

Safety Net Clinic/FQHC Overview

Presentation for the
Oregon Health Fund
Board

January 15, 2008

About the Oregon Primary Care Association (OPCA)

- Association for Safety Net Clinics
- Primary members are Community Health Centers
- OPCA provides:
 - Advocacy
 - Technical Assistance

Oregon Health Care System and Its Access Issue

- Financial Barriers

- Uninsured: without ability to pay, uninsured have a hard time accessing prevention and primary care services, specialty and hospital services
- Underinsured: deductible high, inadequate benefit package
- Medicaid: payment rates are low, fewer mainstream providers accepting Medicaid patients
- Medicare: payment rates are low, fewer mainstream providers accepting Medicare patients

Oregon Health Care System and Its Access Issue (Cont'd)

- Other Barriers (financial is only one of many)
 - Cultural
 - Language
 - Transportation
 - Geographic
 - Homeless
 - Higher prevalence of mental illness
 - Substance abuse, including meth addicts
 - Cognitive impairment/memory problems
 - Decreased functional status
 - Health literacy barriers
 - Socially isolated

How the Primary Care Safety Net Fits Into the Delivery System

- Provides prevention and primary care for those that experience one or most likely multiple barriers to care
- Build trust with patient through culturally competent care
- Spend extra time with the patient to address multiple barriers to becoming healthier
- Mainstream primary care system is not typically set up to take care of the populations we serve

CHC Role in the Primary Care Safety Net

- Community Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Rural Health Clinics
- School Based Health Centers
- Indian Health Clinics
- Community Sponsored Clinics
- Other clinics that are adept at serving vulnerable populations
- Community picks appropriate model

What is a CHC?

- Five Basic Characteristics:
 - Located in high need areas
 - Governed by community boards (51% patients)
 - Comprehensive primary care/enabling services; also connect patients to specialist/hospital care/social services
 - Open to all residents regardless of ability to pay
 - Discount on costs (sliding fee scale):\$37 million in 2006
 - Held to strict performance/accountability measures: administrative, clinical, governance, and financial

Types of Services CHCs Provide

- **Professional Services:**

- General primary medical care
- Prenatal care & postpartum care
- Preventive medical & dental care
- Mental health treatment/counseling
- Substance abuse treatment/counseling
- Hearing screening
- Vision screening
- Pharmacy

Types of Services CHCs Provide (Cont'd)

- **Preventive Services**

- Immunizations
- Pap smear
- Smoking cessation program
- HIV Testing and Counseling
- Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes
- Blood pressure monitoring
- Weight reduction program

Types of Services CHCs Provide (Cont'd)

- **Enabling Services**

- Case Management: Medical/Maternal/Social
- Childcare
- Entitlement/Eligibility Assistance
- Health Education
- Interpretation/Translation
- Outreach
- Supportive Counseling
- Transportation

Community Health Centers in Oregon

- Served over 238,000 Oregonians with over 1,000,000 medical, dental and mental health/substance abuse visits
- Of the patients that reported, 36% Hispanic/Latino, 4% African American, 2% Native American, 2% Asian/Pacific Islander
- Payor Mix
 - 47% uninsured
 - 34 % Medicaid
 - 13% private insurance
 - 6% Medicare
- Nearly 1/5 uninsured Oregonians are seen at HCs (19.5%)
- Over 1/5 Medicaid beneficiaries are seen at HCs (22%)
- About 95% of patients under 200% Federal Poverty Level

CHCs Meeting Unmet Need

- Serve those that need care the most
 - Cultural
 - Language (30% best served in another language)
 - Transportation
 - Geographic
 - Homeless
 - Higher prevalence of mental illness
 - Substance abuse
 - Cognitive impairment
 - Decreased functional status
 - Health literacy barriers
 - Socially isolated
 - Financial barriers

Where CHCs are located in Oregon

- 26 CHCs in Oregon with over 150 sites
- Located in 27 counties
- Most CHCs have a site in a rural area; we have sites in 4 of 10 designated frontier counties
- Coastal locations – Astoria, Lincoln County, Tillamook County, Coos Bay
- Up and down the I-5 corridor
- Central Oregon – Prineville, Madras, Bend, Boardman
- Northeast Oregon – Hood River, Dalles, Boardman, Hermiston
- Eastern Oregon – Valle, Nyssa, Ontario