Taylor Regional Hospital in Pulaski County is a private, nonprofit hospital and an integral part of the local community. Along with other nonprofit hospitals across the country, Taylor Regional must abide by new regulations. In 2010, President Obama signed The Patient Protection Affordable Care Act that requires all nonprofit tax exempt hospitals to complete a community health needs assessment every three years and to develop an action plan addressing the identified priority needs.

In late 2011, the Hawkinsville/Pulaski Archway Executive Committee identified key stakeholders to form a Health Issue Work Group and begin the needs assessment. UGA’s College of Public Health assisted by developing quantitative and qualitative measurements for the community. This information and engagement has given Taylor Regional Hospital a significant head start in implementing the required needs assessment.

The Hawkinsville/Pulaski Archway Partnership is working cooperatively with Georgia Southern University, the district health department, and other community partners to expedite this requirement, prepare a community health plan, and implement the plan to help improve community health in Pulaski County. This team will complete the following objectives by June 30, 2013:

- organize a local steering group to provide assessment support and guidance.
- prepare needs identification and asset inventory.
- prioritize identified community health issues.
- educate core steering group members and community members.

Dr. Skip McDannald, chair of the Archway Community Health Issue Work Group said, “With the assistance of UGA’s Archway Partnership and the UGA College of Public Health, a collaboration of local voices in the health arena is taking place. For the first time, the community at large, Taylor Regional Hospital, the Health Department and UGA have come together to identify areas for future improvement and begin to move forward in a unified direction. The fact that we are all talking and working together is a great accomplishment and one that will pay great dividends in the future.”

Advancing Community Priorities: Community Health was identified as a priority need for Pulaski County. Assisting Taylor Regional Hospital in meeting the requirements of this mandate is essential for the continued success of the private, nonprofit health care provider as well as overall advancement of community health.