

Hospital District to Conduct Community Health Needs Assessment For Immediate Release

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Muenster Memorial Hospital takes its job of caring for the community very seriously. The role of the hospital and its affiliates is to help people live healthier, happier lives, by providing needed health services to the area.

Typically, hospitals do a pretty good job of predicting what types of services people need. But many hospitals want to hear it directly from the members of the community they serve. To accomplish this, Muenster Hospital District will be conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment, utilizing various focus groups, in early April.

One goal of a Community Health Needs Assessment is to identify local health-related issues that the hospital and others in the surrounding communities can work together to address. For example, an assessment may reveal that many low-income kids aren't up-to-date on their shots. A hospital and its community partners might then develop a program that helps parents pay for vaccines.

Muenster Memorial Hospital's assessment will also focus on local healthcare resources and what residents would like to see offered in the way of service expansion and improvement. How do you, as residents of the Muenster Hospital District, envision the future of healthcare in Cooke County, and more specifically, in this district, over the next 3-5 years?

It's our turn

MMH is now preparing to begin their CHNA. In the weeks ahead, the hospital will be gathering information and seeking opinions from area residents and organizations, including those with expertise in public health.

"We want to better understand the health needs of those in our community and determine how we can make a difference in meeting those needs," explained Brian Roland, Chief Executive Officer of Muenster Memorial.

The hospital has selected residents from across the district – Muenster, Myra, Rosston, Marysville and Era – asking for an hour of their time to provide feedback to the District. This will be done in six different meetings over three days, with an independent moderator leading the process.

"Once we have that information, we'll prioritize it," Roland said. "Then, with our community partners, we'll develop ways to address what we've found. We believe that if we work together, we can help

improve the well-being and quality of life of people in our area. What's more, we'll do it in a way that uses resources, including money, wisely and efficiently.”

The hospital plans to summarize the information from the assessment in a written report that will be available to all residents of the hospital district when complete.

“We'll monitor and track our progress as we put what we've learned into practice. It will be an ongoing process,” Roland stated. “We hope our efforts show our commitment to you and the entire community—and that everyone will reap the rewards.”

For more information on the MMH Community Health Needs Assessment, or if you might be interested in participating in a focus group, contact Gayla Blanton, Director of Marketing for MMH, at 759-6139.

All we require is an hour of your time and a willingness to speak openly and honestly,” said Blanton.

Those who have received letters of invitation are asked to respond quickly, in order to allow adequate time to finalize the groups and meeting schedule.