

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley

2019 Community Health Implementation Strategy



Table of Contents

- Adventist Health Overview 3
- Letter from the CEO 4
- Hospital Identifying Information 5
- Community Health Development Team 6
- Community Profile 7
- Community Health Needs Assessment Overview 8
- Identified Priority Needs from 2018 CHNA 9
- Identified Needs from CHNA, Not Addressed 13
- Making a difference: Evaluation of 2014-2016 CHP 14
- Strategic Partner List 15
- Community Benefit Inventory 16

Adventist Health Overview

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley is an affiliate of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit, integrated health system headquartered in Roseville, California. We provide compassionate care in more than 80 communities throughout California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington.



OUR MISSION:

Living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.

OUR VISION:

Adventist Health will be a recognized leader in mission focus, quality care and fiscal strength.

Adventist Health entities include:

- 20 hospitals with more than 3,200 beds
- More than 280 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics)
- 13 home care agencies and seven hospice agencies
- Four joint-venture retirement centers
- Compassionate and talented team of 35,000 which includes associates, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers.

We owe much of our heritage and organizational success to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has long been a promoter of prevention and whole person care. Inspired by our belief in the loving and healing power of Jesus Christ, we aim to bring physical, mental and spiritual health and healing to our neighbors of all faiths. Every individual, regardless of his/her personal beliefs, is welcome in our facilities. We are also eager to partner with members of other faiths to enhance the health of the communities we serve.

Our commitment to quality health care stems from our heritage, which dates back to 1866 when the first Seventh-day Adventist health care facility opened in Battle Creek, Michigan. There, dedicated pioneers promoted the “radical” concepts of proper nutrition, exercise and sanitation. Early on, the facility was devoted to prevention as well as healing. They called it a sanitarium, a place where patients—and their families—could learn to be well.

More than a century later, the health care system sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church circles the globe with more than 170 hospitals and more than 500 clinics, nursing homes and dispensaries worldwide. And the same vision to treat the whole person—mind, body and spirit—continues to provide the foundation for our progressive approach to health care.

Letter from the CEO



Dear Friends and Colleagues

When folks think of Adventist Health, it's likely they think only of the hospital. I can't blame them. Opening a state-of-the-art hospital in November 2018 in a rural community was a feat — especially during a time when rural hospitals across the nation are cutting services and, in many cases, shuttering altogether.

But Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley is more than just a hospital — we're a whole health provider that includes a network of medical offices offering primary care services in California City, Mojave and Tehachapi. That means we're here not only to treat you when you have an emergency, but also to provide preventive care. Our mission — "Living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope" — compels us to do just that. We're constantly seeking ways to expand our services to better serve our friends and neighbors.

Since opening, we've seen incredible growth. Emergency Department volumes have increased more than 30 percent, a sure sign that our community trusts us as its No. 1 health care provider. Almost 90 percent of patients surveyed said they would recommend Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley to others, well above the national average of 72 percent.

We've recognized a need for behavioral health services and hired a full-time licensed clinical social worker to work with patients on social determinants of health and provide a deeper level of care.

Our community should be proud of these accomplishments — after all, this is your hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Lingerfelt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Lingerfelt

President

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley

Hospital Identifying Information



Number of Beds: 25

Mailing Address: 1100 Magellan Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561

Contact Information: Harold Pierce, Communication Manager; 661-771-8608

Existing healthcare facilities that can respond to the health needs of the community:

1. **Adventist Health Tehachapi: Valley:**
1100 Magellan Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561
2. **Adventist Health Medical Office-Mojave:**
2041 Belshaw St. Mojave, CA 93501
3. **Adventist Health Medical Office-Tehachapi:**
105 W. "E" Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561
4. **Adventist Health Medical Office-California City:**
9350 N. Loop Blvd. A, California City, CA 93505

Community Health Development Team



Jeff Lingerfelt
President
Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley



Kiyoshi Tomono
Partnership
Executive

CHNA/CHP contact:

Kiyoshi Tomono
Partnership Executive
1100 Magellan Drive, Tehachapi, CA
935561
Email: Tomonock@ah.org
661-869-6563

To request a paper copy from Administration/President's office or to provide comments or view electronic copies of current and previous community health needs assessments go to: <https://www.adventisthealth.org/about-us/community-benefit/>

Community Profile

How our community is defined

The Tehachapi Valley community is located in the mountains of Eastern Kern County, California. The areas of service for Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley include: Tehachapi, Bear Valley, Golden Hills, Alpine, California City, Mojave, Rosamond, Boron and Edwards. With the completion of the new, 25-bed critical-access hospital in late 2018.

Demographics of the community

A total of 82,096 people live in the 1,822 square mile land area served by Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley Hospital (AHTV). The population density for the area is estimated at 45.05 persons per square mile. Children and youth, ages 0-17 make up 24.1% of the population in the service area, which is similar to the state (23.9%) but lower than the county rate (29.6%).

The three major ethnic groups in the primary and secondary service area are Caucasian (54.2%), Hispanic (31.7%) and Black (7.4%). Regarding educational background of those residents in the hospital's service area, 28.7% have graduated from high school, 38.3% have some college and 14.5% have a bachelor's degree. The average household income in Tehachapi is \$57,468; California City, \$49,083; Mojave, \$31,483; Rosamond, \$53,160; Boron, \$39,040; and Edwards, \$45,754.

Priority Areas Identified

In the Community Health Needs Assessment adopted by Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley on October 4, 2018 and made widely available on December 31, 2018, the following priority health needs were identified:

1. Access to Health Care
2. Asthma
3. Cancer
4. Cardiovascular Disease
5. Dental Care
6. Diabetes
7. Environmental Health (air quality and water safety)
8. Lung Disease
9. Maternal and Infant Health
10. Mental Health
11. Overweight and Obesity
12. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
13. Substance Abuse

Community Health Needs Assessment Overview

[Link to final CHNA report](#)

This link is for the 2018 CHNA report:

https://www.adventisthealth.org/documents/tehachapi/AHTV_CHNA_2018.pdf

[Methodology for CHNA](#)

According to the CHNA, data was obtained through targeted interviews used to gather information from individuals and groups representing the broad interests of the community, including individuals with knowledge of medically underserved, low-income and minority populations and populations with chronic disease. Stakeholder surveys were used to gather information and opinions. Twelve surveys were completed in November and December 2017. Input was obtained from the Kern County Department of Public Health. The identified stakeholders were invited by email to participate in the survey. The survey was available in an electronic format through a Survey Monkey link. Public comment was solicited on the previous and Implementation Strategy. However, no written comments have been received. Community Health Needs Assessment. The interviews were completed between November and December 2017.

Secondary data were collected from a variety of local, county and state sources to present community demographics, social, economic factors and environmental factors, health access, birth characteristics, mortality and morbidity, health behaviors and mental and substance abuse. Analyses were conducted at the most local level possible for the hospital service area, given the availability of the data.

Sources of data include the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, U.S. Census American Community Survey, Healthy Kern County, California Health Interview Survey, County Health Rankings, California Department of Public Health, California Employment Development Department, Kern County Homeless Collaborative, National Cancer Institute, California Department of Justice and others. When pertinent, these data sets are presented in the context of Kern County and California, framing the scope of an issue as it relates to the broader community.

The method of prioritization was handled by a committee that included executive leadership of the hospital. Due to limited resources during the 2018 calendar year, as the new facility was under construction, attention was paid to expanding access to education and critical services to with the resources allotted. As the result of a facilitated discussion based on the following criteria:

- Opportunity for partnership
- Solution that impacts multiple problems
- Effective methods available to address the priority need

[Collaborative Partners](#)

Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK)

First 5 Kern

Identified Priority Needs from 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment

Identified Needs

Access to Health Care

Access to services as well as health education and health promotion are foundational requirements that apply to a wide range of health challenges, including the incidence of chronic disease.

Goal

Decrease chronic disease rates in our community by offering educational programs, screenings and other interventions – such as free or low-cost clinics – that empower and equip community members to eliminate risk factors that can lead to such diseases.

Short-term Objective

Objective 1: Provide free childhood immunizations to 50-100 uninsured or underinsured children in the Tehachapi Valley area by incorporating the existing Children's Mobile Immunization Program started by a sister hospital to Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley, Adventist Health Bakersfield.

- Children's Mobile Immunization Program: By utilizing a specially-equipped recreational vehicle, the immunizations team provides free immunizations to uninsured children throughout Kern County. The clinics are publicized through the hospital's website and multiple media outlets. Since the program was established, more than 100,000 free immunizations have been provided to the children of Kern County.

The Adventist Health Bakersfield's affiliated hospital existing Children's Mobile Immunization program is working to save lives, as well as saving our community more than \$5 million annually according to a recently released report prepared by the Applied Research Center at California State University, Bakersfield. Several cost-benefit studies have been completed on immunization programs for vaccine-preventable diseases. A majority of studies conclude that vaccines are considered the most cost-beneficial of health intervention strategies. To determine the savings to our community, the Applied Research Center took the cost of the program and added in the cost of hospitalization, medications and physicians' services to care for a child who contracts a preventable disease. It also took into consideration the cost if that child then passes it on to other family members or possibly even starts a community epidemic.

Immunizations are one of the most important public health interventions in the United States. By immunizing children at an early age, the Adventist Health Bakersfield Children's Mobile Immunization Program continues to prevent many dreaded diseases and decreases the occurrence of many childhood vaccine-preventable diseases.

The scope of service for the program includes the following major objectives:

- Immunizations clinics held annually
- Number of children receiving immunizations
- Children receiving health screenings (hemoglobin testing)

Intermediate Objective

Objective 1: Reduce unnecessary ER/hospital visits and reduce the spread of the flu virus by providing free flu shots to at least 100 adults at the beginning of each flu season.

- Drive-Thru Flu Clinic: In another nod to successes already accomplished by our sister hospital, Adventist Health Bakersfield, it is proposed that we bring an annual drive-thru flu clinic to the Tehachapi Valley community with free vaccines made available on a first-come, first-served basis. The convenience of attendees simply driving through a designated route/location to receive a free flu shot without having to leave their vehicle helps to increase participation and, therefore, increase protection from the flu.

Identified Needs

Asthma

Goal

Decrease asthma rates in our community by offering educational programs and interventions that empower and equip community members to eliminate risk factors that often lead to such asthma. Where asthma does exist, we will work with partners to provide affordable, high quality care to those in need.

Short-term Objective

Objective 1: Educate our community on ways prevent asthma and the risk factors leading to them with at least two community health events that include screenings and informational materials provided to approximately 500 individuals.

- Health screenings and health education at community events: The hospital will be participating in community events, such as health fairs, walks, etc.
- Smoking cessation program offered the community and local businesses.

Long-term Objective

Objective 2: Community lecture series: The new hospital would provide a series called 'Weeks of Wellness.' Presenters could include physicians and service line leaders, who will focus on asthma, warning signs and management. Lectures include a focus on diet, smoking cessation, nutrition, and low-impact exercise.



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Identified Needs:

Cancer

In Kern County, lung and bronchus, in situ breast, kidney and renal pelvis cancers occur at higher rates than the state.

Goal

Reduce the number of new cancer cases, as well as illness, disability, and death caused by cancer by offering educational programs, screenings and other interventions.

Short-term Objective

Objective 1: Educate our community on ways to prevent cancer and the reduce the risk factors associated with cancer.

- Health education at community events: The AIS Cancer Center, and its outpatient services through Adventist Health Bakersfield, will be participating in community events, such as health fairs, walks, and farmers markets. Community outreach will include education on reducing risk factors such as:
 - Use of tobacco products
 - Physical inactivity and poor nutrition
 - Obesity
 - Ultraviolet light exposure

- Cancer screening events: The AIS Cancer Center, and its outpatient services through Adventist Health Bakersfield, will hold screening events in the community. Screening is effective in identifying some types of cancers in early, often highly treatable stages, including:
 - Breast cancer (using mobile mammography or clinical breast exams)
 - Cervical cancer (using Pap test alone or combined Pap test and HPV test)
 - Colorectal cancer (using stool-based testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy)

For cancers with evidence-based screening tools, early detection will address the continuum of care from screening to appropriate follow-up of abnormal test results and referral to cancer treatment.

Evaluation Metrics

Objective	2018 Baseline Measurement	Performance Target	Indicator	Data Source
Immunizations for children ages 0-5	12	50-75	Total IMMS patients	First 5 Kern monthly reports
Drive-Thru Flu Clinic	N/A	100	Total vaccines given	Immunization's program report
Community Lecture Series	N/A	25	Average number of attendees per event	AH Marketing Team
Cancer Center	N/A	50	Average number of attendees per event	AIS Cancer Center

Community Partners

Partner Organization	Role in Addressing Priority Need
First 5 Kern	Provides grant that funds the Children's Mobile Immunizations Program through 2020. Organization also provides program and fiscal oversight; AH provides the IMMS personnel.
Independent physicians	For a free community lecture series, we would partner with non-employed physicians with expertise for certain topics that would be beneficial for community members who otherwise may not be able to travel out of the area for such health education.



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Identified Needs from CHNA, Not Addressed

The following needs are not directly addressed in the 2019 Community Health Implementation Strategy due to limitation of resources. Please note, that they may be indirectly addressed through partnership with other community organizations. Additionally, Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley is currently in collaboration with Adventist Health Bakersfield, Delano Regional Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Kern County, Dignity Health (Mercy and Memorial Hospitals) and Kern Medical to complete an updated Community Health Needs Assessment in 2019 and an Implementation Strategy in 2020. This will allow both facilities to partner with a broader array of resources and community members to achieve specific and concrete interventions that will improve the overall health of the community and the distribution of health.

- Cardiovascular Disease
- Dental Care
- Diabetes
- Lung Disease
- Maternal and Infant Health
- Overweight and Obesity
- Environmental health (air quality and water safety) – Not applicable for a hospital to address.
- Mental health – The infrastructure and expertise to provide adequate mental health services is not currently available in Kern County. We are continuing to work with others health care organizations and non-profits in the area to address this issue.
- Sexually Transmitted Infections –Being addressed by other community organizations including our rural health clinics
- Substance abuse – Being addressed by other community organizations including our rural health clinics.



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Making a difference: Evaluation of 2015-2018 Community Health Implementation Strategy

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley affiliated with Adventist Health in November 2016. A new hospital facility was under construction at the time of affiliation. The new facility opened in November 2018. While planning for the hospital's relocation, our community interventions depended on those of our community partners. We will be reporting on our own achievements in the future Community Health Plan cycle.

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley is currently in collaboration with Adventist Health Bakersfield, Delano Regional Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Kern County, Dignity Health (Mercy and Memorial Hospitals) and Kern Medical to complete an updated Community Health Needs Assessment in 2019 and an Implementation Strategy in 2020. We will partner with our collaborators to provide a broader array of resources. Our aim is to achieve specific and concrete interventions for our community members that will improve the overall health of the community.



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Strategic Partner List

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley supports local partners to augment our own efforts, and to promote a healthier community. Partnership is not used as a legal term, but a description of the relationships of connectivity that are necessary to collectively improve the health of our region. One of our objectives is to partner with other nonprofit and faith-based organizations that share our values and priorities to improve the health status and quality of life of the community we serve. This is an intentional effort to avoid duplication and leverage the successful work already in existence in the community. Many important systemic efforts are underway in our region, and we have been in partnership with multiple not-for-profits to provide quality care to the underserved in our region.

• **Community Partners**

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce
- Tehachapi Economic Development Corporation
- Tehachapi Unified School District
- First Five Kern County
- Community Action Partnership of Kern County



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Community Benefit Inventory

Adventist Health Tehachapi Valley knows working together is key to achieving the necessary health improvements to create the communities that allow each member to have safe and healthy places to live, learn, work, play, and pray.

Community Partners:

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Greater Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce
- Tehachapi Economic Development Corporation
- Tehachapi Unified School District
- First 5 Kern County
- Community Action Partnership of Kern County



Board Action Approval Form

Entity Name:	Adventist Health Medical Center Tehachapi
Governing Body:	Board of Directors/Legal Board
Board Meeting Date:	June 11, 2019
Action Requested:	Approval of the Community Health Implementation Strategy, effective as of May 15, 2019

Action Approved as Presented

Action Approved with Changes

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Action Denied

Certified Documentation

If you need documentation in minutes form for this approval, please contact Cheryl Stalis in the System Governance Office and request a Certificate of Secretary. Processing time is 5 business days.