INTRODUCTION
Based on the findings of the community health needs assessment, an implementation plan has been developed to address key community health needs in our primary market of Macon County and secondary surrounding counties.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT
Results of the completed community health needs assessment survey were shared among the participants of the focus group. The process of developing an implementation strategy was included in the hospital’s annual strategic planning process to ensure alignment was established with the hospital’s core objectives and resources allocated appropriately.

MAJOR HEALTH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES
Valuable input from a community health needs assessment survey and focus group surveys provided primary data for the assessment. Secondary data was provided by the City of Decatur, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Macon County Health Department, Illinois Department of Public Health, U.S. Census bureau and more.

Upon completion of the community health needs assessment, focus group and analysis of secondary data, the top three health needs were identified:

1. **Access to Primary Care Physicians** (e.g., family doctors)
2. **Access to Medical Specialists** (e.g., cardiologists, pulmonologists, urologists)
3. **Access to Mental Health Providers and Services**

Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services is important for increasing the quality of life for everyone. It impacts an individual’s overall physical, social and mental health status. Furthermore, prevention of disease and disability and early detection and treatment of health conditions can be attributed to access to primary care physicians. Survey respondents feel strongly that access to primary care physicians (e.g., family doctor), access to medical specialists (e.g., cardiologists, pulmonologists, urologists) and access to mental health providers and services are the top unmet needs in Macon County. Additional identified needs include (continued)
access to addiction support services and access to safe neighborhoods. Secondary data confirms these concerns. Major community health needs are documented in greater detail in the DMH Community Health Needs Assessment 2019—2021 report.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS
The following strategies have been developed to address the identified top three health needs of the community.

1. Access to Primary Care Physicians
Access to primary care physicians is vital to our community members. Primary care physicians are generally the entryway into the healthcare system. This leads to prevention of disease and disability, detection and treatment of health conditions, better quality of life, preventable death and a greater life expectancy. DMH actively works to increase access to primary care physicians through recruitment and strong collaborative relationships.

Recruitment Effort
Activity: DMH and the DMH Medical Group will proactively recruit primary care physicians and advanced practitioner providers (ie. Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants) to join the DMH Medical Group.

Goal: The DMH Medical Group will recruit 2-3 additional primary care providers to the service area by 2021. Primary care providers may include internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and/or OB/GYN physicians, as well as nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

Collaborative Effort
Activity: DMH and the DMH Medical Group will continue to collaborate with local and regional healthcare organizations to improve primary care access for all age groups throughout DMH’s primary and secondary service areas.

Goals:
1. Partner with SIU School of Medicine in expanding DMH’s rural primary care clinic hours of operations and services in Arthur, Shelbyville, Monticello and Sullivan.
2. Continue to partner with the two existing Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in the primary service (continued)
area, Crossing Healthcare FQHC and SIU School of Medicine’s FQHC, to increase on-campus patient visit volumes by 3—5% by 2021.

3. DMH will partner with SIU School of Medicine and Springfield Clinic in establishing a comprehensive regional Diabetes Center, staffed with endocrinologists, diabetic educators, pharmacists and nurse practitioners. Diabetes Center will be open in late 2019/early 2020.

2. **Access to Medical Specialists**

In an effort to maintain and grow appropriate healthcare services, DMH continues to recruit providers in a variety of specialties and collaborates with other healthcare organizations to increase care options for the community. DMH fully understands and supports the need to offer care locally. DMH has invested in specialty services to ensure the availability of high quality care close to home for its patients. With a medical staff of nearly 350 providers, DMH offers 45+ specialties.

**Action:** DMH will continue to provide a comprehensive continuum of medical specialty services to meet the growing healthcare needs of the communities served. Additionally, DMH will collaborate with other regional healthcare providers to ensure access to specialty services within the primary service area.

**Goals:**

1. DMH will increase medical sub-specialty services access through physician recruitment efforts, expanding office hours for certain sub-specialties, collaboration with other regional healthcare providers, and/or implementing virtual technology healthcare applications, (i.e. Telehealth, virtual health visits, e-visits).

2. Increase specialty visits by 10% by 2021

3. **Access to Mental Health Providers and Services**

On Oct. 1, 2015, DMH opened a 20-bed geriatric psychiatry unit. With a mission is to improve the mental health of individuals ages 55 and older in central Illinois, the unit provides quality mental health services with staff who are educated on the most current treatment interventions for both patients and their families. The direct admission process

(continued)
prevents patients from experiencing long wait times in emergency rooms when suffering from confusion, depression or other forms of mental illness. The unit’s staff work with a team of experts composed of psychiatrists, hospitalists, medical specialists, nutritionists, physical, occupational and speech therapists to provide a multidisciplinary team approach. The unit is staffed 24 hours seven days a week with registered nurses. Two licensed social workers and a certified recreational therapist are also on staff. Discharged patients have the opportunity to attend DMH’s intensive outpatient program for continued care.

**Action:** DMH will provide specific educational information to area providers on mental health issues impacting seniors age 55 and older and how providers can easily make a referral to the program. All assessments are free regardless if the patient is admitted to the program. Typically, individuals will actively participate in group therapy session for 3-6 months depending on individual needs. All patients in the program are seen for medication management by a psychiatrist on a monthly basis.

**Goals:**

1. Increase awareness of the intensive outpatient program and provide both morning and afternoon group sessions.
2. Consistently run at 80% capacity
3. Hire additional providers to provide medication management to discharged patients in area nursing homes.