**About Asher Community Health Center**

**Who We Are:**
Asher Community Health Center serves frontier-rural Wheeler County with three locations (the main clinic and two satellite clinics – including a school-based healthcare center)

**Who We Serve:**
- 1024 patients (825 medical + 199 dental)
- Our service area covers our county, which is 1713 sq. mi.; population 1,387 (pop. 2017)

**Services Provided:**
Asher Community Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health center, offering both Medical and Dental services.

**Quick Facts:**
ACHC is the only medical facility in Wheeler County. All emergency ground transports by one of our three ambulance services are an average of 2-hour excursions (one-way).

**Teamwork Efforts**
The key to implementing any new or untested program is to have a great team all working toward the same goal – our patients come first and we work together to make sure that’s the #1 priority.

**Social Needs Screening Goals**
It is increasingly recognized that improving health and achieving health equity requires addressing the social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health and wellbeing. These factors are referred to as the social determinants of health. Our health center is actively working to better understand and address the social determinants of health that impact our patients and our communities.

**Findings**

**UNDERSTANDING OUR PATIENTS’ SOCIAL NEEDS**
Based on our screening efforts using the PREPARE tool, we found that the most common social risks for our patients are:
1. Financial Strain – Positive response in 52%
2. Housing Insecurity – Positive Response in 31%
3. Food Insecurity – Positive response in 29%
4. Stress – Positive Response in 17%

**SDH and HTN**
The following compares our ACHC patients with Hypertension (HTN), and their responses for four of the Social Determinants of Health (SDH) screenings.
- 102 patients screened for SDH in last 12 months
- Of those 102, those also diagnosed as having HTN
  - 33% positive for Financial Strain
  - 15% positive for Housing Insecurity
  - 9% positive for Social Isolation
  - 9% positive for Stress Risk

**Health Center Response to Social Needs**
Understanding patient’s social needs is at the foundation of the health center movement. That began in the 1960s War Against Poverty. Since then health centers have strived to improve whole-person care beyond the medical visit. Yet this work takes staff time, resources, and space to ensure it is done thoughtfully.

**Health Center Interventions**
April 2018 – In response to our patient’s needs and health-condition demographics, ACHC held a Wheeler County Health Fair and Screening event that allowed for 70 people to have Life Line Screening (LLS) plus 63 people had an additional targeted screening by our ACHC staff – and all at NO COST to the attendee. This event provided self-help material to Care for many of our patients.

The LLS process included screening for: Cardiologist Artery Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Osteoporosis. The ACHC process included checking and education on: Blood pressure, A1C, blood sugar, Cholesterol, BMI (weight & height), Nutritional education.

**Community Partnerships with ACHC**

- Wheeler County Public Health with Tobacco Cessation
- LCAC with Veggie RX
- Community Counseling Solutions with counseling info CASA
- GOBHI
- CAPECO
- DHS Aging & People with Disabilities

**More ACHC Partnerships**

- BP Outreach 2020
- The 2nd stage to the Health Fair & LLS is a 2020 Hypertension & Blood Pressure program
- Oregon Chapter of American College of Cardiology
- American Heart Association
- "Check-Change-Control"

**Next Steps**
Our biggest challenge has been getting the information we want and need from our electronic health records reporting options. We are a small frontier rural clinic and don’t have an IT department. Training has been hard to access and this has been a definite barrier to our implementation of data gathered; and implementation of gathering patients’ SDH screenings. In other words, we can put the data in, but we can’t seem to get it back out in the ways that are most helpful to us.

It is a learning curve, and we are slowly making progress.

**Contact Information**
The healthcare environment is rapidly changing in recognition of the importance factors such as a person’s home, job, and/or education play in improving health outcomes. We know these social factors are critical for many of our patients and strive to better understand the role of social context for each patient’s treatment plan, but also to advocate for needed systems change to achieve better population health.

For opportunities for partnership, please reach out to: Asher Community Health Center, 712 Jay Street-PO Box 307, Fossil, Oregon 97830 ~ Visit our website: AsherHealth.net