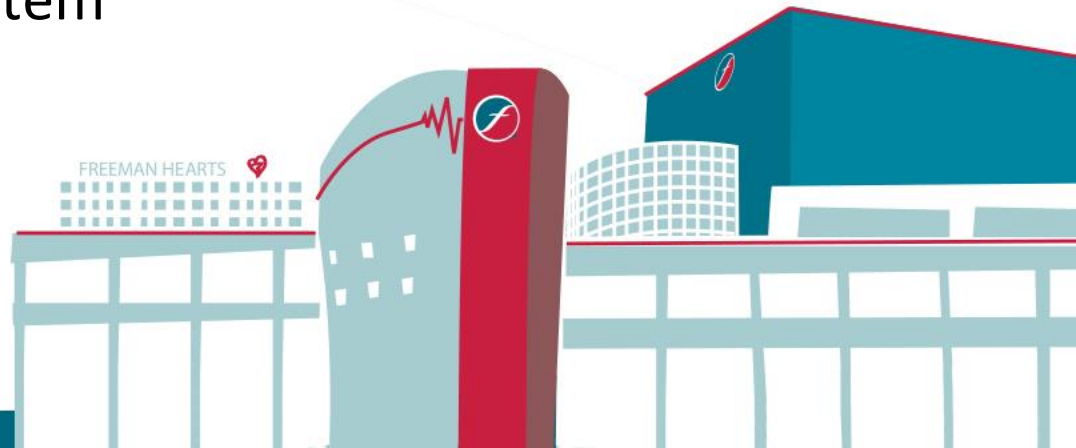
Community Health Implementation Plan

2025-2028

Freeman Health System



Our Mission

- Freeman Health System is a nonprofit, charitable corporation operated for the sole purpose of improving the health of the people it serves.
- We do so by making sure that necessary hospital and health services appropriate for the service area are available to all on a cost-effective basis, without regard to their ability to pay.
- Our mission is “to improve the health of the communities we serve through contemporary, innovative, quality healthcare solutions.” To that end, we are pleased to present this Community Health Improvement Plan.

Freeman Hospital West



Freeman Hospital West, located in Joplin, Missouri, is a 337-bed teaching hospital, which operates 306 beds. It offers a Level II Trauma Center providing 24/7 emergency care, 38-bed intensive care unit, 24-bed neonatal intensive care unit, 9 birthing suites, 25 private postpartum rooms, state-of-the art operating suites, and radiology services. In addition, Freeman Heart & Vascular Institute is a 3-story adjacent wing, providing all cardiac services in one convenient location.

Freeman Hospital East

Freeman Hospital East, located in Joplin, Missouri is a 70-bed hospital. Freeman East offers a variety of medical care services. It is also home to the Freeman Radiation Oncology Center, dedicated to providing high-quality radiation oncology services to cancer patients. Investment in the most recent, state-of-the-art technology available provides patients with the best possible treatment.



Freeman Neosho Hospital

Freeman Neosho Hospital, located in Neosho, Missouri, is a 25-bed critical access hospital. Over the past several years, it has been ranked as one of the busiest critical access emergency departments in Missouri. The Medical/Surgical inpatient unit at Neosho provides exceptional care to patients and families. This is reflected in their quality indicators and HCAHPS results. In addition to emergency and inpatient services, the physician clinic is a tremendous resource and is growing to meet the needs of the community and region.



Freeman Fort Scott Hospital

Freeman Fort Scott Hospital is a new acute care facility opening in 2025 featuring a 10-bed general medical unit and emergency department, which will consist of six bays, with 365-day, 24/7 coverage by licensed physicians and trained nursing staff. Support for the emergency department includes laboratory, radiology, computerized tomography and an inpatient pharmacy. Opportunities to have outpatient lab, radiology and CT services will also be available to the community from the hospital. A community of roughly 7,600 residents and the county seat of Bourbon County, Fort Scott has been without a hospital since 2018. The hospital's emergency department, which had remained open, closed in December 2023, forcing residents to seek medical treatment 30 minutes away in Pittsburg or across the state line in Nevada, Missouri.





Ozark Center

Ozark Center has been providing behavioral health services since February 1965 and became an entity of Freeman Health System in 1996. Employing about 600 employees in 30 locations across Jasper, Newton, McDonald and Barton counties in Missouri, Ozark Center serves approximately 15,000 clients. As the area's largest and most comprehensive behavioral healthcare provider, qualified staff provide effective, caring and confidential services for adults, families and children.

Ozarks Health Commission



Since 2016, Freeman Health System has joined Ozark Health Commission to publish regional Community Health Needs Assessments. OHC is a collaborative of health systems and public health agencies using data-driven approaches to produce high quality assessments and align priorities among community-based organizations to promote good health.



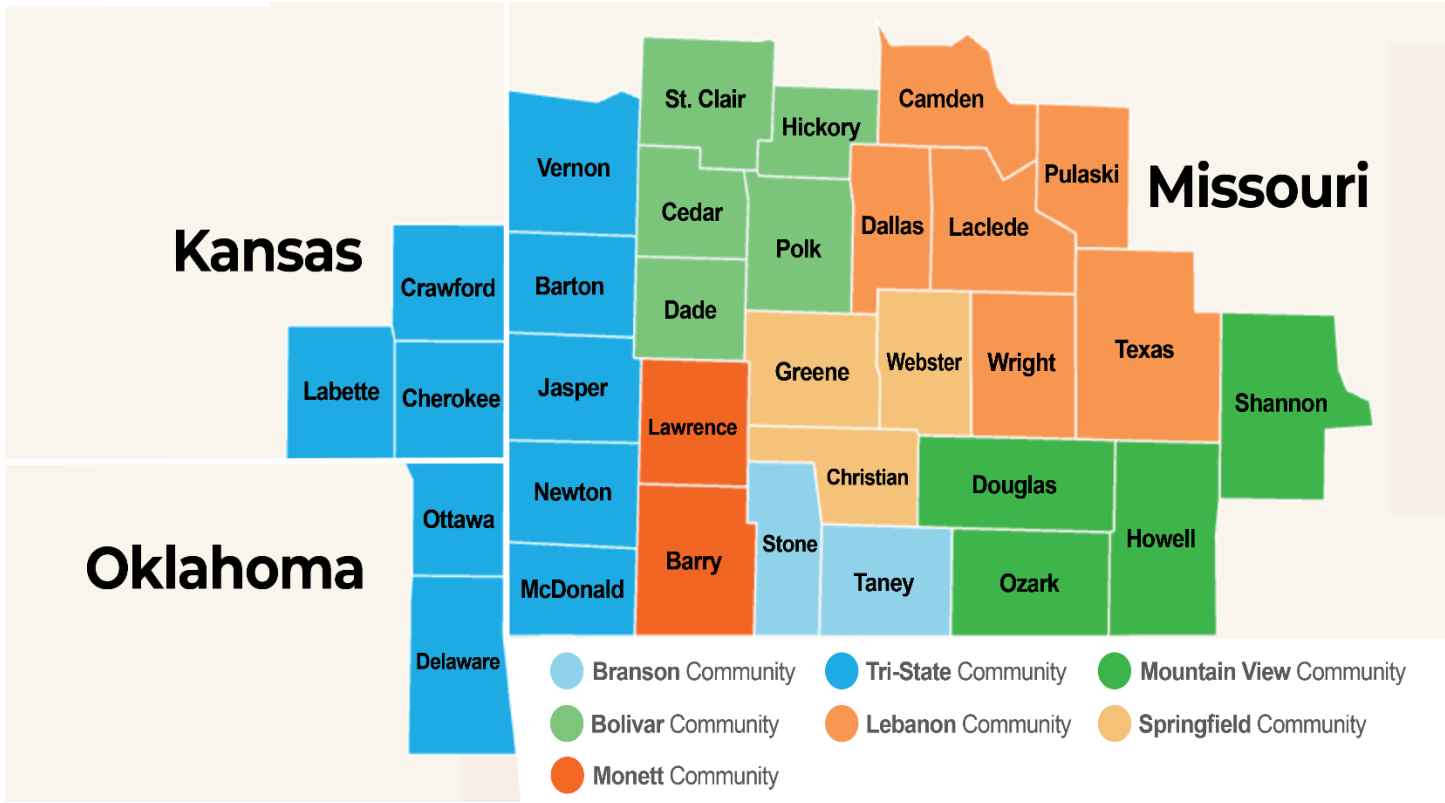
The process has been recognized at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, honored as a Promising Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and awarded the Group Merit Award from the Missouri Public Health Association.

Collaborative Strategy

Freeman intends to continue to work in collaboration with Ozarks Health Commission partners on issues revealed by the 2025 CHNA.

The combined service areas of OHC health systems cover 32 counties in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Within the OHC, the Tri-State Community represents the 10 counties served by Freeman in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.



Identifying Priority Health Issues

- Between 2022 and 2025, Freeman Health System collaborated with multiple hospitals and public health departments to produce a data-driven regional Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).
- Our team identified priority health issues, analyzed quantitative and qualitative data and guided a prioritization process for community partners. Analysis focused on root cause factors associated with health outcomes.
- CHNA data can be found at: www.ozarkshealthcommission.org/explore-data

Health Priorities

The top 3 priorities for the Tri-State Community as decided by a group of community stakeholders.

- Chronic Disease
- Behavioral Health
- Nutrition & Physical Activity



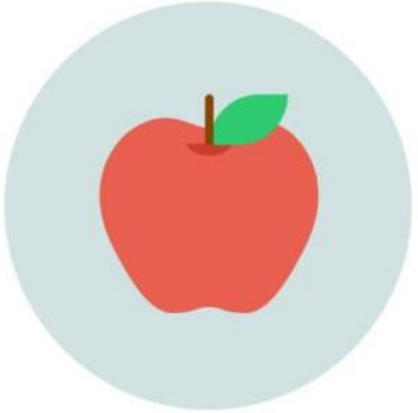
Access to Care



Behavioral Health



Chronic Disease



Nutrition & Physical Activity

Prioritized Health Needs

The health system adopts a joint implementation strategy that includes Freeman West, Freeman East, Freeman Neosho, Freeman Fort Scott, and Ozark Center.

At the organizational level, Freeman Health System has adopted four Prioritized Health Needs for its Community Health Implementation Plan for the period 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2028.



Behavioral Health

Objective: Decrease the long-term incidence of behavioral health conditions using ongoing prevention, detection, and treatment strategies.

- Strategy 1: Support community health initiatives that address behavioral health.
- Strategy 2: Reach underserved children with school-based therapists.
- Strategy 3: Expedite referrals to behavioral care using innovative technologies and partnerships.



Chronic Disease

Objective: Decrease the long-term incidence of chronic diseases using ongoing prevention, detection, and treatment strategies.

- Strategy 1: Offer evidence-based treatments for children with obesity.
- Strategy 2: Support vulnerable individuals by screening and addressing health-related social needs.
- Strategy 3: Educate and train primary care residents.



Nutrition & Physical Activity

Objective: Decrease the long-term incidence of chronic diseases using strategies that promote nutrition and physical activity.

- Strategy 1: Partner with MOCAN to increase the number of businesses utilizing the WorkWell Missouri Toolkit to establish evidence-based wellness programs.

- Strategy 2: Support community health initiatives that address nutrition and physical activity.



Access to Care

Freeman's focus on Access to Care contributes to its mission to assure the communities it serves have access to needed health care services.

Objective: Increase access to health services by enhancing health professional education, recruitment and retention efforts.

Strategy 1: Provide medical and behavioral telehealth care for rural residents.

Strategy 2: Open Freeman Fort Scott Hospital.

Planned Collaboration

Each of the prioritized health needs represents a complex health condition that requires multi-stakeholder collaboration to effectively address. Freeman Health System is committed to working in collaboration with stakeholders at the local, regional, and state level. Intentional collaboration includes participation and leadership in coalitions, including:

- Jasper-Newton County Health Collaborative, representing health care providers and community-based organizations providing health and social services.
- McDonald County Health Coalition, a county-wide coalition of community-based organizations providing health and social services.
- One Joplin, a coalition of nonprofit agencies and businesses promoting community health and well-being.
- Missouri Council for Activity and Nutrition (MOCAN), a state-wide stakeholder network for healthy eating and active living.
- Universities with nursing, medical, and health professional programs, including: Missouri Southern State University (MO), Pittsburg State University (KS), Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (OK), Crowder College (MO) and Kansas City University Medical School (MO).
- Southwest Missouri School-based Health Network, a regional coalition of school districts working to improve access to care and quality health outcomes.
- Care Partner Network, more than 90 agencies leveraging the Unite Us social referral platform to connect individuals with resources to address health-related social needs.

Steering Committee

The Freeman Health System Steering Committee represented the health system to the Ozarks Health Commission for this work. Special thanks to committee members for their time and commitment:

Amanda Harrell, DO
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Paul Petry, DO
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Fran Cloyd, RN
Steve Sanderson, CFRE
Kelli Perigo
Sarah Willoughby, LCSW
Kris Drake, RN
Renee Denton
Lisa Nelson, OHC Liaison



Learn More

Freeman Health System welcomes and encourages feedback and suggestions on future assessments and action plans.

- Electronic (PDF) versions of the CHNA and CHIP are available at: https://freemanhealth.com/about-us/

- Full printed copies of the CHNA and CHIP are available upon request via an email to CommunityHealth@freemanhealth.com or by calling (417) 347-4987. Visitors to the health system may also call to request a copy for review at each of the hospital information desks.