed.com.