



2024 Child and Adolescent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Summary

2025-2028 Implementation Plan Years

Boys Town National Research Hospital

14000 Hospital Road

Boys Town, NE 68010

BACKGROUND

Our Mission – To change *the way America cares for children and families.*

How we accomplish our Mission - Through the inspiration of Father Flanagan, Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRRH) provides healing and hope to children and families suffering from physical and mental illness and disabilities, with a focus on hearing and communication disorders, neurology and neurodevelopment, and child and adolescent mental health. Accredited by The Joint Commission, Boys Town National Research Hospital is dedicated to providing leading edge clinical care, pioneering translational research and improving the lives of children and their families through applied technology and educational outreach programs. The hospital annually serves more than 68,000 patients from across the United States.

Since the opening of Boys Town National Research Hospital in 1977, the hospital has been internationally recognized as a leader in clinical and research programs focusing on childhood deafness, visual impairment and related communication disorders. The Institute for Human Neuroscience is one of the most cutting-edge neuroscience research facilities in the nation, focusing on child and adolescent neuroscience and neuroimaging research. It is the only site in the world with two Optically Pumped Magnetometry (OPM) systems, as well as two next-generation magnetoencephalography (MEG) devices. Additionally, the IHN performs cutting edge diagnostic neuroimaging work involving functional MRI (fMRI), and the Physiology of Walking & Engineering Rehabilitation Laboratory (PoWER Lab), located within the IHN, is breaking new ground in the study of sensorimotor integration. Today, the hospital offers a broad range of clinical services, including ear, nose, throat and audiology services at the Boys Town Ear, Nose and Throat Institute, general and specialty pediatric care including neurology, orthopedics, gastroenterology, allergy, asthma, cardiology, pulmonology, neurology, ophthalmology and behavioral health services including Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) and outpatient child and adolescent psychiatry. The Boys Town Pediatric Epilepsy Program offers complete evaluation for surgery, including intracranial electrodes, and provides a broad range of surgical procedures for epilepsy, including neurostimulator implantation. The program received a level 4 accreditation through the National Association of Epilepsy Centers, which is the highest designation level awarded, and signifies that the epilepsy program provides the most comprehensive resources for the diagnosis and treatment of

children with epilepsy. The main hospital facility is located at 14000 Hospital Road on the campus of Boys Town, Nebraska, and has 52 licensed hospital beds. Additional services are provided at seven locations across the Omaha metropolitan area. Behavioral Health Telehealth Services are also provided at 13 outreach locations across the region.

Boys Town National Research Hospital has developed a pediatric health care network to provide an array of pediatric services to treat physical and mental illnesses through affiliations and cooperative ventures, as well as through those services owned and operated by the Hospital. The Boys Town child and adolescent psychiatry clinic is uniquely positioned to offer mental health services to child and adolescent patients across a broad continuum of care utilizing hospital resources as well as the resources of Boys Town. Within the hospital is a 16 bed Inpatient Psychiatric Unit to care for the most at-risk patients. Adjacent to the hospital is an 80 bed Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility focused on treating children ages 5-17 who have severe behavioral and mental health problems. Additional mental health services offered through Boys Town at the Center for Behavioral Health include psychology, chemical use program, substance abuse program, intensive outpatient therapy, parent-child interactive therapy and assessment services. Boys Town provides life-changing youth care through In-Home Family Services, the Family Home Program, Foster Family Services and in-home Multisystemic Therapy. Boys Town offers extensive resources through the National Hotline, Your Life Your Voice, Common Sense Parenting, Boys Town Parenting, Teachable Moments Blog and Boys Town Press.

The customized survey for this 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) was developed by Boys Town National Research Hospital, Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Building Healthy Futures and Professional Research Consultants Inc., and is similar to the previous 2021, 2018 and 2015 surveys allowing for data trending. The study area (referred to as the Metro Area) concentrated exclusively on pediatric and adolescent populations in Douglas, Cass, and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie County in Iowa.

The CHNA gathered data to determine the health status, behaviors, and needs of children and adolescents in the Metro Area. The survey was administered by landline, cellphone or on-line to a random sample of 1,101 parents/guardians of children under age 18. Additionally, secondary data (e.g., census data, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Healthy People 2030 and other Public Health Data) was obtained and allowed for benchmark data at the state and national levels. Qualitative data was gathered through an online Key Informant Survey from 220 community stakeholders including community/business leaders, healthcare providers, physicians, public health representatives and social service providers.

Douglas County (NE) was divided into 5 geographical areas (Northeast Omaha, Southeast Omaha, Northwest Omaha, Southwest Omaha and Western Douglas County).

SURROUNDING COMMUNITY AND SERVICE AREA

Boys Town National Research Hospital's (BTRNH) hospital site is located in Southwest Douglas County and includes Western Douglas County in its primary service area. However, clinicians see children from the entire metropolitan area, as well as all 50 states, at both sites. Most patients at BTRNH are under the age of 18, but clinicians do see some young adults who have a

chronic condition that originated at birth or during childhood.

2024 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment identified the primary concern of mental health across the community. This was also true of the CHNA completed for the adult population for metro area hospitals. All area hospitals are prioritizing mental health in their response plans. Additionally, building on the 2021, 2018 and 2015 CHNA and Implementation Plans, hospital resources and hospital mission, the following priority areas will be addressed by Boys Town National Research Hospital in the 2025-2028 Implementation Plan:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition, Diabetes, Physical Activity and Weight Management
- Parenting Education and Family Support
- Research

Summary of Findings

The complete report of the Community Health Needs Assessment can be found at boystownhospital.org

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

FY 2025-2028

Facility covered by this Plan:

Boys Town National Research Hospital – West

14000 Hospital Road (139th & Pacific)
Boys Town, NE 68010

Process for Determining Needs to be Addressed:

Operational, clinical and executive leaders from both hospital and clinic settings have been involved in large scale strategic planning. Clinical and executive leaders have compared the current services provided by BTNRH and clinics as well as the strategic planning initiatives with the CHNA findings and identified the unique assets Boys Town could leverage to address community needs. The CHNA Implementation Plan was taken to the National Health Care Committee for review and input and received final approval by the Board of Trustees of Father Flanagan's Boys Home on April 4, 2025.

Implementation Plan Priorities and Strategies:

The Child and Adolescent CHNA implementation plan was developed using a deliberative and inclusive internal process that included qualitative and quantitative data and was grounded in both operational considerations and the existing unique assets Boys Town National Research Hospital has already developed to address these priorities.

The Community Health Needs Assessment identified priority health issues to be addressed. Boys Town National Research Hospital and Clinics has chosen to address three of the concerns identified, with the majority of focus on the primary concern of mental health across the community.

Priority-Mental Health

Objective A. Improve access to mental health services

Strategies:

- Improve admission process when patients are identified as needing a higher acuity level of treatment from clinics and rural partners
- Utilize Boys Town's unique continuum of care across multiple areas to ensure access and improve outcomes at the least restrictive level, regardless of initial point of contact for care, including Hotline, IPU, PRTF, Youth Care, Chemical Use Program, Center for Behavioral Health, MST, Foster Care and At Home Family Services
- Assess feasibility for additional unit of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility to service patients 12 and under

Objective B. Assist patients in accessing mental health resources

Strategies:

- Expand resource information for community partners to help guide to most appropriate services to leverage Boys Town's unique continuum of care
- Assess need to expand telehealth outreach to additional communities

Objective C. Provide opportunities for mental health education and resources to employees, patients and the public

Strategies:

- Host a Mental Health Symposium led by Boys Town experts across the care continuum, for professionals who work with children and adolescents
- Expand online and printed materials on anxiety, depression and other mental health topics.
- Expand Mental Health week offerings provided by CBH to include psychiatric resources and information.

Priority-Improve Access, Education and Family Support

Objective A. Expand Access to Services

Strategies

- Quality project to improve oral health initiatives and services
- Transition Physical Therapy at Center for Human Performance Optimization to clinical service in addition to research focus
- Improve internal referral processes to expedite access to services within Boys Town, including PT, SLP, specialty services, etc.
- Assess feasibility of utilizing research van/RV to provide audiology services in rural communities
- Improve focus on quality project to improve vaccination rates in primary care
- Maintain and expand as feasible Same Day Pediatric services and same day appointments within primary care to reduce utilization of Urgent Cares and ER

Objective B. Expand Boys Town support to families

Strategies

- Implement improved nursing follow-up for patients following ER visits to reduce utilization rates for return visits
- Improve charitable care process with implementation of presumptive eligibility
- Pursue improved Medicaid payments through new quality-based payment methodology to allow for expansion of services
- Engage with Advocacy at state and national level to elevate policies and regulations that support the services of Boys Town and the communities we serve
- Implement changes to nondiscrimination policies and language assistance as required by updated regulations

Objective C. Promote Boys Town parenting education and resources to parents and the public

Strategies

- Develop financial literacy content to aid with financial resilience of families and the community
- Review Boys Town parenting education and resources for plain language content as a health literacy strategy for our patients and families
- Implement health literacy tools for our staff to aid our patients in understanding and acting on their health information

Priority-Nutrition, Physical Activity and Weight Management

Objective A. Promote healthy eating and physical activity for patients and the community

Strategies:

- Offer parenting classes on breastfeeding and nutrition conducted by Boys Town pediatricians and certified lactation consultants through Facebook Live events, Newborn Expos and throughout the year.

- Explore sponsorship opportunities for activities and events in community, i.e. YMCA
- Expand on participation opportunities for SPARK camp with additional days
- Develop educational resources for families to help guide them in healthy cooking, healthy grocery shopping and adaptive exercises for all abilities.

Objective B. Support and expand services of SPARK clinic at east campus

- Maintain and expand services provided in SPARK clinic, including surgical cases
- Pursue Comprehensive Weight Management certification to include all required elements of service

Priority-Hearing and Speech Conditions

Objective A. Expand screening services to underserved areas

Strategies:

- Maintain and expand Educare partnership to provide audiology screenings at preschools
- Partner with OPD PACE to provide audiology and language screenings in south Omaha
- Partner with Nelson Mandella school to provide audiology and language screenings in north Omaha
- Screening for otitis media in community at various events/locations

Objective B Expand clinical services related to hearing and speech conditions

Strategies

- Provide clinical services in conjunction with screenings where licensure will allow
- Refer to clinical services in conjunction with screenings where needed

Objective C Integrate new research labs

- Incorporate research in brain development in adolescents experiencing puberty to explore the association between behavior, hormones and brain development with focus on collaboration with other research and clinical processes
- Incorporate research exploring the impact of trauma on language development through partnering with youth care, behavioral health services to determine if trauma causes delays in communication with focus on collaboration with other research and clinical processes
- Incorporate research on neurological development and autism in adolescence as most research is focused on early childhood diagnosis and treatment, with focus on collaboration with other research and clinical treatment modalities