



Sharp McDonald Center Implementation Strategy Fiscal Years 2027 – 2030

As a not-for-profit organization, Sharp HealthCare (Sharp) places great value on the health and wellness of the San Diego community through its mission and commitment to excellence. Sharp participates in a countywide collaborative that conducts a triennial Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to identify the priority health needs facing the San Diego community. Sharp then develops a separate CHNA for each individually licensed hospital based on the collaborative work.

In response to the 2025 CHNA findings, each Sharp hospital, including Sharp McDonald Center, created an implementation strategy that highlights programs, services and resources it provides to address the identified health needs in its community.

2025 CHNA Top Community Needs

The graphic illustrates the top community needs identified in the 2025 CHNA. Chronic stress was consistently highlighted as a significant theme across all qualitative data collection methods. It is recognized as a **Primary Finding**, indicating its role as a barrier affecting community members' ability to manage their health and health care effectively. Within the context of the primary finding, the 2025 CHNA explored ways in which health care systems could alleviate this stress. The community recommended several health improvement strategies, which are highlighted as other **Key Findings**.

Primary Finding



Key Findings





Sharp has numerous support programs for patients and employees to help address the top community needs identified in the 2025 CHNA and will continue to examine them with a goal to expand and improve offerings. The following pages include, but are not limited to, strategies designed to address community needs identified through Sharp McDonald Center's 2025 CHNA process, as follows:

Sharp Identified Area of Need	2025 CHNA Findings Addressed
Health Conditions	Help managing health conditions
Access to Health Care	A different kind of health care experience; Better data collection, sharing and coordination; Less burden on emergency departments
Community Safety	Recognition and assistance for disabilities and trauma; Help with crises
Workforce	Protection and care for service providers

Needs Not Addressed

Sharp McDonald Center recognizes that it cannot meet every health need identified in the community and will instead focus efforts on the areas where its expertise and resources allow for the greatest impact. As a specialty hospital providing treatment and services for behavioral health, several of the 2025 CHNA identified community health needs do not fall within the scope of Sharp McDonald Center services and resources.

Learn more

To learn more about Sharp's CHNA process and findings, view [Sharp's 2025 hospital CHNAs](#) (including Sharp McDonald Center) or contact communitybenefits@sharp.com.



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Identified Community Health Need – Behavioral Health		
Objectives	Action Items	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
1. Increase community access to substance use disorder screenings and referral sources.	a. Provide free psychiatry evaluations, substance use assessments and referrals for the general community.	<u>FY 2027 Plan:</u> • Increase education, support and engagement related to the opioid epidemic, including distribution of free overdose prevention kits • Provide free psychiatric assessments, substance use screenings and referrals for the community <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> • Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital (Sharp Mesa Vista) and Sharp McDonald Center evaluation and intake teams provided free behavioral health evaluation and referrals, as well as substance use screening and assessment opportunities, for the community throughout the year, serving nearly 2,700 community members onsite and virtually
	2. Raise awareness and reduce stigma of substance use issues.	a. Provide substance use education and resources at community health fairs and events. <u>FY 2027 Plan:</u> • Share behavioral health education and resources at community events • Sponsor and participate in community events to raise awareness and funds for behavioral health services <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> • Sharp Mesa Vista and Sharp McDonald Center sponsored several community events benefitting behavioral health organizations across SDC. More than 1,620 community members were provided with behavioral health and substance use resources at three community awareness and outreach events, including two walks b. Provide substance use education through classes and events at Sharp. <u>FY 2026 – 2027 Plan:</u> • Provide substance used education for patients, their loved ones and the community <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> • International Overdose Awareness Day: Sharp McDonald Center partnered with other Sharp entities through their Emergency Departments to educate the community about substance use and help reduce the stigma surrounding addiction



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Identified Community Health Need – Behavioral Health		
Objectives	Action Items	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
3. Provide support for individuals impacted by substance use disorders.	a. Facilitate various support group meetings (monthly, weekly, etc.).	<u>FY 2027 Plan:</u> • Explore opportunities to revamp support group meetings to boost attendance <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> • Provided support groups for community members with behavioral health challenges. Nearly 100 community members were reached per month through the following groups: ○ Family Support Group: For individuals who have a loved one living with a substance use disorder ○ Aftercare Group: Helps former patients maintain a sober lifestyle following inpatient substance use treatment



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Identified Community Health Needs – Access to Health Care, Asthma and Respiratory Health, Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes ¹		
Objectives	Action Items	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
1. Address the integration of physical and behavioral health by exploring programs that address social needs and common co-occurring chronic health conditions (e.g., asthma, respiratory health, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, etc.).	a. Not Applicable	FY 2025 – 2026 Activities: Sharp McDonald Center is exploring options to educate and address the issue of mind–body integration and effects of physical health on behavioral health and vice versa. Recent examples include: Outpatient nurses aim to address all identified active medical needs as part of their standard workflow. Referrals to primary care physicians have increased, supported by performance goals that ensure all patients without a community physician receive a referral
2. Improve care management and clinical–community linkages that address social needs.	a. Continue data sharing and collaboration with the San Diego Community Information Exchange (CIE)/211 San Diego.	FY 2027 Plan: - Support expanding utilization and tracking referrals compared to social needs identified in hospitalized patients - Explore further integration of CIE into Epic FY 2026 Activities: - Sharp hospitals’ calendar year 2026 referrals to date show a 23.7% increase in utilization over calendar year 2025 - More than half (55%) of direct referrals resulted in individual receiving services, with housing and health management as top needs

¹ As a specialty hospital providing treatment and services for behavioral health, these identified community health needs do not fall within the scope of Sharp McDonald Center’s services and resources.

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Identified Community Health Need – Community Safety		
Objectives	Actions	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
1. Provide an injury and violence prevention program for children, adolescents and young adults throughout SDC.	a. Educate high school students on injury and violence prevention and health care career readiness in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education College and Career Readiness Team.	<u>FY 2027 Plan:</u> - Partner with local school districts, including San Diego Unified, Grossmont Union High School District, Cajon Valley Union School District and Christian Unified Schools, to promote health care careers and provide education on ThinkFirst - Partner with California Highway Patrol in presenting the Every 15 Minutes program to raise awareness on personal safety, drinking and driving, and related injury prevention topics <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> - Provided Stop the Bleed training to more than 150 high school students - Provided traumatic head and spinal cord injury prevention education to nearly 700 elementary and high school students - Provided educational and career exploration opportunities to nearly 1,700 high school students - Provided over 150 students high school-aged students with a one-day immersive experience in health care career specialties at the emERge Premier Teen Medical Conference - Served 4,100 students through the Every 15 Minutes program
	b. Increase knowledge and awareness of the causes and risk factors of brain and spinal cord injury and injury prevention measures.	<u>FY 2026 – 2027 Plan:</u> - Expand beyond the scope of the San Diego County Office of Education’s College and Career Readiness program to provide ThinkFirst presentations to schools in North County, Coronado and the South Bay - Partner with the San Diego County Office of Education’s College and Career Readiness program through participation in conferences, round table events and collaborative projects <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> - Offered numerous educational opportunities for community students and residents. View line item 1a activities above for additional details - Presented on ThinkFirst, including traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, disability awareness and the permanence of certain injuries to 150 elementary school students in La Mesa
2. Increase awareness of injury prevention for	a. Participate in the El Cajon Collaborative	<u>FY 2027 Plan:</u>

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Identified Community Health Need – Community Safety		
Objectives	Actions	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
patients and community members through education and outreach.	group to identify road safety risks and improvement solutions.	- Participate in the El Cajon Collaborative with Cajon Valley Union School District, the City of El Cajon, SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) and other community partners to identify road safety concerns and develop strategies to reduce the risk and occurrence of motor vehicle collisions, pedestrian injuries, and injuries associated with micromobility use <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> - Participated in the El Cajon Collaborative to identify roads with a high risk of pedestrian, cyclist, and micromobility-related injuries and worked with the City of El Cajon to develop safety improvements, including wider driving lanes, enhanced sidewalks, improved lighting and upgraded crosswalks
	b. Provide free STOP the Bleed trainings to community members throughout SDC.	<u>FY 2026 – 2027 Plan:</u> - Provide free STOP the Bleed trainings in the community to train, equip and empower bystanders to assist in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> - Provided free Stop the Bleed training at 2 National Night Out events in partnership with the Rancho San Diego and Santee Sheriff's Office
	c. Provide fall prevention and balance screening education to community members.	<u>FY 2027 Plan:</u> - Partner with Sharp Grossmont and the Grossmont Healthcare District to provide a free fall prevention and balance screening event <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> - Presented fall prevention education to 60 older adults at the Kroc Center Senior Resource Fair - Provided a free fall prevention and balance screening event in partnership with Sharp Grossmont and the Grossmont Healthcare District
3. Increase education and awareness among health care professionals and	a. Collaborate with community organizations and health care	<u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u>

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Identified Community Health Need – Community Safety		
Objectives	Actions	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
community members in San Diego regarding violence, trauma and human trafficking.	professionals to share best practices and provide education on human trafficking.	- Maintained participation and leadership in San Diego Regional Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Advisory Council Health Subcommittee², including, but not limited to, the following collaborative training and education efforts: - Facilitator at HEAL Trafficking Train the Trainer Academy for more than 40 public health professionals - Provided trauma-informed care continuing medical education to more than 50 community health professionals - Provided education on trauma-informed approaches to human trafficking to 60 nursing and physician assistant students - Recorded and shared Health Subcommittee meetings and associated resources as appropriate, reaching contact list of more than 600 community members - Presented best practices at Sharp Memorial trauma multi-disciplinary rounds conference - Presented street medicine best practices to Healthcare in Action - Joined the SoCal Safe Shelter Collaborative to support safe discharges of survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence; onboarded and trained all Sharp hospitals on providing referrals to support services and shelters through this system
	b. Implement human trafficking and trauma-informed care trainings and protocols at Sharp.	FY 2027 Plan: - Replace previously used screening tools with the PEARR Tool and lead its clinical validation - Hire a survivor consultant to review protocols and make recommendations - Integrate best practices on human trafficking and trauma-informed care into new nurse orientations and continuing education events - Update the personal safety questions with the Epic customization FY 2025 – 2026 Activities: - Created and provided human trafficking workshop at the Sharp Brown Simulation Center, worked with a paid survivor consultant on instruction; and offered continuing education units for all Sharp staff - Results demonstrated significant improvement in all areas: confidence in recognizing indicators increased from 2.8 to 4.0, using the structured communication tool increased from 2.2 to 3.9, and providing appropriate resources increased

² Sharp Memorial Hospital librarian established the Health Subcommittee in 2018. This multidisciplinary group — including physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, social workers, executives and community stakeholders — supports health care systems in addressing human trafficking and trauma-informed care through best practice sharing, protocol development and education.

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Objectives	Actions	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
		from 2.5 to 4.1. Qualitative feedback from participants emphasized the value of experiential learning, noting the simulation as informative, realistic, and emotionally engaging - Expanded implementation of trauma-informed care protocols for Sharp Mesa Vista, Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns San Diego, Sharp Grossmont Hospital, Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Centers and Sharp Community Medical Group clinicians to support patients who have been trafficked or have experienced similar exploitation/abuse - Developed a protocol at Sharp Coronado for identification of trafficked persons, responses within the health care system and resources to provide to patients
4. Promote the health and safety of the San Diego community through essential emergency and disaster preparedness activities and services.	a. Train community health care professionals on emergency and disaster preparedness.	<u>FY 2027 Plan:</u> - Host trainings on ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) - Offer free NIMS (National Incident Management System) and HICS (Hospital Incident Command System) classes - Host and facilitate trainings for pediatric surge readiness, mass casualty triage and high consequence infectious disease - Educate personnel from County of San Diego Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch and Office of Emergency Services on Sharp disaster preparedness efforts - Educate community health care workers on active shooter response and STOP the Bleed <u>FY 2025 – 2026 Activities:</u> - Hosted monthly trainings on ARES® - Offered free NIMS and HICS classes - Hosted and facilitated trainings for pediatric surge readiness and mass casualty triage - Educated personnel from County of San Diego Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch and Office of Emergency Services on Sharp disaster preparedness efforts - Educated community health care workers on active shooter response, STOP the Bleed and high consequence disease readiness
	b. Participate in local and state disaster preparedness exercises	<u>FY 2027 Plan:</u>

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Objectives	Actions	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
	in collaboration with public health agencies and other health care partners.	- Participate in the California Department of Public Health and California Emergency Medical Services Authority annual Statewide Medical and Health Exercise, joining more than 100 regional health care partners to test ChemPack deployment readiness for potential chemical emergencies - Participate in the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center’s Community of Practice sessions with hospitals across the country to promote knowledge sharing, collaboration, and preparedness for emerging special pathogens - Co-facilitate the County of San Diego Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Committee to develop and test regional response plans FY 2025 – 2026 Activities: - Joined more than 100 regional health care partners to test major utility failure readiness through the California Department of Public Health and the California Emergency Medical Services Authority annual Statewide Medical and Health Exercise - Collaborated on regionwide Radiation Exposure Table Top Exercise as well as Region Wide Fuel Planning
	c. Serve on various local, state, and national committees and boards to strengthen collaboration and coordinated response.	FY 2027 Plan: - Members of Sharp’s disaster leadership team will donate their time to various committees - Maintain participation in local health system workgroup FY 2025 – 2026 Activities: - Members of Sharp’s disaster leadership team donated their time to committees hosted by various local, state and national organizations including, but not limited to: County of San Diego, Ronald McDonald House, San Diego International Airport, San Diego Healthcare Disaster Coalition, California Hospital Association, the California Department of Public Health, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Maintained participation in local health system workgroup that prepares workforce for local emergency response to public health events



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Identified Community Health Need – Workforce		
Objectives	Action Items	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
1. Increase regional awareness and collaboration among health care providers, law enforcement and community leaders to prevent violence against and enhance safety for health care workers.	a. Participate in the countywide workplace violence prevention workgroup.	FY 2025 – 2026 Activities: Participated in the San Diego Hospital Violence Task Force, which includes all San Diego health systems, the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties, law enforcement agencies and prosecutors
2. Collaborate with local schools to promote interest in health care careers and provide opportunities for students and interns to explore behavioral health care professions.	a. Provide student mentorship in various health care disciplines.	FY 2025 – 2026 Activities: Sharp Mesa Vista and Sharp McDonald Center collaborated with local, state and national schools, colleges and universities to provide learning opportunities for students to explore and train for careers in health care. Sharp Mesa Vista and Sharp McDonald Center provided clinical training to more than 330 nursing, advanced practice provider and ancillary (non–nursing) students who spent nearly 69,000 hours on the hospital campus.
3. Strengthen partnerships with community organizations to foster future collaborations and fundraise for behavioral health services.	a. Participate in behavioral health committees, boards and workgroups.	FY 2025 – 2026 Activities: - Staff at Sharp Mesa Vista and Sharp McDonald Center also regularly led or attended various community and professional health boards, committees and advisory and work groups throughout the year, including: - Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare - Community Health Improvement Partners - Behavioral Health Work Team - Suicide Prevention Council Means Restriction and Higher Education Subcommittees - County of San Diego - Psychiatric Emergency Response Team



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Identified Community Health Need – Workforce		
Objectives	Action Items	Evaluation Methods, Measurable Targets, and Other Comments
		▪ Behavioral Health Services’ Older Adult Council ○ National Alliance on Mental Illness San Diego ○ Point Loma Nazarene University ○ San Diego County Age Well Social Participation and Inclusion Workgroup ○ San Diego County Suicide Prevention Council ○ San Diego Psychological Association Membership and Public Education Media Committees