

Progress Update



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2004

Welcome to Progress Update, a newsletter designed to help you stay in touch with the developments of Access HealthColumbus (AHC).

Access Network Program (Southside Pilot) Update

As we shared with you in the January newsletter, AHC started enrolling Southside residents in the Access Network Program on December 15, 2003. We are pleased to report that patient enrollment levels continue to increase incrementally. Listed below are program activity results to date:

Activity Period:	<u>12/15/03 – 3/9/04</u>
Low-income uninsured residents enrolled:	206
Patient referrals to health care services:	102
Transportation services provided:	70
Medical interpreter services provided:	3
Prescriptions provided:	118

Our goal is to enroll up to 3,000 eligible Franklin County residents in the Access Network in 2004. We recognize the ongoing challenge to match the “supply” of voluntary care (and funding) with the “demand” of low-income uninsured patients. We believe our incremental approach is the best method for balancing supply and demand; and we have started improving access to health care one person at a time.

As a reminder, eligibility criteria require a patient to be uninsured, with family incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level, and not eligible for public insurance programs (Medicaid, Medicare, VA). We are focusing enrollment for residents of zip codes 43205, 43206, and 43207 at this time.

Voluntary Care Network Update

Bruce Wall, M.D., a physician consultant, continues to work with the medical community on the development of the Voluntary Care Network. Under Dr. Wall's leadership, participation levels continue to increase. If you are aware of any physicians or health care providers interested in joining the Voluntary Care Network, they can contact Dr. Wall directly at 884-2440, x 218, for more information. Listed below are VCN activity results to date:

Activity Period:	<u>12/1/03 – 3/9/04</u>
Physicians pledging voluntary care:	252
Number of patient visits pledged:	4,616
Hospitals pledging voluntary care:	9
Financial value of voluntary care provided:	\$21,332

Community Update Invitation

Access HealthColumbus invites you to attend a community update on April 1. Please join us for this brief program to learn more about AHC's 2003 results.

When: April 1, 2004
Where: Columbus Health Department -- Auditorium
240 Parsons Avenue (corner of Parsons and Main St.)
Program: 3:30 - 4:00 pm Reception
4:00 – 4:45 pm Access HealthColumbus Presentation

RSVP: Please let us know the names of individuals attending from your organization by contacting Tracy Ross via email (tross@accesshealthcolumbus.org) or phone (614-884-2440, x210).

Advanced Access Training – 4th Learning Session

Access HealthColumbus hosted the fourth and final Advanced Access learning session as part of the 10-month training program on January 20th and 21st. Ten medical practices participated in the program to learn new strategies for reducing delays to primary care and improving office efficiency. Separate breakout sessions were conducted with academic sites to focus on the unique needs of practices with residency programs. Each participant has identified specific goals and action plans to support their goals. Congratulations to the following teams on completing the 10-month training program:

Children's Hospital – East Central Close To Home Center
 Children's Hospital – Linden Close To Home Center
 Children's Hospital – Southside Close To Home Center
 Children's Hospital – Westside Close To Home Center
 Columbus Neighborhood Health Center - John R. Maloney South Side Health Center
 Columbus Neighborhood Health Center – East Central Health Center
 Columbus Neighborhood Health Center – Columbus Northeast Health Center
 Columbus Neighborhood Health Center – St. Stephen's Health Center
 OSU Thomas E. Rardin Family Practice Center
 Riverside Family Practice

Much collaboration made these sessions informative and constructive.

Improving Coordination of Social Services for Southside

As a component of the Access Network Program, AHC in conjunction with the Columbus Health Department recently initiated a monthly meeting to improve the coordination of social services for vulnerable residents. The goal of the group is to share information and improve coordination of services.

Eighteen participants representing five organizations attended the first meeting. We would like to thank the following individuals for their participation:

Katie Clark, Physicians Free Clinic	Marilyn Gravely, Southside Pride Center
Deborah Chatman, Community Health Access Project	Cathy Elkins, Southside Pride Center
Debera Diggs, Communities in Schools	Susan Corn, Franklinton Pride Center
Mari Sunami, South Side Settlement House	Sharon Ritchie, Franklinton Pride Center
Sandra Watts, South Side Settlement House	Stephanie Herreman, Far East Pride Center
Kathie Alloway-Priddy, Columbus Health Dept.	Ruby Redd, Far East Pride Center
Pat Roush, Columbus Health Dept.	Valerie Sutliff, Upcoming Near East Pride Center
Delores Burke, Columbus Health Dept.	Vickie Clark, Columbus Health Dept.
Ellen Rapkin, Columbus Health Dept.	Karen Ishizuka, Columbus Health Dept.

If you are interested in learning more about this coordination effort, please contact Isi Ikharebha at 884-2440, x 211.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jeff Biehl, Executive Director,
 at (614) 884-2440 or jbiehl@accesshealthcolumbus.org.

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Franklin County



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