

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT (CHNA)

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2021-2023 (to Fiscal Year ending 9/30/2024)

A nonprofit hospital facility such as The Guidance Center is permitted to conduct its CHNA once every three years and in collaboration with other organizations. TGC has identified the following specific implementation plan needs with respect to mental health in the *Northern Arizona University Center for Health Equity Research – Arizona Regional Health Update CHNA (8/30/2021)* and *Coconino County Health & Human Services (CCHHS) Community Health Assessment (12/2020)* and sets forth the following implementation strategy:

- **Social determinants of health, or needs addressing social, environmental, and economic conditions that impact the health and well-being of the communities served, often drive health inequity.**

Implementation: TGC expanded and continues to broaden accepted insurance plans and has diversified self-pay options for a variety of services to allow greater access and affordability in healthcare services. TGC provides no-cost services to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis and needing stabilization or to individuals who: are pregnant or women who have dependent children and needing substance use support, use drugs intravenously or have a diagnosed disorder for opioid use. Treatment staff regularly visit local shelters to offer housing and financial resources. TGC’s Crisis Stabilization Unit completes screenings on social determinants of health to better inform discharge plans and ongoing care needs.

- **Across 2016, 2018 and 2020 Arizona Youth Survey years, Coconino (and two other) counties all had higher percentages of students perceived to be at high risk compared to the state as a whole. Starting in 2017, suicide became the leading cause of death among adolescents. In 2018, Coconino County adolescents had the highest suicide death rate of any age group.**

Implementation: TGC provides intensive, dedicated care management, therapy, skills training, psychological evaluation and testing, family support, behavioral analysis and crisis services to children and adolescents in a variety of settings. TGC collaborates with all local school districts to provide prevention education, suicide risk screenings, and a direct referral process that involves schools referring students to services and TGC outreaching the family for support and care. TGC continually expands children’s services, having added more psychological testing and behavioral analysis in the past 18 months and with plans to improve crisis stabilization service offerings over the coming years.

- **Local and national initiatives are needed to address how beliefs, values and privilege influence worldviews on issues of equity.**

Implementation: TGC implements community education and training initiatives including Mental Health First Aid, a program that educates the general public, law enforcement officials, higher education affiliated faculty and staff, and youth. The program offers stigma reduction efforts by educating and improving comfort levels for people to “identify, understand and respond” to crises or any situation where a person is experiencing a mental health or substance use problem. TGC participates in a local instructor collaborative to provide trainings county-wide with an emphasis on school-based trainings. TGC will continue to enhance its community leadership in MHFA initiatives as it takes the entire community to most effectively help individuals struggling with thoughts of suicide or suffering the effects of mental health conditions and/or substance use.
