



## *Eagleville Hospital*

### *Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan (FY 2023-2025)*

#### *Introduction*

Eagleville Hospital is a 347 bed, not-for-profit, behavioral healthcare facility specializing in comprehensive inpatient treatment for persons with substance use disorders and mental health disorders. The facility is a regional healthcare provider serving its home base of Montgomery County, neighboring Philadelphia, and the larger Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) region. Each year Eagleville Hospital serves over 4,500 patients. Two-thirds of the patient population suffers from opiate use disorder. Approximately 95 percent of our patient population is uninsured, underinsured, and publicly funded through county assistance, Medical Assistance, and Medicare. As an organization, we are committed to providing treatment to individuals of limited means and to supporting the health and well-being of persons seeking long term recovery.

#### *OUR MISSION*

Eagleville Hospital is a specialty health care facility dedicated to supporting the recovery of those who suffer from substance abuse, mental illness, and co-occurring disorders, including patients who are traditionally underserved.

This is accomplished with welcoming access to a continuum of care provided by competent professionals, trained in evidence-based best practices. Services are provided in multiple settings, including an acute psychiatric co-occurring unit, a specialized acute unit, a long term extended psychiatric unit, physician-directed medical detoxification services with 24 hour nursing coverage; and, short and moderate stay residential care programs, many equipped to treat patients with both substance use disorders and mental illness (co-occurring disorders).

#### *OUR CHARITY CARE POLICY*

Eagleville Hospital takes seriously its commitment to treat all patients in need of care, regardless of their ability to pay. Financial counselors assist patients in accessing Medicaid, Medicare and local county funding. If these efforts are not successful, charity care is extended to the patient to cover the full or partial expense of inpatient treatment and related charges. The Hospital's charity care application and related policy and procedures are posted on the facility's web site at [www.Eagleville.org](http://www.Eagleville.org).

## ***COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT – DATA COLLECTION***

For the FY 2023-2025 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan, Eagleville Hospital relied upon behavioral health data collected by the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and the Strategic Plan recently released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration for the four year period FY 2019 to FY 2023. Additionally, to ensure that our assessment and plan remain sensitive to the needs of our local community, we revisited planning documents prepared by Montgomery County, Pennsylvania officials. These include position papers highlighting Transitional Congregate Living Expectations and Residential Services Transformation. For future community health planning, we remain committed to working closely with community leaders to enhance and expand opportunities for reducing the impact of addiction and improving the overall mental health of our community.

## ***SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – PRIORITY COMMUNITY NEEDS***

### *2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented funding, technical assistance, and regulatory waivers are being advanced to combat the country's opioid epidemic. Despite these efforts challenges remain. Based on results from the 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that 59.3 million people aged 12 or older used an illicit drug in the past year. Illicit drug use is driven primarily by marijuana use and the misuse of prescription pain relievers.

An estimated 9.5 million Americans reported misuse of prescription opioids, nearly 902,000 reporting use of heroin. More than 91,000 died from an opioid overdose in 2020, approximately 249 people each day. That number continues to grow with the proliferation of highly potent synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and amidst rising rates of hospital emergency department visits and the birth of more infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome. The highest death rates were reported in California, Pennsylvania, Florida and Ohio. According to the Department of Health, preliminary data reports 5,326 lives were lost to an overdose in Pennsylvania in 2021, with 1,274 reported deaths in Philadelphia.

Additional findings from the same 2020 National Survey point to a more troubling public health data on mental health. In 2020, 52.9 million people suffered from a mental illness in the past year and during the same timeframe over 14.2 million people suffered from serious mental illness. These individuals often have multiple emotional disorders, including co-occurring substance use disorders, and are at substantial risk for homelessness, criminal justice involvement, and suicide. Further federal study noted the disappointing finding that these same individuals were not receiving comprehensive, integrated care to address multiple treatment needs and the social determinants of health impeding their recovery. In addition, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

has affected the availability of services and the modes of mental health service delivery further compromising access to critical resources.

The SAMHSA Strategic Plan for FY 2019-2023 set forth a roadmap to address five over-arching priority areas:

- Priority 1: Combating the Opioid Crisis through the expansion of prevention, treatment and recovery support services;
- Priority 2: Addressing serious mental illness (SMI) and serious emotional disturbances;
- Priority 3: Advancing Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support for Substance Use (including alcohol and other drug use);
- Priority 4: Improving Data Collection, Analysis, Dissemination, and Program Evaluation; and,
- Priority 5: Strengthening Health Practitioner Training and Education.

#### Local Community Assessment of Behavioral Health Needs

Where the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and three other states lead the nation in drug overdose deaths, Eagleville Hospital's home base of Montgomery County ranks among the top in the nation for prescription overdoses and heroin deaths.

Drug overdose deaths are a leading contributor to premature death and are largely preventable. Currently, the United States continues experiencing an epidemic of drug overdose deaths at an unprecedented rate. Since 2000, the rate of drug overdose deaths has increased by 137% nationwide. Opioids contribute largely to drug overdose deaths; since 2000, there has been a 200% increase in deaths involving opioids (opioid pain relievers and heroin).

Over the past 5 years County officials and Human Service Administrators called to action a multi-disciplinary "Overdose Task Force" to study its impact and determine the most effective means to educate the public; provide outreach; improve access to treatment; dispense naloxone to reverse overdose; and engage hospitals, behavioral health providers, and law enforcement in intervention strategies to combat the epidemic. Among many community needs, two priorities were identified that fell within the scope and responsibilities of 24-hour detoxification and residential care providers, including Eagleville Hospital. These involved initiatives to:

- 1) Establish referral protocols to improve immediate access to treatment for the overdose survivor presenting in hospital emergency rooms (Priority 6); and,

- 2) Utilize professionally trained engagement specialists or certified recovery peer support individuals to assist clients and family members in crisis (Priority 7).

Additionally a priority need pertaining to advancing co-occurring treatment in residential treatment settings was identified and continues to remain a major focus of treatment today. That priority statement is:

- 3) Establish standards for evidence-based treatment programs for the client with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. (Priority 8)

### ***IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES (FY 2023-2025)***

1. Combat the opioid crisis through the expansion of treatment and recovery support services.

Rationale: Consumer-friendly access to care coupled with peer support and reduced financial barriers will improve access to treatment. Increased evening and weekend hours for Intake and Assessment will further motivate individuals and family members to seek treatment. For substance use disorder (SUD) patients presenting to area emergency departments, continued engagement through a warm-hand off process area will result in more immediate referral for formal treatment. (Priorities 1, 6 & 7).

#### Objectives:

- a. Continue to ensure that the neediest are served and supported by offering access to financial counseling for medical assistance applications.
  - b. Address all barrier to improve access and facilitate the requirements for the Intake and Assessment function approved for Montgomery County residents seeking evening and weekend access to evaluation and treatment. In addition to the expansion of hours, the hospital will advance partnerships with community access sites in addition to the support of growing transportation needs.
  - c. Actively partner with outside organizations to foster the warm hand-off process immediately upon admission to Eagleville Hospital.
  - d. Advance the organizational strategic direction to support expansion of services in the areas of supportive housing, primary care and outpatient treatment.
  - e. Continue to designate an engagement specialist or a supervised peer support specialist to conduct assessments of patients presenting in crisis at area emergency departments.
2. Address serious mental illness (SMI) in concert with Substance Use Disorder treatment as a best practice.

Rationale: More substance use disorder patients are presenting with serious emotional disorders requiring advancements in the intensity and scope of care. Treatment outcomes are improved when the assessment and treatment of Mental Illness/Emotional Disorders and Opiate Use Disorder or other Substance Use Disorders occur simultaneously and by professionals trained in co-occurring

principles. Educational resources and technical assistance will be beneficial to the system of care. (Priorities 2, 4 & 8).

Objectives:

- f. Implement a partnership with an identified third party organization to provide evidence based practices that actively engage patients in their individualized treatment plan, measure and manage outcomes during and post inpatient discharge and provide benchmarking strategies for advancing treatment modalities specific to the community served.
- g. Continue to partner with SAMHSA's Clinical Support System for Serious Mental Illness (SMI) as a source for internal education and clinical supervision.
- h. Promote engagement in the state-mandated thirty-hour educational program on Co-occurring Core Competency for Eagleville Hospital staff and the external professional community.
- i. Advance the use of evidence-based practices by assisting the County's COD Collaborative in program evaluation, standard development, and through technical assistance provided by Magellan Behavioral Health.

Strengthening Health Practitioner Training and Education

Rationale: The impact of COVID-19 has had an unprecedented effect on the healthcare labor market. This paradigm shift has created a shortage of professionals and para-professionals entering the field of behavioral health, coupled with low retention, threaten the quality of care and the expansion of resources required to meet increasing needs of the healthcare system. Collaboration among health care providers, graduate school programs, and professional certification bodies is needed to attract and retain a more skilled workforce. (Priorities 3 & 5)

Objectives:

- j. Continue to host free or low cost professional conferences and seminars in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB), the Montgomery County Behavioral Health Administration, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and local law enforcement professionals.
- k. Provide internships and scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students and existing employees seeking degrees in nursing, social work and counseling from area colleges, building an internal pipeline of candidates committed to the field while supporting the furtherance of retention.
- l. Expand the current level of clinical integration with local academic partnerships involving medical students and residency programs.

*ADOPTION AND APPROVAL OF CHNA/IMPLEMENTATION PLAN*

The Board of Directors of Eagleville Hospital acknowledges the priorities identified in the Community Health Needs Assessment and approves the Implementation Strategies as they are in keeping with our mission and charitable purpose.

---

Victor Lidz, Ph.D.  
Chair, Eagleville Hospital

Approved:

- Eagleville Hospital Board of Directors  
September 2022