

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2025 - 2027



OUR MISSION, OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS, AND OUR PLAN

Our Mission

Reedsburg Area Medical Center, always there, going beyond the expected to provide compassionate, quality and efficient health care.

Our Plan

Every three years Reedsburg Area Medical Center (RAMC) will join with other community leaders and organizations to effectively evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities which impact the lives of our community members. The objective of this evaluation is to establish clear and definable goals related to the overall health of Sauk County residents. This evaluation has several vital steps that include data collection, data assessment, assessment development, and implementation planning. This document is specifically addressing the implementation plan. The Community Health Needs Assessment can be located at ramchealth.com.

RAMC will continue to work with other key stakeholders/partners in addressing the three (3) priorities that were identified as the greatest needs for Sauk County. Through the process of developing the Community Health Needs Assessment RAMC engaged a number of representations from the following organizations/entities to assist in the identification and development of the Community Health Needs Assessment:

Marina Wittmann, Aging & Disability Resource Center, Rainey Briggs, Baraboo School District, Ed Geick, Former Baraboo City Administrator, Jen Baird, Ho-Chunk Nation, Michelle Sampere, Ho-Chunk Nation, Haley Weisert, Pathway Home of South Central WI, Wendy Schneider, Pathway Home of South Central WI, Angela Witczak, Pathway Home of South Central WI, Siobhan Allen, Public Health Sauk County, Sara Jesse, Public Health Sauk County, Jodie Molitor, Public Health Sauk County, Jessie Phalen, Public Health Sauk County, Jennifer Weitzel, Public Health Sauk County, Kate Hansen, Public Health Sauk County, Hannah Erdman, Public Health Sauk County, Rebecca Szydlowski, Public Health Sauk County, Taylor Fish, Public Health Sauk County, Jill Quinn, Public Health Sauk County, Julie Jaech, Public Health Sauk County, Kelly Koch, Public Health Sauk County, Treemanisha Stewart, Public Health Sauk County, Brian Duvalle, City of Reedsburg, Carey Craker, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Emily Herritz, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Ken Carlson, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, Brenda Humbracht, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, Errin Wellman, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, Jeff Wright, Sauk Prairie School District, Tywana German, Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Megan Timm, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital, Tammie Jamiska, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital, Heather Sloan, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital, Claudie Jamison, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital and Danielle Sander, UW Extension.

RAMC will continue to work with representatives from these organizations/entities to implement actions addressed in the Community Health Needs Assessment.

OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Community Health Needs Assessment identified three (3) specific areas of health needs in Sauk County. Even though RAMC may not be able to provide leadership in changing all of the areas, members of the Sauk County Wellness Coalition team will work with other Sauk County entities or leaders to address each of the areas.

RAMC will utilize the Community Health Needs Assessment to assist in the development of the organization's strategic planning process. To assist in the evaluation and implementation process RAMC is addressing the following priorities:

PRIORITY 1 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Across Wisconsin, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions¹.

ACTION PLAN

- Develop coordinated and collaborative action plans to address affordable housing. Engage community leaders to commit resources towards health improvement based on the assessment that includes affordable housing.
- Continue to collaborate with the Sauk County Housing Action team developing strategies and resources.

PRIORITY 2 – MENTAL HEALTH

Mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. Just as diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are medical conditions that often result in a diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life. Mental illnesses can affect persons of any age, race, religion or income. Mental illnesses are not the result of a personal weakness, lack of character or poor upbringing². 1 in 4 of Sauk County adults

¹ National Low Income Housing Coalition: <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/wisconsin>

² NAMI|Wisconsin: <https://namiwisconsin.org/resources/about-mental-illness/>

have been told by a health professional that they had depression. Currently in Sauk County, the ratio of population to mental health providers is 510:1³.

ACTION PLAN

- Continue to develop the Behavioral Health Program here at RAMC adding more counseling, psychiatric and psychological resources.
- Collaborate with Sauk County Health & Wellness Coalition to continue provide mental health first aid training in our service area
- Collaborate with Sauk County Public Health to provide Suicide-Prevention training to staff and community members to increase knowledge of mental health issues in our area.
- Enhance countywide collaborations to increase awareness, education, treatment and pre-event intervention with organizations including Farmer Angel Network, Rural Safety Days and Sauk County Partnership for Prevention and Recovery.
- Collaborate with community partners on health initiatives affecting mental health including Boys and Girls Clubs programming, community mental health forums and school district mindfulness programming.
- Utilize the already existing suicide prevention coalition to increase suicide prevention awareness targeting the rural farmer communities.
- Provide coping tools for those struggling with the effects of drugs or alcohol in their lives by pairing them up with resources already available in our community.

PRIORITY 3 – Substance Use

In Sauk County, 15% of adults are current cigarette smokers. 25% of adults reported binge/excessive drinking. 34% of motor vehicle crash deaths involved alcohol. There were 44 visits to the Emergency Room for Opioid Overdoses and there were 1.5 Heroin deaths, 4.6 Prescription Opioid deaths and 16.7 Synthetic Opioid deaths per 100,000 people.⁴

ACTION PLAN

- Increase community awareness, promote current resources available, and collaborate with community partners to determine which social determinants of health are most affecting Sauk County community members.
- Partner with Sauk County Public Health to promote initiatives that address substance abuse, including those directed toward minors.

³ County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

⁴ Wisconsin Department of Health Services: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/>

