

Community Health Improvement Implementation Plan

TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

Hamblen County, Tennessee

2026-2028

Photo Source: Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System



Overview

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process defines priorities for health improvement, creates a collaborative community environment to engage stakeholders, and develops an open and transparent process to listen and truly understand the health needs of the community served by Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System (Hamblen County, Tennessee).

Morristown-Hamblen's CHNA is available in a separate document: **2025 Hamblen County Community Health Needs Assessment**. Page 67 of the document provides a resource for the community to submit written input related to the 2025 CHNA and Implementation plan.

This document is the Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System (MHHS) **Implementation Plan**, which outlines how the hospital, along with collaborative partnerships throughout the community, plans to address significant health needs identified in the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment.

As designated by its Board of Directors, Covenant Health's Executive Leadership Team approved and adopted this Implementation Plan on **December 10, 2025**.

Starting on **December 15, 2025**, the CHNA and Implementation Plan are made widely available to the community via Morristown-Hamblen's website: <https://www.covenanthealth.com/morristown-hamblen/chna/>. Paper copies are available free of charge at Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System, 908 W. 4th St., Morristown, TN 37814, or by phone, 423-492-9000.

Community Health Improvement Implementation Plan 2026-2028

To successfully make our community healthier, it is necessary to have a collaborative venture which brings together care providers, citizens, government, schools, churches, not-for-profit organizations, and business and industry around an effective plan of action. A collaborative 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment was completed separately and is posted on Morristown-Hamblen's website.

Based on the results of the CHNA, Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System will address all four of the identified significant health needs:

- **Access to mental health resources**
- **Substance use prevention**
- **Healthy eating/active living to decrease chronic diseases**
- **Access to care – e.g., language barriers, providers**

Morristown-Hamblen plans to meet these significant health needs by:

1. Identifying the actions the hospital intends to take to address the significant health need
2. Anticipating the potential impact of these actions
3. Identifying any planned collaboration between the hospital facility and other facilities or organizations
4. Determining the programs and resources the hospital plans to commit toward addressing the health need

Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System – Hamblen County Community Health Improvement Plan

Significant Health Need: Access to Mental Health Resources

Goal 1: Increase awareness of community mental health resources

Objective 1: Increase Morristown-Hamblen's participation in mental health month, health fairs, and other events to spotlight mental health as opportunities arise

Actions	Target Populations	Anticipated Impact	Collaborators	Resources
Use the state's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) toolkit for community outreach resources	Those with depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues	Decrease stigma; highlight local resources	Peninsula Behavioral Health, Helen Ross McNabb, East Tennessee Behavioral Health	MHHS marketing/public relations to consistently link resources such as SAMSHA in content
Mental health information via community outreach events	Those with anxiety and depression	Decrease depression, poor mental health	Peninsula, Helen Ross McNabb, East Tennessee Behavioral Health	Provide mental health information at community health fairs, post blogs/articles related to mental health, stress relief, etc.

Goal 2: Cultivate resource sharing within eCare for physicians and providers

Objective 2: Support continuity of care

Share mental health information with primary care practices	Patients	Decrease stigma; provide additional resources	Primary care offices and Morristown-Hamblen hospital	Hospital to share mental health information and resources
Partner with mental health providers	Persons in the community who need mental health resources	Decrease stigma; provide additional resources	Peninsula, Helen Ross McNabb, East Tennessee Behavioral Health	Share mental health provider information at hospital

Goal 3: Provide mental health resources

Objective 3: Support liaison relationships in areas such as the Emergency Department

Disseminate mental health information via liaison(s) and community partners	Those with anxiety and and depression	Decrease depression, poor mental health	Peninsula, Helen Ross McNabb, East Tennessee Behavioral Health	Provide mental health information as needed for individualized plan of care plans
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Significant Health Need: Substance Use Prevention

Goal 1: Promote substance abuse awareness and provide education on substance misuse

Objective 4: Increase the community's knowledge of existing community resources

Actions	Target Populations	Anticipated Impact	Collaborators	Resources
Use the state's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) toolkit for community outreach resources	Community, recovery community	Reduce substance abuse and misuse	Peninsula, Helen Ross McNabb, East Tennessee Behavioral Health	MHHS marketing/public relations to consistently link resources such as SAMHSA in content
Disseminate substance abuse information via liaison(s) and ongoing education with staff	Substance users, community and family, staff	Reduce substance abuse and misuse	Peninsula, Helen Ross McNabb, East Tennessee Behavioral Health	Hospital to provide mental health information at community health fairs, post blogs/articles related to mental health, stress relief, etc.
Opioid Light Protocol	Patients	Reduce the amount of opioids prescribed	Providers	Evidence-based protocols
Continue promoting low-dose CT screening for lung cancer	Smokers and former smokers	Increase early detection of lung cancer	Providers	Marketing materials, physician referral information

Significant Health Need: Healthy Eating/Active Living and Food Security

Goal 1: Provide education on healthy eating

Objective 5: Provide resources on healthy eating

Actions	Target Populations	Anticipated Impact	Collaborators	Resources
Provide education for a healthy mindset around food such as smart strategies in the grocery aisles, making the most of frozen food, healthy back-to-school lunches, and balanced eating in a fast-paced world	Individuals and families who want to eat healthier	Increase the number of households that prioritize healthy eating	Grocery stores, schools, Morristown Landing Community Center, Health Department	MHHS registered dietitians, Health Department
Lunch and Learns about nutrition	Families and individuals with limited cooking experience	Improved food literacy and healthier meal choices	Hospital, Morristown Landing	MHHS registered dietitians, Health Department

Goal 2: Provide education on physical activity

Objective 6: Increase opportunities to be physically active

Provide athletic trainer to assist with resource use	Individuals and families wanting to be active	Increase physical activity	Morristown Landing Community Center	Morristown-Hamblen athletic trainer at Morristown Landing, other Morristown Landing resources
Publicize other free and low-cost public opportunities to be active	Individuals and families wanting to be active	Increase physical activity	Covenant Health's Population Health	Morristown Parks and Recreation

Significant Health Need: Access to Care – e.g., Language Barriers, Providers

Goal 1: Recruiting efforts for adequate providers and specialists in Hamblen County

Objective 7: Recruit Providers

Actions	Target Populations	Anticipated Impact	Collaborators	Resources
Support periodic Physician Needs Assessment to determine what physician specialties and numbers are needed to meet a population's healthcare requirements	Tracks current physicians/providers locally	Forecast need for population growth	Covenant Health	Census data
Recruit providers	Physicians and providers in areas identified through needs	Improved access for care available locally	Covenant Health and its joint ventures/community partners	Covenant Health recruiters, various external recruitment agencies considered as needed

Goal 2: Provide language interpreter services

Objective 7: Support and provide information about interpreter resources

Provide interpretation services	Any patient or companion needing communication assistance	Improved communication and understanding	Interpreters and interpreter services	Registration staff at MHHS and CMG practices, clinical staff and providers
Provide Spanish translations in key areas such as registration	Any patient or companion needing communication assistance	Improved communication and understanding	Interpreters and interpreter services	Registration staff at MHHS and CMG practices, clinical staff and providers

Goal 3: Ensure cancer patients receive resources to continue care

Objective 8: Remove barriers for underserved patient population

Encourage donations and fundraising for patients	Underserved patients in need through application process	Continuity of care and quality of life	Covenant Health Office of Philanthropy, hospital	Internal resources vary by patient/facility need
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