



Eagleville Hospital

Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan (FY 2026-2028)

Introduction

Eagleville Hospital is a 333 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 medical unit focused on wounds and IV antibiotics, 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 related policies and procedures are posted on the facility's web site at www.Eagleville.org.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT – DATA COLLECTION

For the FY 2026-2028 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan, Eagleville Hospital relied upon behavioral health data collected by the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and the Strategic Plan recently released by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration for the period 2023 to 2026. Additionally, to ensure that our assessment and plan remain sensitive to the needs of our local community, we reviewed planning documents prepared by Montgomery County officials including the County’s published Community Health Assessment. 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

2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented funding, technical assistance, and regulatory waivers were advanced to combat the country’s opioid epidemic. Despite these efforts, challenges remain in the post-pandemic environment. Based on results from the 2024 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that 64.2 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.

Serious mental illness, substance abuse, addiction, and their related health and social impacts such as overdose and suicide continue to be dynamic and evolving. With the ready availability of illicitly made fentanyl and other potent synthetic opioids such as nitazenes, xylazine, medetomidine and polysubstance abuse, Americans face an illicit drug supply that is more toxic, unpredictable and dangerous than ever. In addition, the proliferation of social media and other technology that has inundating American’s youth, coupled with other social stressors in homes and communities across the Nation, have contributed to a declining mental health and rising rates of suicide.

In 2024, 61.5 million people suffered from a mental illness in the past year and during the same timeframe over 14.6 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 2023-2026 set forth a roadmap to address six over-arching priority areas:

- **Priority 1**: Preventing substance misuse, abuse and addiction;
- **Priority 2**: Addressing serious mental illness;
- **Priority 3**: Expanding crisis intervention care and services;
- **Priority 4**: Improving access to evidence-based treatments for mental illness, substance use and co-occurring disorders;
- **Priority 5**: Assisting individuals achieve long-term recovery and sobriety
- **Priority 6**: Identifying and addressing emerging behavioral health threats

Local Community Assessment of Needs

Where the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is among ten states that lead the nation in drug overdose deaths, the Hospital supports services to over 30 counties within the Commonwealth, with over 50% of the Hospitals annual patient days represented by Philadelphia County. In 2024 Eagleville Hospital's home base of Montgomery County observed a decline in overdose deaths from its peak in 2020.

Montgomery County has identified three priorities from the 2025 Community Health Survey:

1. Addressing Mental Health (37.9%)
2. Managing Chronic Disease (31.9%)
3. Improving Environmental safety (29.6%)

Mental illness and substance use conditions are part of the chronic disease crisis plaguing our nation. Research has demonstrated that substance misuse and early health risk behaviors take root during childhood and adolescence. These behaviors are linked closely to risk for chronic disease, addiction and mental illness later in life and contribute to a significant proportion of the health and social costs associated with chronic disease. This paradigm shift has demonstrated a rapid change in the need to advance the Hospital's treatment protocols and necessary advancements in training and education of staff. Additionally, advancing co-occurring treatment in our residential treatment setting continues to remain a major focus of treatment today.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES (FY 2026-2028)

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

Rationale: Consumer-friendly access to care coupled with peer support and reduced financial barriers continue to improve access to treatment. The organization has established 24-hour access for intake and assessment to further motivate individuals and family members to seek timely 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 referrals for formal treatment. (Priorities 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).

Objectives:

- a. Continue to address barriers to improve access for local county residents seeking evening and weekend access for evaluation and treatment. In addition to the expansion of hours, the hospital will continue to promote further engagement with community access sites.
 - b. Actively partner with outside organizations to foster the warm hand-off process immediately upon admission to Eagleville Hospital.
 - c. Advance the organizational strategic direction to support expansion of integrated services in the areas of supportive housing, primary care and employment. Currently 76% of the Hospital's population is unemployed and over 50% do not have housing.
 - d. Continue to ensure that the neediest are served and supported by offering access to financial counseling for medical assistance applications.
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 and medical disorders requiring further 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. Ongoing educational resources and technical assistance will be beneficial to the system of care. (Priorities 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).

Objectives:

- a. Continue the advancement of evidence based practices that actively engage patients in their individualized treatment plan, measure and manage outcomes during post inpatient discharge and provide benchmarking strategies for advancing treatment modalities specific to the community served.
- b. Promote engagement in the state-mandated thirty-hour educational program on Co-occurring Core Competency for Eagleville Hospital staff and the external professional community.

3. 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, which when coupled with low retention, threatens 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, 4 & 6)

Objectives:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Promote state funded scholarships, grants and loan forgiveness programs designed to maintain longevity within the recovery field.
- d. Continue to expand the current level of clinical integration with local academic partnerships involving medical students and residency programs which include the following partners – Temple, Penn, Jefferson, Montgomery County Community College, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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.

James Baker
Chair, Eagleville Hospital

Approved:

- Eagleville Hospital Board of Directors
September 2025