

# **FORT LOUDOUN MEDICAL CENTER**

## **2024-2026 COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

#### **Identified Community Needs:**

1. Substance Abuse Disorder
2. Mental Health Access
3. Chronic Disease Management
4. Smoking and Vaping
5. Improving Access to Healthcare

#### **Implementation Strategy to Address Needs:**

##### **1. Substance Abuse Disorder**

###### **Peninsula Drug Treatment Program**

- Peninsula, a department of Covenant Health, provides an outpatient Opioid Treatment Center and other substance abuse programs.
- East Tennessee Behavioral Health, a partnership between Covenant Health and Acadia Healthcare, Inc., provides another option for substance abuse treatment.
- Fort Loudoun Medical Center participates in tracking referrals to ensure patients with substance abuse disorder receive the most appropriate and most timely transfer from the Emergency Department.

###### **Opioid Lite Program**

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center's Emergency Department is participating in a Covenant Health system-wide initiative to curb the use of hospital-prescribed opioids. Physicians are prescribing non-opioid drugs when indicated for pain management, both during treatment and upon discharge from the hospital.
- Fort Loudoun Medical Center will work in conjunction with other community resources, including the McNabb Center, Loudon County Health Department and The Prevention Alliance of Loudon County to address opioid-related issues.

##### **2. Mental Health Access**

###### **Behavioral Health Services Expansion**

- Psychiatric consult service is now being provided for patients in the Emergency Department and for inpatients at Fort Loudoun Medical Center via tele-video through Peninsula Behavioral Health as well as remote mobile crisis resources.

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center has access to Covenant Health’s Emergency Department Diversion Program for patients with psychiatric and emotional needs. A team of behavioral specialists conducts a behavioral assessment for each patient to determine the correct treatment plan. This program includes a psychiatric consult service via tele-video through Peninsula Behavioral Health as well as remote Mobile Crisis. The Emergency Department Diversion program assists in placement to an inpatient facility if deemed appropriate and provides follow-up for outpatient treatment if the patient is discharged from the Emergency Department.
- Peninsula Outpatient has an office located on the campus of Fort Loudoun Medical Center.
- East Tennessee Behavioral Health, a partnership between Covenant Health and Acadia Healthcare, Inc., provides an additional option for mental health services and treatment.
- Fort Loudoun Medical Center participates in tracking of referrals to ensure patients needing behavioral services receive the most appropriate and most timely transfer from the Emergency Department.

### **3. Chronic Disease Management**

#### **Pulmonary Outreach Programs**

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center is offering a pulmonary rehab program that addresses Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Post-COVID Syndrome. This program is grant-funded under certain circumstances. Information is given to medical providers for community members who would benefit from the program.

#### **Community Stroke Support and Education**

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center will continue to promote and implement a community-wide stroke education program in Loudon County to improve and ensure awareness of stroke, stroke symptoms and the need for rapid treatment.
- Fort Loudoun Medical Center launched a stroke support group in 2023, which is another opportunity to continue both patient and family education, as well as connect patients with appropriate services.
- Fort Loudoun Medical Center implemented an Educational Series in 2023 that delivers content to nearby communities.

#### **Expanded Parkinson’s Disease Therapeutic Services**

- Fort Loudoun Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic plans to secure BIG and LOUD certification for selected therapists to expand specialized therapy options for patients with Parkinson’s disease.

### **4. Smoking and Vaping**

#### **Vaping Impact Program**

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center collaborated with Fort Loudoun Primary Care to launch smoking cessation education for Emergency Department patients. Fort Loudoun Primary Care providers offer appointments to assess patient for potential medical management during smoking cessation.

#### **Smoking Cessation Education**

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center, in partnership with The Prevention Alliance of Loudon County, is co-developing education and prevention videos and other content for use in Loudon County Schools to reduce the incidence of vaping among students.

## Low-Dose CT Lung Cancer Screening

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center introduced Low-Dose CT Lung Cancer Screening in 2022. This technology allows qualifying patients to receive an annual screening, which can identify lung cancer at an earlier and more treatable stage.

## 5. Improving Access to Healthcare

- Fort Loudoun Medical Center will be adding an advanced medicine wing that will house additional patient rooms, an 11-bed Intensive Care/Intermediate Care unit, and respiratory and rehabilitation therapy. This will enable all-private rooms, encouraging more Loudon County patients to choose Fort Loudoun Medical Center for amenities such as room comfort and privacy while they receive care.
- The relocation of the existing Critical Care Unit (which will transition into the 11-bed ICU/IMC) will vacate space that will allow expanded Emergency Department capacity.
- Creative staffing initiatives such as the implementation of Patient Care Support Assistants, coupled with successful recruitment of Registered Nurses, have reduced the number of boarded patients in the Emergency Department, thereby encouraging patients to come to Fort Loudoun Medical Center for prompt emergency care. Improved efficiency has already resulted in additional patients being treated in our Emergency Department.
- We are implanting an *Eyes of the Consumer* council comprised of hospital staff, physicians, and selected community members to develop recommendations to improve processes, including access to care.
- Fort Loudoun Medical Center partnered with both Fort Loudoun Primary Care and an external agency to assist with transitions of care and to ensure assessment and monitoring after a patient is discharged.