

Progress Update



APRIL/MAY 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

Over 500 low-income uninsured residents have been enrolled in the Access Network Program during the first 140 days. Listed below are program activity results to-date:

<u>Activity Period:</u>	<u>12/15/03 – 5/7/04</u>
Total low-income uninsured residents enrolled:	511
Number of enrolled residents with new medical homes: (those reporting no regular source of health care)	405
Referrals to Voluntary Care Network providers:	202
Transportation services provided:	218
Medical interpreter services provided:	10
Prescription drugs provided:	405
Number enrolled in public insurance:	14

Our 2004 goal is to incrementally enroll up to 3,000 eligible Franklin County residents in the Access Network Program. 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. We are focusing enrollment efforts for residents of zip codes 43205, 43206, and 43207. If you know of someone who may be eligible for the program, please call our Care Coordinators at 614-884-2441.

Voluntary Care Network Update

Expansion efforts continue on the development of the Voluntary Care Network (VCN). If you are aware of any physicians or health care providers interested in joining the network, please contact Bruce Wall, MD, directly at 614-884-2400, x.218, for more information. Listed below are VCN activity results to-date:

<u>Activity Period:</u>	<u>12/15/03 – 4/30/04</u>
# doctors pledging voluntary care:	409
# patient visits pledged:	7,356
Hospitals pledging voluntary care:	11
Financial value of voluntary care provided:	\$111,393

Community Update Session

AHC would like to thank everyone who attended our first community update. Over 70 people were in attendance on April 1st for an update on AHC's program activities and results to-date. The community update presentation can be found on the AHC website in the "What's New" section.

Columbus Medical Association Foundation Grant

The Columbus Medical Association Foundation has awarded AHC with additional funding of \$250,000 to support prescription drugs and medical interpreter services for patients enrolled in the Access Network Program and health care providers participating in the Voluntary Care Network. AHC appreciates the Columbus Medical Association Foundation's ongoing support and partnership. These new funds will be used to serve our clients in the community.

OSU Family Practice on South High

The OSU Primary Care Network has announced the opening of its new Family Practice on South High. The new practice will open on July 1, 2004, and will be located at 1405 South High Street. Additional information will be provided to the community.

AHC awarded a grant to the OSU Primary Care Network last year to support the opening of a Family Practice on South High Street. We are very excited about the expansion of primary care for Southside residents, the partnership with the OSU Primary Care Network, and their commitment to community service.

"Prescription for Good Health" Program Launched

AHC launched a new prescription drug assistance program for low-income uninsured residents of Franklin County. The "Prescription for Good Health" program coordinates enrollment into drug company patient assistance programs. The program established a drug co-pay pool for those patients with more than five prescription drugs per month.

Funding for this program has been provided by the Columbus Medical Association Foundation for up to 6,600 eligible Franklin County residents earning less than \$16,000 a year (single) or less than \$25,000 a year (couple), and do not have prescription drug insurance.

Additional information and enrollment forms can be found on the AHC website in the "Patients/Consumers" section. For those organizations or agencies interested in learning more about this program, please contact Tammie Seay, AHC's Prescription Drug Coordinator, at 614-884-2440, x.219.

AHC appreciates the Columbus Medical Association Foundation commitment of \$250,000 towards improving access to affordable prescription drugs for vulnerable populations in Franklin County.

AHC Staff Promotions

AHC is pleased to announce the following staff promotions:

- Isi Ikharebha has been promoted from Project Coordinator to Program Coordinator. In her new role, Isi will be responsible for coordinating AHC programs, grants, and community collaborations.
- Tracy Ross has been promoted from Administrative Assistant to Care Coordinator. In her new role, Tracy will coordinate the production aspects of the Access Network Program.

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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