

Community Needs Implementation Strategy

Petersburg Medical Center

2018

Needs Identified

The following items were identified as areas of interest during the Community Needs Assessment conducted in 2017.

- New facility or remodel of existing facility
- Scope of services offered, specifically obstetrics
- Exploring Affiliation
- Decreasing substance abuse in the community

New Facility or remodel of existing facility

While the need for a new facility or the remodel of Petersburg Medical Center's existing facility is apparent, at this time there is no available source of funding to proceed. PMC will continue to engage the public on this topic through public forums, communication via the local newspaper and social media, and open meetings when and if PMC is able to start moving forward with this need. A financial feasibility study is currently under way to assess the hospital's ability to finance a replacement facility.

Scope of Services

A desire for obstetric care was identified for our community. However, initial analysis indicates that it would not be cost effective for Petersburg Medical Center to offer these services. Additionally, our current staff is not trained up to OB standards. PMC has instead partnered with PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center in Ketchikan, Alaska and Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, Alaska to provide OB and delivery services for our patients.

Another area of interest for scope of services that was identified is diabetic care. We have implemented a process to increase our number of monofilament foot testing, streamlined our tracking of diabetic patients, and will be contracting with a diabetes educator from Bartlett Regional Hospital to make regular visits to PMC to provide education to our diabetic population.

Exploring Affiliation

Petersburg Medical Center and the Board have explored options related to affiliating our facility with a parent organization. At this time we have determined that it is in the best interests of our patients and our employees to remain an independent organization. Revisiting this idea at a future date is a possibility.

Decreasing Substance Abuse in the Community

Substance abuse in Petersburg is an important issue just as it is across the rest of the nation. Petersburg Medical Center is an active participant in the Supporting Health Awareness and Resiliency Education (SHARE) Coalition. PMC tracks opioid medications prescribed by our physicians on a monthly basis and presents this data to the Coalition. The local police department has made available a drug disposal bin for the public to safely dispose of unwanted prescription medications. PMC will continue to work with the Coalition moving forward and explore additional strategies for reducing the use of opioids and other illicit substances in our community.