

Community Needs Implementation Strategy

Petersburg Medical Center

2015

Needs Identified

The following items were identified as areas of interest during the Community Needs Assessment conducted in 2015.

- Support of community members impacted by cancer
- Wellness programs for those community members dealing with mental illness
- Supporting victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Access to care for those left without Medicaid insurance

Support of Community Members Impacted by Cancer

The Petersburg Cancer Support Group was formed as an anonymous, unstructured, and free gathering of people impacted by cancer, whether as a patient or as someone supporting a loved one with cancer. The group meets twice monthly and discusses topics dealing with grief, fear, loss, hope, and advice from doctors and hospitals. PMC also partners with the Beat the Odds race event to help raise money to assist cancer patients with financial support for treatments and travel.

Wellness Program for Mental Illness

Petersburg currently has a Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration (PBHCI) program to assist residents dealing with mental illness and ensure they have access to the behavioral health and primary care services they require. The services provided by PBHCI include prevention and screening, behavioral health services, and wellness programs.

Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE) is a non-profit group formed to advocate for victims of violence. WAVE participates in education sessions in the schools, community outreach, and maintains an office available for drop-in help and a 24/7 crisis line that connects callers with an advocate during non-business hours. PMC will be working with WAVE through the SHARE coalition and assisting as needed.

Access to Care for those without Medicaid insurance

Because the State of Alaska does not accept the Medicaid expansion in late 2013, many residents who did not qualify for supplemental insurance were left uninsured. Petersburg Medical Center will be reworking our charity care package as well as offering payment plan options, and discount rates if an account is paid on time and in full.