



Florida Association of Free Clinics Newsletter

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Message from State Representative Juan Zapata

Mission:

To develop a unified network of Florida free clinics focusing on the strategic components of collaboration, visibility, communication and advocacy and mentoring

I'm proud to support the establishment of the Florida Association of Free Clinics (FAFC). With over 25 percent of Miami-Dade's adult residents with no kind of health insurance, I realize that Free Clinics play an increasingly important role in State and local efforts to improve access to care for the growing number of people who are uninsured, underinsured or underserved in this community.

I strongly believe that developing a unified network of Free Clinics in Florida is essential for collaboration, visibility, communication, advocacy and mentoring in favor of these necessary safety net providers. I'm enthusiastic about the opportunities that the FAFC will provide to those individuals in our community that struggle to access the health system.

FAFC Website coming soon!

Sincerely,

Juan C. Zapata
State Representative

An Initiative
of the



Join Our Mailing List!

Membership is Now Open!

The Florida Association of Free Clinics will provide a non-profit professional association, working together with the National Free Clinic Association to support Free Clinics and the people they serve.

The Florida Association of Free Clinics will educate the general public, state/federal leaders and health care industry leaders about the Free Clinics and the value they bring to the health care system. As well, it will monitor and provide input on national and state legislative issues affecting Free Clinics ability to provide services and increase networking among members through electronic media, resource development and meeting opportunities. The Florida Association of Free Clinics will encourage a high standard of operations and quality of care as well as encourage care providers and receivers to contribute to the community's well being.

Let us know what you think about this e-blast
[Click Here!](#)

Membership to the Florida Association of Free Clinics (FAFC) is open to independent, private, nonprofit, community-based organizations that operate a volunteer-driven health care clinic that primarily provides free service to low-income, uninsured of Florida. Demonstration of a

commitment to minimizing barriers to care and providing quality care as evidenced by policies and procedures that ensures the delivery of accessible care to the target population. To apply, please contact Talli Flohr by phone at (305) 592-1452 ext.119 or via email at intern@healthcouncil.org.

Potential FAFC members will have to complete the Free Clinics Nationwide Survey that will provide clinical data required for membership. This survey is the first national effort in 35 years to describe all free clinics, the patients they treat, the services they provide, and the staff and volunteers who make it all possible. Presently, we are in the process of preparing the survey and it will be available shortly.

As well The Florida Association of Free Clinics is currently seeking individuals to fill committee membership positions for the FAFC. Please feel free to contact Vanessa Rodriguez by phone at (305) 592-1452 ext.118 or via email at vrodriquez@healthcouncil.org should you be interested or have further questions or concerns regarding the positions.

FAFC News and Happenings

FAFC participates on a Legislative Day in Washington DC

On Wednesday, June 17, 2009, the National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC) will be holding a Legislative Day in Washington, DC. Representatives of the FAFC will be meeting with members of the Miami-Dade Congressional Delegation to discuss the issues facing Free Clinics and their patients, like health information technology and broader malpractice protections for the Free Clinics. They will also provide insights into policy priorities that affect free clinics at both national & state levels.

Implementation of Electronic Health Record System

Two Free clinics in Miami Dade County, Saint John Bosco and Good News Care Center, are in the process of implementing an electronic health record (EHR) system. This program will allow for the expansion and dissemination of a successful, multi-market, sustainable business model for adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHR). In addition, this program will harness the power of EHR towards improving the delivery of primary care for the uninsured population, and thereby improving health outcomes and reducing community-wide health costs.

FAFC Participates in the National Association of Free Clinics Annual Summit

The FAFC will participate in the National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC) third annual Summit next October 25-27, 2009 at the Marriott Mission Valley in San Diego, California. This annual Summit is the only national meeting that brings together medical directors, clinical and pharmacy personnel, management level staff and volunteers from America's 1200+ Free Clinics.

Discounted and Donated Products Soon Available to Free Clinics in Florida

The National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC) currently offers discounted and donated products for free clinics as a benefit to its members. However, Florida is not an approved State for this particular benefit as of now. Currently, we are working closely with AmeriCare to receive a wholesale distributor license in the state of Florida, in order to offer these benefits to the members of the FAFC. Stay tuned!

Free Clinic Spotlight

Miami Rescue Mission Health Clinic

Miami Rescue Mission in collaboration with Miami Dade College Medical Center Campus opened an onsite health clinic serving the homeless and underserved of our community. The clinic provides health and screening services to the community utilizing volunteer nursing students and doctors.

The Miami Dade College Medical Center Campus (MDC) and the Miami Rescue Mission (MRM) have a long history of collaboration. As part of this partnership, the MDC School of Nursing and the leaders of the MRM created "The Mission Project" in 2000 with the goals of improving student achievement and clinical skills, cultivating civic responsibility, expanding awareness of health needs, and most especially, improving the health of the community's homeless. A long-term goal of the Mission Project was to establish an on-site clinic at the Miami Rescue Mission, staffed partly by MDC Nursing and Health Sciences students and faculty, to serve the primary needs of those at the Mission and in the surrounding Overtown neighborhoods.

The clinic consists of a waiting room, two offices and two patient examination rooms with room for expansion. In February 2009, MRM and MDC personnel received the "Certificate of Need to Practice in an Area of Critical Need" from the Florida State Department of Health in order to open the clinic

The grand opening was on May 14, 2009. This event included a health fair with education and screening, and treatment of the clinic's first patients. The health clinic is located on 2015 NW 1st Avenue, in Miami, FL. For more information about the clinic, please click [here](#).

FAFC Resources

Grants Opportunities

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida will start its Grants Winter Cycle next September 11, 2009. The current focus for responsive grantmaking is on community health clinics and outreach programs. Grants will be awarded to diverse, philanthropic solutions that improve program capacity and reduce barriers to access, nurture community health leadership to reinforce local solutions, foster innovation and sustain quality and leverage financial, human and other resources to maximize measurable impact. For more information, please click [here](#).

The Dade Community Foundation will be awarding grants focused on the areas of broad fields of education, health, human services, arts and culture, environment, economic and community development.

Priority will be given to programs or projects that use community relationships as a key strategy for enhancing their reach, effectiveness, and results; build relationships, particularly among diverse ethnic and racial groups; reach and engage those whose needs are not being met adequately by existing community resources; pursue strategies that address new and emerging needs or approach existing ones more effectively; strengthen organizational capacity to improve results for communities and individuals they serve; build on strengths and assets of people and communities and engage them in problem solving; focus on the root causes of a problem; and leverage additional private or public resources, both financial and volunteer.

Proposals must be submitted by November 15, 2009. For more

information, please contact The Dade Community Foundation at (305) 371-2711.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Strengthening Communities Fund - State, Local, and Tribal Government Capacity Building Program will make one-time, two-year awards of up to \$250,000 to state, city, county and Indian/Native American tribal governments. Governments will use these grants to build the capacity of nonprofit faith-based and community organizations to better serve those in need and to increase nonprofit organizations' involvement in the economic recovery. For more information, click [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Did You Know that....

Ross University School of Medicine has Clinical Rotations in Miami?

Ross University School of Medicine currently has a network of core clinical rotation positions in Florida. There is a clear benefit for Ross students to participate in the clinical clerkship because, in addition to being exposed to advanced technology in clinic settings, they will develop their cultural competency skills required to work with ethnically and culturally diverse, underserved and disadvantaged patient populations.

Through this partnership, Ross University students join in a comprehensive six-week curriculum and a supervised patient care experience. Currently Ross University places more students into U.S. residencies than any other medical school in the world and pays a monthly stipend for the clinical rotation positions.

If you are interested in hosting a Ross University student at your clinic, please contact Vivian Gutierrez by phone at (786) 293-2206 or by e-mail at vgmets@aol.com.

Hands On Miami Volunteer Source Referral Network

Hands on Miami (HOM) provides flexibly-scheduled, meaningful, direct service volunteer opportunities in partnership with schools, social service and environmental organizations actively engaging individuals and teams in meaningful service work. By providing individuals with compelling opportunities to serve, Hands on Miami address pressing needs in the community at the same time that build civic leaders and deepen civic investment.

Miami residents can find volunteer opportunities throughout Miami Dade County as part of the Volunteer Source Referral Network, which allows Hands on Miami to partner with the non-profit sector. This is part of an exciting partnership with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez in a new Mayoral Initiative on Civic Engagement and Volunteerism to further promote volunteer service in our community. Help spread the word and get involved today. For a list of ongoing opportunities in the Volunteer Source Referral Network click [here](#).

Get Involved, Volunteer at One of Our Free Clinics!

We firmly believe that a combination of experienced and innovative individuals and a great initiative such as the Florida Association of Free Clinics help strengthen our community. If you want to make a difference and be part of this project you may be interested in a volunteer based position. Please contact Talli Flohr at (305) 592-1452 ext. 119 or by e-mail at intern@healthcouncil.org for more information regarding volunteer positions.

Donations

In-kind Assistance of New and Used Medical Equipment and Supplies

If you have any new, old or unused medical equipment or supplies in your possession, we'd like to put it to a good use. Medical donations

provide our clinical facilities with essential supplies. Your donation will directly benefit someone who desperately needs it: people with limited or no insurance coverage. Most medical equipment or supplies can sit around and go wasted or unused. Make a difference in someone's life

today; it will make a difference in yours.

If you would like to make a donation of used and/or new medical equipment or supplies, please contact Talli Flohr at (305) 592-1452 ext. 119 or by e-mail at intern@healthcouncil.org. We will contact you shortly to discuss your donation in further detail and to make logistical arrangements. Thank you for your generous support!

News & Links of interest

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program

The Volunteer Health Care Provider Program is a result of the "Access to Health Care Act" (section 766.1115, Florida Statutes, Appendix B), which was enacted in 1992, and provides licensed healthcare professionals sovereign immunity protection for uncompensated services rendered to eligible clients. It was the intent of the Legislature that access to medical care for indigent Florida residents be improved by providing governmental protection to health care providers who offer free quality medical services to underserved populations of Florida State.

This program is a vital component in the effort to increase access to health care for those with the most need by extending sovereign immunity protection to healthcare professionals who donate their services. The key to the success of this volunteer initiative has been the sustained support of the Florida Legislature through funding and the active involvement of various professional associations, public/private partnerships, and individuals who commit to strengthen and develop collaborative relationships in their local communities

Healthcare access for the underserved and uninsured Floridians, via this program, is entirely dependent on volunteer providers donating their services. This program provides a cost effective method of improving access to care by maximizing existing resources while connecting the community to quality and attainable health services. For more information, please click [here](#)

The Medical Home Model

A patient-centered medical home approach for primary care and chronic care management have proliferated around the country over the last two years in response to a grim concatenation of crises in U.S. health care..

The purpose of a medical home is to facilitate prompt, cost-effective and coordinated access to a comprehensive range of diagnostic, educational, specialty care, out-of-home care and other medical services. The primary care physician, in close collaboration with the patient, leads a team of health care professionals who are responsible for providing or facilitating all the patient's health care needs.

The goal of the medical home is to improve quality, efficiency and satisfaction for both patients and doctors. Computerized information, including an electronic medical record and decision support tools, help guide evidence-based clinical decision-making, and aggregated data drive continuous quality improvement.

The model features data-based protocols, open scheduling, expanded hours and a variety of ways for patients and providers to work together, including group visits, secure e-mail and interactive Web sites.

Free clinics around the country utilize the medical home model to improve access to health care for the most vulnerable populations in our communities. To read more about the medical home model please click [here](#).

Prescription Drug Marketing Act - Donation of Prescription Drug Samples to Free Clinics

This guidance provides information for free clinics that receive donated prescription drug samples from licensed practitioners or other charitable institutions. The guidance discusses concerns regarding regulatory requirements for drug sample donations and announces that FDA intends to propose revisions to these requirements in order to reduce the burden on free clinics while maintaining certain minimal requirements aimed at ensuring the integrity of the samples stored and dispensed by clinics.

To read more, click [here](#).

