

**Great Plains of Smith County, Inc. dba  
Smith County Memorial Hospital  
Community Health Needs Assessment 2015  
Implementation Strategy**

1. **Complete Hospital Facility Upgrades / Improvements** – The Board of Trustees has engaged an architectural firm (Health Facilities Group) to perform a facility master plan. This plan was delivered to the Board of Trustees, comparing the cost and feasibility of renovation and replacement. The Board of Trustees determined that a replacement facility is the more cost effective option. Health Facilities Group was retained to design the new facility. A request for proposals was published for a Construction Management at Risk contract, and Hutton Construction was selected as the Construction Manager. Application has been made to USDA Rural Development for long term financing of the project. A mail ballot was distributed to all registered voters in Smith County in early 2016. The result was an 80% approval rating of the plans for a replacement facility. Plans are under development, with groundbreaking anticipated in late 2016 or early 2017. Estimated construction period is 18 months from groundbreaking.
2. **Increase Assisted Living Senior Service Options** – The plans for the replacement hospital facility do not include construction of either long term care or assisted living facilities. However, the size of the property being sought for the building project is large enough to accommodate construction of facilities for senior living. The Board of Trustees has engaged the operator of the local nursing facilities in conversation about undertaking construction of new facilities adjacent to the hospital. Discussions are ongoing without a commitment at this time.
3. **Decrease the number of uninsured** – There is little that Great Plains of Smith County can do in this regard. The Affordable Care Act has made access to health insurance more widespread, if it can be afforded by the patient. The failure by the State of Kansas to expand the Medicaid program has adversely impacted availability of insurance coverage to the lower income residents of the service area.
4. **Improve Behavioral Health Delivery** – As part of the Kansas Frontier Community Health Improvement Network (KFCHIN) project, Great Plains of Smith County has engaged in significant exploration and discussion about how to increase the delivery of behavioral health services in our service area. A prime consideration is the integration of Behavioral Health in to primary care service locations. High Plains Mental Health is the Community Mental Health Center responsible for emergency (involuntary) intake and placement of persons requiring behavioral health services in a 20 county area of Northwest Kansas. Multiple discussions have been held with them regarding the feasibility of addition if behavioral health providers into our Rural Health Clinic. As of the end of the fiscal year, no definite plans are in place, but discussions are ongoing.
5. **Provide Healthcare Transportation (Outside of Smith Center)** – This priority is beyond the scope of GPSC at this time and will not be addressed.
6. **Decrease Hospital Bad Debt / Charity Care** – This priority is at odds with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, which requires increased availability of charity care to those unable to pay for services. This priority is considered addressable at this time.