

2025-2027 Lower Yakima Valley Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Plan

Following the 2024 completion of the CHNA, because our communities are so diverse, and because our hospitals are so heavily dependent on Medicaid as a payer, the proposed federal changes to Medicaid coverage and reimbursement, coupled with the State's budget deficits has caused great uncertainty regarding future Medicaid funding. Historically, ATH has operated with significant losses, even after subsidies from ASH. This will worsen with Medicaid cuts, as ASH will not generate a bottom line and ATH losses will worsen. In the near term, it means that Astria's highest priority is assuring stability of each hospital and the services it provides, without which the ability to address other identified community needs is moot. This priority coupled with priorities based on data collected and the Community Convening work conducted in the 2025-2027 Astria Health Community Needs Assessment, have been adopted by the Astria Sunnyside Hospital and Astria Toppenish Hospital Boards as have the implementation strategies detailed within this plan.

2025-2027 priorities include:

- ***Advocate and secure federal and state funding levels that reimburse for the cost of providing health care in the Lower Yakima Valley***
- ***Access to Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Services***
- ***Access to Primary and Specialty Care***
- ***Addressing Social Determinants of Health***

PRIORITY 1: ADVOCATE AND SECURE FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING LEVELS THAT REIMBURSE FOR THE COST OF PROVIDING HEALTH CARE IN THE LOWER YAKIMA VALLEY.

Implementation Strategy	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Engage and inform state and federal designators about the needs of Lower Yakima Valley residents and the need for adequate Medicaid reimbursement.	Astria Health Astria Sunnyside Astria Toppenish	Greater Columbia ACH Washington State Hospital Association Washington State Office of Rural Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of white papers/informational packets describing demographics/community needs. Meetings with state and federal legislators and agencies. 	System
Develop and share information that demonstrates the impact of current and future proposed federal changes to Medicaid coverage and reimbursement on the community and Astria.	Astria Health Astria Sunnyside Astria Toppenish	Washington State Health Care Authority Yakama Nation Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White papers/informational packets distributed to state and federal policy makers and agencies. 	System
Evaluate the ability for ATH to become a critical access hospital to secure cost-based reimbursement and evaluate other federal designations that would improve reimbursement levels.	Astria Health Astria Sunnyside Astria Toppenish	State and Federal Legislators, Washington and National Rural Health Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAH Feasibility study conducted. Necessary draft revisions to CFR and/or CMS interpretive guidelines drafted and submitted to appropriate agencies. Other federal programs/designations reviewed for feasibility. CAH or other federal programs applications submitted. 	System

PRIORITY 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES.

Implementation Strategy	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
integrate and co-locate Primary Care and Behavioral Health (including medication management, mental health therapy, and substance use disorder screening).	Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	Greater Columbia ACH Comprehensive Mental Health Wellvana	Continue recruitment of PMHNP providers and explore counselor recruitment to sustain integration efforts.	System
Increase compliance with annual wellness visits for current patient panel to ensure standardized behavioral health screenings are completed.	Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	Greater Columbia ACH Wellvana Optum	Increase the percentage of patients receiving annual wellness visits by 10% per year.	System
Increase compliance with standardized behavioral health screenings (at wellness visits for current clinic patient panels and for acute care and emergency visits) and ensure patients are referred to needed services.	Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Rural Health Clinics Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Emergency Departments	Greater Columbia ACH WSHA Comprehensive Mental Health Wellvana Optum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of clinic and emergency department providers and staff trained on selected screening tools (embedded in EHR) Increase the percentage of wellness visits that include standardized behavioral health screening from baseline 40% to 75%. Increase to 90%, the number of patients identified as at-risk through standardized screening that are provided or referred to needed services. 	System

Implementation Strategy	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Expand inpatient behavioral health program at Astria Toppenish Hospital.	Astria Toppenish Hospital Inpatient Psychiatric Unit	Comprehensive Mental Health Department of Commerce PNW Regional Behavioral Health Providers	Expansion of inpatient services by January 2026.	Astria Toppenish Hospital
Increase the number of Astria employed Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers.	Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	State Department of Health Comprehensive Mental Health	One additional MAT certified provider available in Astria clinics.	System
Continue coordination with Yakama Nation Primary Care and Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse Disorder providers.	Astria Toppenish Hospital Behavioral Health Leadership	Yakama Nation	On-going referral relationship established with the Yakama Nation for contractual services to provide medical detox services and behavioral health beds for tribal members.	Astria Toppenish Hospital

PRIORITY 3: IMPROVE ACCESS TO CARE (PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY)

Implementation Strategy	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Recruit additional primary care and specialty care providers to the community.	Astria Health Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital	State Office of Community and Rural Health National Health Service Corps Ascentia Physician Services Local NP Schools Intuitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit 2 Advanced Practice Providers (ARNP/PA-C) for Union Gap; 1 for Sunnyside; 1 for Grandview. Recruit 1 Rapid Care Advanced Practice Provider for Toppenish and 1 for Sunnyside. Expand Hematology/Oncology in Prosser. Growth in Ortho program Determine feasibility of cardiology service line by 2028. 	System
Understand and enhance patient experience and care delivery models through patient feedback and data-based strategic planning.	Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital Astria Sunnyside and Astria Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	Press Ganey Phreesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of system-wide common measurement tool for patient experience and system-wide fidelity to implementation. Frequent, “real-time,” reporting, analysis, and use of patient data to support access, care delivery, and patient experience initiatives. Reduce barriers to care at access points (e.g., phone system, physical space, digital experience). Identify and deploy patient experience training (crosswalks Nurse Education Program and cultural competence training). 	System

Implementation Strategy	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Address infrastructure, workflow, and internal communication gaps and increase staff training to ensure easy, low barrier, “no wrong door” access.	Astria Health Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital	State Office of Rural Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase number of manager development and employee engagement events/activities focused on improving the patient experience. ▪ Identify dedicated resources; capital and human resources to achieve success. ▪ Increase # of events focused on engagement of providers; ▪ Establish measurable targets to support access , care delivery and patient experience. ▪ Evidence based changes implemented based on mined data (provider schedules, % open/full, productivity, time to appointment, tracking referral rates and referrals within and out of system) 	
Strengthen the Nurse Education Program, in alignment with patient experience and cultural competence initiatives.	Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital	Heritage University YVCC WSU Tufts University Seattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain employment of 3-5 Nurse Tech (training role for nursing students). 	System
Continue mitigation strategies to address loss of OB services in Toppenish through programming and supports.	Astria Health Astria Toppenish Hospital	New Life OB/Gyn HD Rose Gynecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with community partners to ensure smooth transfer process for laboring moms who enter ER. Ongoing training for ER providers and nursing staff on NRP. 	Astria Toppenish Hospital

Implementation Strategy	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Maintain comprehensive program for discharge planning focused on connecting high-risk patients to primary care providers and community resources.	Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital Astria Sunnyside and Astria Toppenish Rural Health Clinics Astria Home Health	Greater Columbia ACH Community Resources Post-Acute Providers Wellvana Optum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All emergency room patients without a primary care provider discharged with a primary care appointment. Discharge planning commenced upon admission for 50% of patients. Increase the percentage of patients referred to community resources by 5% per year. Increase the percentage of patients contacted within 48 hours of discharge by 5% per year. 	System
Engage in community outreach events to identify community members at risk of chronic diseases and connect them to primary care providers.	Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital Astria Sunnyside and Astria Toppenish Rural Health Clinics Astria Home Health	Greater Columbia ACH Community Resources Post-Acute Providers Wellvana Optum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the # of community outreach events engaged in and number of community members identified and referred to primary care providers by 5% per year. 	System
Improve system for prevention, screening, and treatment of chronic diseases by continuing/expanding strategies developed through Greater Columbia ACH	Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	Greater Columbia ACH Optum Wellvana Vital Touch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk stratification achieved for 85% of patients to identify patients with diabetes, depression, COPD, and high blood pressure. Increase provision of care management services for patients identified as high risk from 34% provided (baseline) to 95%. 5% increase in CCM enrollment. 	System

Implementation Strategy	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Coordinate with Yakama Nation Primary Care Providers	Astria Toppenish Hospital and Rural Health Clinics	Yakama Nation	On-going referral relationship with the Yakama Nation for labs, imaging, GI, General Surgery.	Astria Toppenish Hospital
Add Rapid Care Clinic services in Toppenish	Astria Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	N/A	Increase utilization to 10-15 patients per day.	System
Expand dental services in Zillah Rural Health Clinic	Astria Toppenish Rural Health Clinic	State Department of Health UW Medicine Arcora Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hiring of clinical program staff. ▪ Creation of oral health and primary care integration workflow plan. ▪ Creation and dissemination of educational materials and communication activities. ▪ Purchase and install equipment and purchase supplies to support up to 6 dental bays. ▪ Increase annual dental visits from 2024 baseline (7,000). 	Facility
Use data to increase wellness visits and screening rates.	Astria Sunnyside Rural Health Clinics Astria Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	Greater Columbia ACH Wellvana Optum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct chart reviews to identify % of patient panel receiving wellness visits. ▪ Identify patients not being screened and establish best practices for increasing screening rates. ▪ Increase the percentage of patients receiving annual wellness visits by 10% per year. 	System

PRIORITY 4: ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Strategy:	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Accelerate community-based, collaborative leadership to address SDOH through focused work with individual groups including City committees, schools/districts, Tribal Council, local Chambers of Commerce.	Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Hospital and Clinic Leadership	Service Area Food Banks School Districts Local Governments Law Enforcement Housing Authority Yakama Nation Churches Substance Abuse Treatment Providers Other TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase contracts for services; collaboration with community organizations to provide additional services. ▪ Continue collaboration with local fire/police to expand free naloxone program 	System
Increase the percentage of patients screened for assistance with social determinants of health (SDOH), track needs, and strategically plan to address those needs.	Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Hospitals Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Clinics Cerner Reporting Team (Astria)	Community Advisory Council Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the percentage of encounters screened for social determinants by 10% each year (92% baseline at Toppenish; 47% baseline at Sunnyside). ▪ Create and use internal SDOH key indicator reports to inform decisions re: patient needs, best practices, community needs. 	System
Assess health equity and identify specific health equity issues within the Astria Health system and identify training needs, and implement health equity training across the system.	Astria Health Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	Multiple and TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crosswalk with patient feedback system and SDOH key indicator reports. ▪ Increase the number of bilingual staff and providers – explore collaborative educational 	System

Strategy:	Astria Resources	Collaborating Partners	Measurement of Success	Facility-Specific or System-Wide
Ensure bilingual and bicultural competence in hiring, training, and best practices.	Astria Health Astria Sunnyside Hospital Astria Toppenish Hospital Astria Sunnyside and Toppenish Rural Health Clinics	Multiple and TBD	partnerships to grow local workforce through homegrown programs, community health worker training, etc. Health Equity training for new employees and additional training to Healthstream, assigned to all staff annually.	System