



St Joseph Health System—Community Health Needs Assessment; Housing as a Social Determinant of health; Thoughts from an Employer

Martha Shanahan, Area Director, Community Benefit

The Community Benefit Program has 20 employees; focuses on partnerships, funding, community investment. Every three years the health system does a Community Health Needs Assessment, which collects and analyzes quantitative and qualitative data.

In 2017, the assessment focused and emphasized underserved populations. Housing was the number one concern. (Mental health and substance abuse were also top priorities). Findings include:

- Housing is key social determinant of health; stable housing is a foundational for other aspects in life
- We need housing for economic development and a stable workforce
- Housing is needed at all price points
- Lack of quality housing compromises quality of health
- Concerns include substandard housing, mold, rats, compromised structural integrity- plumbing, heating, electrical issues

The community needs a new housing strategy for funding and rehab and need to tackle issue together

Carolyn Lane, Area Dir Physician Recruitment and Retention, St Joseph & Redwood Memorial Hospitals, and HMS/SJHMG

St. Joseph Health one of largest employers in the county. There are ten new doctors coming on (all new to the area) and 60 more permanent staff members recently hired. Half of staff are outside recruits that will require housing. The hospital also employs sixty travelers that stay 13 weeks or more. Of ten doctors that arrived this year, one still hasn't found permanent housing since February.

Barriers include

- Availability
- Cost
- Difficulty in finding smaller units when people want to downsize
- Finding housing close to hospital (call location is very important for many doctors)
- Families/children
- Pets

The new residency program will add 6 doctors a year for 3 years. These 18 residents will need housing. St. Joseph was recently given a 4-plex as a Legacy gift but it is not enough. The hospital needs more housing but it can be difficult to identify properties.

The health system is building local database of available housing.