

8.b.. Workforce Factors – Health Care Providers

Identify the number of people currently in a 50 mile radius of the site with health care provider licenses (physician, registered nurse, medical technician, licensed practical nurse, certified nurse assistant, physical therapist, psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, physician assistant, nutritionist, dietician, laboratory technician, etc.).

Workforce Report provided by Enquire Research Lincoln, Nebraska

Summary of Licensed Healthcare Providers Within 50-Mile Radius of Kearney Site

General Healthcare Provider Licensees

Table 4 (below) shows the number of active and pending licensees, for a range of license types, within a 50-mile radius of the Kearney site. Information shown in **Table 4** was obtained from the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Licensee Registry.

The number of licensed RNs and LPNs in the 50-mile area is sufficient to meet the needs of a new Kearney Veterans Home facility. The workforce can also provide sufficient services for medically complex needs, dementia, and hospice care, particularly when commuting patterns in the greater market are considered. (See Section C.)

Table 4. Healthcare Provider Licensees Within 50-Mile Radius of Kearney Site			
License	Active Licensees	Pending Licensees	Total
Advanced Practice RN/Nurse Practitioner	93	4	97
APRN/CRNA	42	0	42
APRN NP/Practice	91	6	97
APRN/Clinical Nurse Specialist	6	0	6
Dental Hygienist	139	0	139
Dentist	117	0	117
Licensed Practical Nurse	925	19	944
Certified Licensed Practical Nurse	119	2	121
Master Social Worker	64	0	64
Medical Nutrition Therapist	48	0	48
Medical Radiographer	235	0	235
Medication Aide	1140	11	1151
Medication Aide - 40 Hour	1621	54	1675
Mental Health Practitioner	277	7	284
Provisional Mental Health Practitioner	80	4	84
Nurse Aide	3548	117	3665
Nursing Support - Paid Dining Assistant	30	0	30
Occupational Therapist	88	0	88
Occupational Therapy Assistant	27	4	31
Optometrist	40	1	41
Osteopathic Physician & Surgeon	18	0	18
Podiatrist	9	0	9

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Pharmacist	217	9	226
Pharmacy Technician	252	13	265
Physical Therapist	133	4	137
Physical Therapy Assistant	104	2	106
Physician	338	4	342
Physician Assistant	77	0	77
Professional Counselor	134	2	136
Psychologist and LIMHP	145	4	149
Registered Nurse	2404	76	2480
Respiratory Care Practitioner	104	0	104
SLPA Supervisor	11	0	11
Social Worker	99	3	102
Speech-Language Pathologist	79	0	79
Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (includes temporary status)	86	0	86

Source: State of Nebraska Licensee Database provided by Department of Health and Human Services, June 7, 2013

Behavioral Health Prescribing Professionals

Table 5 shows a breakdown of full- and part-time behavioral health prescribing professionals within a 50-mile radius of the Kearney site.

Table 5. Behavioral Health Prescribing Professionals Within 50-Mile Radius of Kearney Site⁽¹⁾	
Profession	Number of Professionals
Psychiatrist	
Full-time	8
Part-time	2
Nurse Practitioners	
Full-time	12
Part-time	2
Physician Assistant	
Full-time	1
Part-time	1

(1) Data are reported for entire counties that fall within the 50-mile radius

Source: Health Professions Tracking Service (UNMC 2010), as reported in Nebraska's Behavioral Health Workforce (Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research 2011).

Workforce Needs Assessment for Key Healthcare Professionals

Table 6 summarizes the number of active licensees in nursing and nursing support positions in Buffalo County and Hall County.

Table 6. Active Licensees in Buffalo and Hall Counties		
License Type	Buffalo County	Hall County
Registered Nurse	780	560
Licensed Practical Nurse	268	208

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Nurse Aide	695	1006
Medication Aide	273	352
Medication Aide – 40 hr	305	451

Source: State of Nebraska Licensee Database provided by Department of Health and Human Services (June 7, 2013).

RNs: Buffalo County has more RN licensees when compared to Hall County. Looking at where nurses and nursing support staff work, 62 percent of RNs in Buffalo County work in hospitals compared to 47.5 percent of RNs in Hall County. (Online Responses to Nebraska Nursing Survey 2012.) More RNs in Hall County report working in a nursing home (13 percent) than those in Buffalo County (five percent). The latter statistic is probably related to the current Grand Island Veterans Home, which employs 34 RNs (FTE), including nurse supervisors and a director of nursing.

Nurse Aides: Hall County currently has more Nurse Aides than Buffalo County, again because of the needs of the existing Grand Island Veterans Home. Staff Care Technicians at the Veterans Home must be qualified as both Nurse and Medication Aides, and Kearney will need to supply a workforce to fill the approximately 184 Staff Care Technician (FTE) positions.

Given the limited number of seats in the CCC training program for Nurse Aides, additional training programs, including on-site training at the Veterans Home, are needed to provide an adequate workforce. An additional advantage of an on-site training program is that the Veterans Home can require background checks and drug testing for applicants to eliminate individuals who would not qualify for the registry. Background checks are not required for students who take the CCC program on the CCC campus, resulting in students completing the training who do not meet the requirements to be listed on the state registry.