



“ Living God's love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.”

Adventist Health Simi Valley (AHSV) is a hospital organization, one of seven health agencies that came together to become the Ventura County Community Health Needs Assessment Collaborative (VCCHNAC) that has a miraculous relationship with engagement and alliance with community-based organizations it increases engagement and alliance in the surrounding area of Ventura County. Events such as brushfires that affected the surrounding communities of Moorpark and Thousand Oaks, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought many households to seek various forms of aid such as food outlets from community-based organizations (CBOs). Schools were closed and public organizations were not open to serve the community, therefore, a number of children and parents lost resources and services. This pandemic brought the prevalence of food security as the main indicator of a household's well-being and access to nourishing meals-- at least to meet dietary needs to lead a productive and healthy life. The combination of environmental disasters and a global health crisis have placed significant pressure on already strained food distribution organizations at both the community and state levels. AHSV stakeholders have surpassed in this past year's public health crisis. However, the hospital readmissions of underlying individuals, who have one of the diagnosis-related groups: sepsis, congestive heart failure, pneumonia, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are discussed here. This staggering readmission rate is costly and overly burdensome for the patients that have gone through the emergency department. Unhealthy lifestyle behaviors and symptoms are the causes of high mortality rate, frequent readmission hospitalization, and low quality of life. As mentioned in Ventura County Community Health Needs Assessment 2019, the inception of the CHAMP® (Congestive Heart Active Management Program) demonstrated the decreased hospital readmissions for CHF, which are listed below:

FY19 Q-1, 75 enrolled with 0 Heart Failure readmissions

FY19 Q-2, 62 enrolled with 4 Heart Failure readmission

FY19 Q-3 100 enrolled with 4 Heart Failure readmissions

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 Ventura County 's Community Health Needs Assessment
 Randall Lewis Health Policy Fellowship 2020/2021

Ventura County's Community Health Needs Assessment Collaborative (VCCHNAC)

One of VCCHNAC's objectives is the Caregiver Patient Navigator education tools. The purpose of the educational tools implemented is to remove barriers to effectively coordinated clinical care and outpatient care. This is accomplished by engaging family members who will be serving as caregivers with coordinated care resources and by providing strategies after their loved one has been discharged from the hospital. The education for caregivers methods was as follows: a) I identified gaps in coverage and recommended resources to assist overburdened caregivers, and it ultimately improved care and coordination; b) The clinicians to work with caregivers to address any questions, challenges, or concerns the family of the caregivers might have; c) The caregivers' were given tools to consider preparedness and response to various environmental factors.

A study has been conducted on the underlying condition of heart failure in ages above 65 years who are dependent on others for self-care and have lost their independence. Hence, caregivers become the physical, psychological, and socially responsible for patients: this is often referred to as the burden of care (Ghasemi et al., 2020). Studies have shown that there is a relationship between caregiver burden and family functioning in the family caregivers of older adults with heart failure. Family functioning is the social and emotional communication of family members and is the way people solve problems. It was recommended that programs that involve promoting adaptive skills and enhancing caregivers' knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs have been shown to be effective in reducing the burden of care (Ghasemi et al., 2020). It is important to alleviate the burden of care on caregivers because pain and suffering can negatively impact the health outcomes of patients' underlying illnesses.

References:

Ghasemi, M., Arab, M., & Shahrabaki, P. M. (2020). Relationship Between Caregiver Burden and Family Functioning in Family Caregivers of Older Adults With Heart Failure. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 46(6), 25-33.

<https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.3928/00989134-20200511-04>

https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/heart_failure.htm

Ventura County Community Health Needs Assessment 2019

FIGURE 51: FACTORS THAT IMPROVE LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

