




COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION PLAN

2024 - 2026

PROGRESS REPORT

 **Bozeman Health**
Deaconess Regional
Medical Center

 **Bozeman Health**
Big Sky Medical Center

EVERY THREE YEARS,

in accordance with the requirements established by the Affordable Care Act and in alignment with our identity as a community health system, both Bozeman Health Deaconess Regional Medical Center and Big Sky Medical Center conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The CHNA identifies areas of opportunity within the health of our communities. The 2023 CHNA health priorities then guided the 2024-2026 Community Health Action Plan (CHAP) which is the three-year strategic plan on key ways Bozeman Health intends to address the health priorities and reaffirms our commitment to improve community health and wellness. The 2024-2026 CHAP health priorities are: **behavioral health, access to healthcare, chronic disease prevention, and socio-economic and health measures.**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

STRATEGY 1:

Expand access to ambulatory behavioral health services within all Bozeman Health primary care sites.

- Continued to expand integrated behavioral health (IBH) services within our primary care sites.
- Went live with Women's Clinic Collaborative Care IBH program, which includes a Care Manager and are recruiting for a nurse navigator. We also have a psychiatric nurse practitioner available to support the women's clinic with perinatal/postpartum behavioral health care.

STRATEGY 2:

Enhance access to acute behavioral health services.

- Broke ground on inpatient behavioral health unit expected to open in Fall of 2025.
- Bozeman Health opened a walk-in psychiatric care clinic in September 2024 and is currently staffed by the inpatient psychiatrist on duty, clinic patient care technicians, and a dedicated resource navigator providing care coordination. Patients utilizing this service include post-discharge from Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)/Emergency Department, the Montana State Hospital, or those new to the community without established psychiatric care. 57 patients were seen in the walk-in clinic from September-December 2024.

STRATEGY 3:

Explore outpatient alcohol and substance use disorder services with both Gallatin County and community authorities and resources.

- Bozeman Health has explored options to connect patients with psychiatric care options, inpatient psychiatric placement, youth inpatient psychiatric placement, and alcohol and substance use services and has connections with several

GOAL:

Increase access to behavioral health services across the care continuum.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH continued

local, state, and regional services to refer or connect patients.

- Bozeman Health leaders spent more than 1,500 hours in 2024 on community-based behavioral health initiatives, including Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition and Gallatin County Local Advisory Council (LAC) meetings, activities, and initiatives as well as collaborative initiatives throughout Gallatin, Park, and surrounding counties.

Grants to support Behavioral Health goal

Partners in Health - \$25k:

- **Bridgercare - Behavioral Health Coordination Program:** expanding access to Bridgercare's collaborative care mental health services. The Collaborative Care model



provides automatic mental health screenings and allows patients to work with

a Care Manager to receive comprehensive mental healthcare. This model provides affordable counseling and mental health support for low-income patients and leads to earlier detection, increased diagnosis, and increased likelihood of successful treatment.

- **Wellness in Action - Affordable Counseling Program (ACP)** supporting mental and



behavioral health needs across the health care continuum for those who live and

work in Big Sky through reduced cost or no cost services. The ACP provides a continuum of care which includes services by licensed counselors, counselors in-training (interns), a community health worker, group therapy offerings, and education/training opportunities, available at varying discounted costs.

- **CHP/One Health - Pathways to Wellness Program:** expanding Behavioral Health coordination for patients. The Behavioral Health Care Coordination program directly addresses the



root causes of poor health by offering non-clinical behavioral health support within CHP's

primary care model, ensuring that individuals with complex mental health and social needs can access and follow through with their treatment plans.

Community Collaboration - \$5k:

- **Intermountain Deaconess Children's Services** - Expand school based mental health program in Gallatin County.
- **Suffer Out Loud** - Mental healthcare scholarship program to residents of the Gallatin valley.
- **Montana Mindfulness Project** - Improving community well-being and resilience through mindfulness education in Gallatin Valley.
- **Befrienders** - Strengthening Connections program: Empowering Seniors through Community Engagement and Support.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

GOAL:
Increase access to care for patients affected by health equity challenges.

STRATEGY 1:

Redesign the HealthCare Connections (HCC) mobile screening program to ensure better alignment of services target to under-resources populations.

- In 2024, the HCC program traveled across Gallatin county to provide no-cost flu and COVID vaccines to under-resourced populations.



- In 2025, the HCC bus will be re-launching in full capacity to provide access to preventative health screenings.

STRATEGY 2:

Expand support to organizations in Big sky working to coordinate services to benefit populations not currently engaged within the local healthcare system.

- We have increased our support to Wellness in Action (WIA) that not only offers behavioral health services for individuals, but also provides connections to other resources via their Community Health Workers. Nearly 10% of Big Sky’s full-time population accesses affordable services through WIA.
- The HCC bus hosted a flu and COVID vaccine clinic at the Big Sky Food bank to provide no-cost vaccines to individuals who may not have otherwise gotten their vaccine.

STRATEGY 3:

Expand the Medical Respite program at the new HRDC shelter, Homeward Point.

Collaborate on planning for the design and provision of primary care and behavioral health services at Homeward Point.

- Bozeman Health has been part of the planning process from the beginning of Homeward Point. We have been engaged in the Planning Medical Work Group for Homeward Point and helped influence the design of the Medical Respite rooms at the shelter.
- As the planning and construction of Homeward Point moves forward, we continue to stay engaged in supporting other services that may be identified.



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE continued

STRATEGY 4:

Provide leadership and coordination for new countywide Health Transportation Coalition.

- Bozeman Health was an active member of the Streamline Stakeholder Committee planning meeting, where we shared feedback and ideas on the community needs of transportation as it relates to health care. Feedback included additional bus stop locations, times of bus service, and potential expansion ideas for Galavan services.
- We are also part of the quarterly Transportation Advisory Committee where leaders across the valley come together to share resources and ideas on how to support transportation concerns for residents in our community.

STRATEGY 5:

Expand the number of recreational vehicle (RV) parking spaces on the Deaconess Regional Medical Center campus.

- Planning for additional RV parking spots is underway. When the gravel lot is revegetated in 2025, we will be expanding Lot E and adding roughly 4 more RV spots.

STRATEGY 6:

Expand the work of the Bozeman Health DEIB committee. Continue work on way-finding in Spanish.

- In 2024, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) committee focused on increasing access and usage of the AMN Language interpreter devices to ensure all patients receive high-quality and accessible care every visit. This work included auditing every department within the health care

system to evaluate how the services are being used and identify opportunities for additional training or resources. Through the audit, additional AMN devices were ordered and the committee has begun work on policy recommendations and training opportunities.

- All way-finding signs on Bozeman Deaconess Regional Medical Center have been updated with Spanish translations. We continue to work on updating miscellaneous signage and other locations.

Grants that support Access to Healthcare goal

Partners in Health - \$25k:

- **Thrive - Spanish Speaking Parent Liaison Program:** connecting parents to community resources and helping Spanish speaking families navigate new communities. Thrive's Parent Liaison Program helps schools and families work together toward the common goal of student success. Parent Liaisons (PLs) work directly in schools to support parent-teacher collaboration, connect parents to community resources, teach parenting classes, and improve parent/child engagement. PLs also help parents meet basic needs and ensure a safe, supportive home environment for children.



Community Collaboration - \$5k:

- **World Language Initiative - Spanish for Healthcare program:** creating specialized Spanish-language training for healthcare professionals.

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

GOAL:
Reduce the impact of chronic disease and cancer by promoting healthy lifestyles and access to low cost or free prevention activities.

STRATEGY 1:

Coordinate with the Gallatin City-County Health Department and Community Health Partners to increase the provision of free early detection screening services for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer.

- We have worked closely with the GCCHD to increase awareness of all cancer screening resources available in our service area. This includes the state programs, as well as Bozeman Health resources such as the Mammogram Project. In 2024, 14 mammogram vouchers were distributed to individuals in 6 towns across our service area.



STRATEGY 2:

Continue supporting the Cancer Support Community in an integrative partnership to provide supportive and wrap-around services to adults and children with cancer within the Bozeman Health service area.

- Bozeman Health has a long history of supporting the Cancer Support Community. We continued to expand our partnership in 2024, to include supporting more events, such as their Pink Party, that bring awareness to the many cancer support offerings for folks in our primary and secondary service areas. We have begun co-planning the use of Bozeman Health

grant funds to support the creation of a men’s retreat and the hiring of an in-house mental health provider at Cancer Support Community.

STRATEGY 3:

Leverage partnerships between Bozeman Health Lifestyle Medicine, the Gallatin City-County Health Department, Bozeman Public Library, HRDC, and the Cancer Support Community to teach healthy meal preparation at multiple locations.

- Bozeman Health’s Lifestyle Medicine provider, Dr. Joe Sofianek, partnered with local organizations across the Bozeman community to provide no-cost cooking classes. In 2024, Dr. Sofianek hosted six cooking demonstrations at the Bozeman Library test kitchen and the HRDC food bank, as well as two presentations to Cancer Support Community on how lifestyle can impact cancer risk.



8
Cooking and education classes

100
People participated

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION continued

STRATEGY 4:

Re-invigorate partnership with Gallatin Valley Land Trust to promote the TrailsRX program within all Bozeman Health Primary care settings. In addition, Bozeman Health will be a trusted resource as partner organizations explore trail creation to promote wellness initiatives in areas with diminished trail access.

- Bozeman Health, together with GVLТ is reinvigorating the TrailsRX program. Suggestions from GVLТ include moving the program fully to Bozeman Health in 2025, to reduce data sharing concerns that made the program challenging to implement and evaluate and to standardize the process of offering to patients in our primary care clinics.



- In 2024, Bozeman Health began conversations to identify potential new trails within areas of diminished trail access with GVLТ. We will continue these conversations in 2025.



STRATEGY 5:

Provide public education through health promotion-focused signage within gateways to the Highland Glen Trail system to promote multi-modal usage of Highland Glen.

- We have partnered with GVLТ and BSF regarding joint messaging and Marketing to better promote the use of Bozeman Health land to enhance a healthier lifestyle and translate how the use of the trails equates to specific chronic disease reduction and prevention. Signs will be printed by the end of the year.

Grants that support Chronic Disease Prevention

Community Collaboration - \$5k:

- **Gallatin Valley YMCA – ReCharge program:** Supporting the health and wellness of individuals who are facing or previously battled cancer.

SOCIOECONOMIC & HEALTH MEASURES

STRATEGY 1:

Engage in the activities of the Regional Housing Coalition (RHC) to identify opportunities to support regional housing affordability efforts.

- Bozeman Health is an active member of the RHC and financially supports the coalition to ensure that the important work continues to move forward. A problem this complex requires a community coalition approach.

STRATEGY 2:

Perform a health assessment, including pre and post outcomes, of the Housing First Village permanent supportive housing to determine what additional resources may be necessary to keep this a viable health intervention for our community's most vulnerable residents.

- The Bozeman Health's Health Equity team has begun work on evaluating baseline data for housing first residents and assessing health outcomes of residents since moving into permanent supportive housing. Results of this study will be available in 2025.

- In 2025, HRDC and Bozeman Health will create a more formal clinical outcome evaluation process that will begin as soon as a resident moves into the village.

GOAL:
Bolster existing work on local affordable housing options while investigating new pathways forward to promote "Housing is Healthcare."

STRATEGY 3:

Explore the expansion of the Care Cottage on the Hillcrest campus to house patients and family members during ongoing healthcare treatment at Deaconess Regional Medical Center.

- Initial conversations with Hillcrest have begun and the actions with this strategy will be formalized in 2025.

Grants that support Socioeconomic and Health Measures

Community Collaboration - \$5k:

- **Greater Gallatin United Way – KidsLink afterschool program** supporting scholarships to decrease financial barrier for care.