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Adventist Health Organization

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Adventist Health Organization

Adventist Health is a faith-based, integrated non-profit health care firm started on the Seventh Day Adventist values as well as heritage. The Adventist Health system serves more than 70 communities in Hawaii and the West Coast. Adventist Health Organization provides ¹care in clinics, hospitals, home care services, retirement centers, and hospice agencies in the urban and rural areas (Adventist Health, 2020). They have a team of 37,000 that includes medical professionals, volunteers, and associates whose aim is to deliver the organization's mission of inspiring health, hope, and wholeness by living through God's love. In addition, their health care practices focus on transforming people's lives mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Adventist Health's vision is to provide accessible and affordable health care services to those in need inspired by their mission. Some of its core values are love, where one is supposed to offer care and love to other people. The second value is being and doing good through action and taking courage to impact the community positively. Adventist Health's objective is to promote quality care in the communities and improve patients' experiences through services and technology (Adventist Health, 2020). For them to accomplish this goal, they work with strategic partners, vendors, and alliances. For instance, they have recently partnered with GE Healthcare to maximize their clinical assets to improve patient care delivery (Adventist Health, 2019). This will help them with knowledge through developed analytics to help improve the reliability and quality of care. Adventist Health believes that building alliances with established hospitals and other healthcare organizations ensures that patients' health requirements in different communities are met. The paper will discuss the changes in the development of services of the Adventist Health organization.

Most of Adventist Health activities are community-based, and throughout 2019 they provided community members with healthcare accessibility for the elderly, outpatients, clinic visits, and home care visits through its Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). After the CHNA, Adventist Health identified areas that could be developed and improved using the resources they have, community partners, and experts to empower the community and fulfill their mission (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). The prioritized health services and products Adventist Health plan to address chronic diseases, food insecurity, obesity, preventative practices, economic insecurity, and housing. The importance of CHNA was to provide an overall understanding of the health requirements in Adventist Health to address those needs. The changes mentioned above in health needs were determined through community input and secondary data analysis. They were prioritized based on the intensity of the health issues and the urgency of the matter.

To start the change, a strategy design process was first initiated, and it involved stakeholders from the Adventist Health hospitals through a summit for two days. The stakeholders are presented with strategy template for implementation, after which every hospital was allowed in participating in a series of consultation sessions and calls for technical assistance regarding the issues. This was conducted after the two-day summit by Adventist Health representatives in developing and refining the strategy (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). Using the CHNA process, Adventist Health plans to implement its strategy through the hospital plans' activities on addressing the health requirements. Second, the above activities' expected impact, as indicated in Process and Outcomes course of action for each process. Third, resources hospitals plan to use for each strategy. Lastly, any planned opportunities for collaborations with other institutions to support their mission. Additionally, aside from the needs mentioned earlier,

other community-based requirements need medical assistance, such as mental health and substance abuse, but Adventist Health will currently not address them.

Housing

Adventist Health's goal for this need is to deliver a strategy that will reduce chronic homelessness by working with community members and partners. Their target populations are individuals sleeping in cars, homeless families on the streets, and homeless individuals (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). The planned activities include providing volunteers and financial support by identifying community resources to help shelter the homeless. This is achieved by working together with community members conversant with the area to identify and engage with homeless individuals. Once they have been identified, Adventist Health volunteers will direct them to the appointed shelter in the community where they will receive medical check-up in case of any illnesses they might have contracted while living on the streets.

Economic Insecurity

Economic insecurity is produced by exposure to extreme economic events like unemployment, job loss, or an illness. Economic insecurity leads to mental health issues due to stress and mental turmoil one goes through as they try to survive during the harsh economic events (Kopasker et al., 2018). Adventist Health partners with community in addressing employment obstacles for those who have been recently come out of prison and the homeless (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). Individuals who have been released from prison come back to society and experience hardship due to stigmatization, which leads to recidivism. Adventist Health plans to deploy a workforce development initiative for unemployed, homeless individuals, and those released from jail recently. This workforce will identify individuals who require these services to improve their economic situation. The second activity plans to provide

volunteer staff for a medical tattoo removal initiative to reduce employment barriers. This initiative will benefit people who have left jail recently and looking to assimilate back to society and lead an everyday life. Also, this activity offers to provide mentorship as well to prepare them for employment opportunities.

Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases last for more than one year and require constant medical check-ups to manage and live with the illness. Such ² conditions include diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's. Adventist Health's objective is to offer screening activities and education to communities with a high risk of these diseases. Their target is particularly the elderly in these communities since they are prone to having these illnesses. One of their activities involves providing screening for cholesterol levels, blood pressure, glucose levels, and BMIs at several health fairs, such as the American Heart Association (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). These screenings will provide details of individuals who are in need of urgent medical attention to prevent further damage to their health. The second activity involves the screening of cancer and giving preventative practices through health fairs. The above action will also help raise cancer awareness to community members and ways to prevent one from contracting the disease.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a condition where a household lacks basic food due to economic events, food wastage, climate change, or natural disasters like floods or drought, destroying crops. Food insecurity and hunger go hand in hand since they lead to poverty and diseases (Thomas et al., 2019). Adventist Health plans on collaborating with Kern Public Health to launch a food program that recovers edible leftovers from the hospital café and distributing them to those in need. Their goal is to minimize food wastage and create awareness of giving surplus

foodstuff to the needy through their local churches (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020).

Adventist Health target population are families with no foods and older adults in the community.

Adventist Health hopes to expand this program to other Adventist Health franchises in different communities, hospitals, and local churches.

Preventative Practices

Preventative practices are approaches that are implemented to put a stop to negative behaviors or patterns. In this case, Adventist Health plans to reduce the rates of under-vaccinated and unvaccinated children under the age of five to minimize the risk of vaccine-related outbreaks like measles or polio. Vaccination is essential for a child since it helps to strengthen their immune system from diseases. Adventist Health activity plans on using grant funds to offer free childhood immunization and free flu shots using medical specialized mobile units (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). These mobile units will be managed by health care practitioners who will teach the parents the importance of vaccinating their children without fail.

Obesity

Obesity is a lifestyle disease that involves excessive amounts of body fats. It is a medical problem because the excessive fats in one's body lead to chronic diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes. It is caused by overconsumption of processed foods, lack of physical activities, and genetics (Dimitri, 2019). Adventist Health plans on utilizing the concept of using mobile kitchens to pass on information regarding adolescent obesity and diabetes. They plan on achieving this by providing a unique experience of tasting fruits and vegetables fresh from the farm to students from different locations (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). They hope to create awareness by teaching young adults to embrace eating healthy meals instead of processed foods, hence creating the tasting experience for them. This activity targets both boys and girls

aged 5 to 17 years. Adventist Health also plans to collaborate with the Grimm Family Education Foundation to reach even more adolescents.

According to Adventist Health, the strategies, as mentioned above, are the critical components to achieve general objective in minimizing general health care costs, improve people's health, and creating access to health care services. Compared to their achievements in 2019, the development of these new products and services will improve the livelihoods of adolescents, children, the unemployed, and the entire community.

In summary, having discussed changes in the development of the Adventist Health organization's products and services, it is clear that the organization is determined to change and push healthcare boundaries. Initially, most people in the community associated with poverty due to socio-economic factors will rarely visit hospitals since they lack the means to get treatment and because the healthcare facility is too far. Adventist Health pushes healthcare boundaries because it goes beyond its standards to meet the community's medical needs (Adventist Health Bakersfield, 2020). Health care systems also need to step out of hospitals' traditional roles to address economic, environmental, and social conditions that cause poor health in the communities they serve. This is because the community's well-being is not based on the overall population health but on administering health equity. When managed properly, these new products and services will serve the community well. For instance, the release of funds early will be necessary for volunteers and other staff since they will not experience any barrier. They try to get the resources they need to serve the community. For the success and implementation of these new products and services, the leaders in charge of this project need to be proactive by offering support where they can to meet the pressing health issues.

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