



TIDELANDS COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK

Tidelands Health | Georgetown, S.C.



The headquarters for Tidelands Community Care Network is located in the heart of Georgetown, S.C., in the former post office. TCCN helps facilitate access to medical care for uninsured adults.

What is it?

The goal of Tidelands Community Care Network (TCCN) is to facilitate access to care at the right time and in the right place for uninsured adults ages 19 and older. TCCN has grown into a multi-sector coalition of community health stakeholders aiming to improve community wellness. Created in 2012, TCCN uses a dual approach of providing care coordination and outreach services while also working with community partners to address systemic, cultural, and generational barriers to care and improved community health. The integrated care team includes three community health workers (CHWs), a behavioral health manager, intake coordinator, six care coordinators and nurse partners providing chronic disease care pathways and health education. The TCCN team also includes a Welvista representative to facilitate access to medications.

TCCN uses a number of strategies to help remove

the barriers residents face in getting the health care they need. The network connects residents with a medical home, provides access to high-quality chronic disease management and specialty care, empowers patients to take control of their health and more.

TCCN is built upon collaborations and has made numerous strides during the last few years as a result of these strong partnerships. Recent notable collaborations:

Diabetes Prevention Program – Diabetes is a common condition in the Tidelands Health service area. TCCN has made combatting this disease a priority with a new prevention program aiming to educate residents and provide screenings. The program encourages residents to make lifestyle choices that have shown to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes, including eating better, losing weight and getting at least 150 minutes of physical activity every week. The network, in partnership with Tidelands Health, has trained 10

RN facilitators, registered dieticians and CHWs to provide resources in the community. TCCN also offers classes in community recreation centers, at businesses and in other spots easily accessible for residents.

Chronic Disease Management -TCCN has partnered with Tideland's HealthPoint Center for Health and Fitness and the Georgetown YMCA to provide scholarships for low-income residents ready to engage in fitness activities for better health. The partnership includes health coaching, exercise training and access to Tideland's HealthPoint and the Georgetown YMCA.

Behavioral Health Access –TCCN has increased access to mental health services by partnering with the local free clinic, Tideland's Health primary care providers and the local mental health agency. Funds received from the Department of Health and Human Services through the Healthy Outcome Plan are used to promote access to these services. Because of this effort, more residents are seeking needed behavioral health services.

Breast Health Outreach –TCCN has partnered with the federally qualified health center, free clinic and Tideland's Health primary care providers to ensure residents get mammograms. CHWs help identify and remove barriers residents have for getting mammograms, such as transportation to the appointment. They also offer education and support to help residents overcome any fears they might have about getting a mammogram.

TCCN will continue its collaborative efforts to benefit the community.

Who is it for?

Adults ages 19 and older who need health care but have encountered barriers to accessing or navigating appropriate medical and behavioral health care, health education and care coordination.

Why do they do it?

Much of the area has historically high rates of chronic disease and poverty. About 19 percent of



Georgetown County's residents live in poverty, and roughly 14 percent lack health insurance, according to U.S. Census data. In addition, nearly 15 percent of residents have chronic diabetes and roughly 30 percent are considered morbidly obese.

TCCN also aims to address the health disparities in the area based on race, education, income and language.

Residents engaged with TCCN have increasingly shown positive health outcomes, but significant barriers remain.

Impact

TCCN has served more than 3,300 residents since its beginning in 2012. It has provided access to 18,500 primary care visits, nearly 14,000 specialty care visits, more than 6,100 diagnostic tests and more than 1,300 behavioral health care visits.

Currently, the network is serving more than 1,500 residents.

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