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# Healthcare

Mar 27, 2025

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## Executive Brief

Healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, and community leaders addressed Sauk County's urgent healthcare challenges and opportunities.

Participants identified strategic priorities requiring **executive action** and **executive focus** to ensure a sustainable, high-quality healthcare system.

### 1. Expand Access to Rural Healthcare

#### Executive Action:

- Fund and launch targeted recruitment programs for rural students into healthcare careers.
- Secure grants for rural residency programs in family medicine and allied health.
- Approve partnerships with technical colleges to expand training in various fields.

#### Executive Focus:

- Support telehealth expansion for diagnosis/prevention in dentistry, mental/primary care.
  - Endorse high school preceptorship programs to build the workforce pipeline early.
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## 2. Build Infrastructure for Growth & Economic Stability

### Executive Action:

- Approve facility expansion (labor/delivery, surgical units) aligned to support growth.
- Prioritize broadband/housing projects to stabilize workforce recruitment/retention.

### Executive Focus:

- Promote flexible and remote work models for healthcare roles.
  - Ensure infrastructure investments reflect long-term community health commitments.
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## 3. Shape the Policy & Funding Environment

### Executive Action:

- Lead advocacy for Medicaid reimbursement, increases and flexible pilot program funding.
- Direct legislative engagement: invite policymakers to facilities, showcase programs, and align with the Governor's Task Force recs.

### Executive Focus:

- Coordinate a unified regional advocacy voice through associations (e.g., WHA).
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## 4. Accelerate Innovation & Technology Adoption

### Executive Action:

- Approve partnerships with tech providers for AI, telemedicine, and EMR enhancements.
- Fund staff training on AI-driven tools to improve efficiency w/o forgoing patient privacy.

### Executive Focus:

- Remove barriers to telemedicine for elderly/rural populations (device/connectivity support).
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## 5. Close Workforce Gaps & Improve Retention

### Executive Action:

- Prioritize recruitment for key healthcare roles in specialty services.
- Implement formal retention programs: total rewards, recognition, and tuition assistance.

### Executive Focus:

- Foster a work culture to attract multi-generational talent and leverages the county's quality of life.

## 6. Strengthen Education & Workforce Development

### Executive Action:

- Expand youth apprenticeships and dual-enrollment programs in healthcare tracks.
- Mandate inclusion of soft skills and life skills in healthcare training curricula.

### Executive Focus:

- Build ties with school districts and technical colleges to align training with industry needs.
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## 7. Prepare for Emerging Healthcare Demands

### Executive Action:

- Plan housing capacity for elder care, assisted living, and independent living facilities.
- Fund mental health infrastructure to meet rising demand.

### Executive Focus:

- Champion preventative care initiatives across all providers.
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## 8. Leverage Public-Private Partnerships & Advocacy

### Executive Action:

- Organize advocacy events to address reimb. policy and employer healthcare cost concerns.
- Direct participation in WHA legislative day (April 9).

### Executive Focus:

- Continue to advocate at the state and federal levels.
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## 9. Manage Tourism's Impact on Healthcare

### Executive Action:

- Approve seasonal staffing models to maintain quality of care during high tourism times.

### Executive Focus:

- Monitor wage competition from tourism industry and adapt retention strategies needed.

# 10. Integrate Sustainable Practices

## Executive Action:

- Invest in renewable energy installations and green building practices for expansions.

## Executive Focus:

- Encourage staff biking/walking/EV adoption; address rural charging infrastructure gaps.

