

PRIMARY CARE CONNECTION

Published by:

The Arizona Association of Community Health Centers
320 E. McDowell Rd, Suite 225
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
Tel: (602) 253-0090 Fax: (602) 252-3620 E-Mail:
azpca@aachc.org
Editor: Joseph S. Coatsworth
Layout: Myrna A. Ramirez

2002-2003 Board of Directors

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Ginger Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Elfrida
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John Swagert MD, Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, Mountain Park Health Center, Phoenix
Clarence Vatne, Chief Executive Officer, Marana Health Center, Marana
James Welden, Chief Executive Officer, Mariposa Community Health Center, Nogales

Calendar of Events

August 14, 2003
Clinical Committee Retreat
Radisson Hotel - Flagstaff, AZ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

August 14, 2003
CHC CV Board of Directors Meeting
Radisson Hotel - Flagstaff, AZ 3:00 pm

August 15, 2003
AACHC Finance Committee Meeting/AACHC Board of Directors Meeting
Radisson Hotel - Flagstaff, AZ 8:00 am - 9:00 am

August 15, 2003
COPS Meeting
Canyonlands CHC - Page, AZ 9:30 am - 2:00 am

September 8, 2003
TAPI Steering Committee
Phoenix Country Club - Phoenix, AZ 12 noon

September 18, 2003
CHC CV Board of Directors Meeting
AACHC Conference Room - Phoenix, AZ 3:00 pm

September 19, 2003
AACHC Finance Committee Meeting
AACHC Board of Directors Meeting
AACHC Conference Room - Phoenix, AZ 8:00am - 9:00 am

September 24, 2003
Maximizing Revenue Workshop
Phoenix Inn Suites - Phoenix, AZ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

September 25, 2003
FOG Meeting
Phoenix Inn Suites - Phoenix, AZ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

September 25, 2003
The Organizational Culture of
Teams, Hustle & Innovation, Roger Coleman: speaker
Flinn Foundation - Phoenix, AZ 8:30 am

October 3, 2003
CHC Governing Board Member Training
Dobson Ranch - Mesa, AZ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

October 9, 2003
CHC CV Board of Directors Meeting
TBD - Phoenix, AZ 3:00 pm

October 10, 2003
AACHC Finance Committee Meeting
AACHC Board of Directors Meeting
TBD - Phoenix, AZ 8:00am - 9:00 am

October 24, 2003
COPS Meeting
Mountain Park Health Center - Phoenix, AZ 9:30 am - 2:00 am

October 25, 2003
2nd Annual "Invaluable Medical Assistant" Workshop
Phoenix College - Phoenix, AZ 8:00 am-4:00 pm

AACHC NEWSLETTER

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

SUMMER 2003

PRIMARY CARE CONNECTION
320 EAST MCDOWELL RD. STE 225 • PHOENIX, AZ 85004

Arizona Association of Community Health Centers Appoints New Chief Executive Officer



Joseph S. Coatsworth has been named Chief Executive Officer of the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers (AACHC). Mr. Coatsworth is well known in the health care field, having served as Vice President for Government Relations for the Connecticut Hospital Association for 21 years and as the Chief Operating Officer of a Connecticut Hospital Association subsidiary corporation from 1992-2000.

Mr. Coatsworth is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison and received his MBA from the University of Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Coatsworth was also elected to five, two-year terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives, where he served as Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, Assistant Majority Leader and Deputy Speaker of the House.

Mr. Coatsworth and his wife Karen, an attorney, have three grown children and live in Scottsdale.

Chiricahua Expands to Bisbee



The Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. took ownership of the property at 108 Arizona Street in the Warren section of Bisbee on May 16, 2003. This location now houses the Chiricahua Community Health Center, Bisbee.

As a federally qualified community health center, CCHCI brings a new life and a new form of primary and preventive care to Bisbee. CCHCI currently operates two other clinics in Elfrida and Douglas. A Birthing Center, to be located on the campus of the Copper Queen Hospital, is being planned. Dr. Jack R. Hoffman, Dr. Theresa M. McEntee, and Dr. Peggy Avina provide medical care.

HRSA Director Duke Visits Mountain Park Health Center

HRSA Director Dr. Duke visited Arizona for the first time and awarded to Mountain Park Health Center, Phoenix, Arizona, with \$858,633 in New Access Point grant, to serve an additional 7,000 new patients in Maricopa County.



Dr. Duke HRSA Director Signs Check for Mountain Park CEO Sylvia Stock and Board Member Jeremy Cohen.

"I am absolutely delighted about this grant money because it will mean so much to so many people." said Sylvia Stock, President and CEO of Mountain Park Health Center. "This will be a lifeline to so many people who have few resources and little or no access to health care. My heart flows with pride that we now have what it takes to expand our mission and reach."

Health Centers deliver preventive and primary care to patients regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status. They are the family doctor to nearly 13 million Americans in rural areas and inner cities, many of whom have no insurance, or rely on Medicaid or Medicare.



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A Brief Summary of Some of the Health Care Items in 2004 Budget:

Primary Health Care/Community Health Centers- All the funding was eliminated in the original legislative budget proposal. Funding was fully restored (\$10.4M) in the final budget from the general fund account, not the medically needy account.

KidsCare- \$15.4 M in general funds. An increase in application fees, monthly premiums and co-payments for office visits, etc. were also imposed.

Adult Emergency Dental Care- Eliminated in the legislative budget, funding restored by the Governor's line-item veto.

Medically Needy Account- The tobacco tax account for primary care programs was eliminated in the legislative budget and funding for the programs reverted to general appropriations. The Governor vetoed the elimination of the Medically Needy Account.

KidsCare Parents (HIFA)- The program was eliminated in the original legislative budget, but was restored in the final budget with new co-payment requirements and a sunset provision for 2005. State appropriation for the program is \$15.3 million.

Redetermination- Requires redetermination of Prop 204 clients every 6 months rather than 12 months.

Co-payments- Imposes co-payments, enrollment fees and premiums on KidsCare kids & parents and on Prop 204 populations.

Health Start- Eliminated. Current funding may sustain the program through 2003.

High Risk Perinatal- Was originally eliminated, but was restored in the final legislative budget.

Nutrition Services- Funding reduced to \$36,700.

For a more thorough summary of the budget and the legislative session, check the AACHC website www.aachc.org

Four Arizona CHC's Receive Expanded Medical Capacity Funding

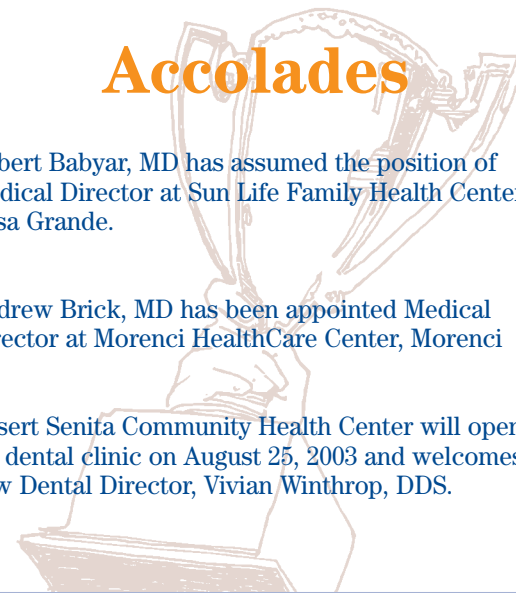
On July 2, 2003 HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced 66 grant awards totaling more than \$25.1 million to help existing health centers expand their capacity to make medical services available to an estimated 300,000 more Americans. The awards support President Bush's five-year initiative to expand health centers. Launched in 2002, the initiative will add 1,200 new and expanded health center sites, increasing the number of patients served annually from about 11 million to 16 million by 2006.

Health centers deliver primary and preventative care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. About 40 percent of all patients treated at health centers have no insurance coverage. Many others have inadequate coverage. Charges for health care services are set according to income.

Organization	City	Award
Chiricahua Community Health Centers	Elfrida, AZ	\$526,022
United Community Health Center	Green Valley, AZ	\$247,000
Marana Community Health Center	Marana, AZ	\$199,099
Canyonlands Community Health Center	Page, AZ	\$480,333

Accolades

- Robert Babyar, MD has assumed the position of Medical Director at Sun Life Family Health Center, Casa Grande.
- Andrew Brick, MD has been appointed Medical Director at Morenci HealthCare Center, Morenci
- Desert Senita Community Health Center will open its 1st dental clinic on August 25, 2003 and welcomes its new Dental Director, Vivian Winthrop, DDS.



2003 Shortage Designations for Arizona

No.	Area	Date
1	Apache Junction	Geographic HPSA* 5/12/2003
2	Apache Junction	MUA** 5/6/2003
3	Globe	Low Income HPSA* 5/22/2003
4	South Central Phoenix	MUP** 5/22/2003

*Health Professional Shortage Area

**Medically Underserved Areas & Populations

El Rio Receives National Recognition

An innovative and effective program at Tucson's El Rio Health Center received a Medal of Achievement as part of the 2003 Computerworld Honors Collection sponsored by Computerworld Magazine.

El Rio received the award for Health-E-Arizona, an Internet-based, paperless application process for public health insurance, which replaces the prior manual system that was fraught with delays and errors.

"This is an exceptional honor for us," said Jane Chittick, Chief Executive Officer of the El Rio Foundation. "The reason El Rio is able to pioneer such ground-breaking programs is because of the great partnerships we have and the support we receive."

Health-E-Arizona produces savings and enhanced efficiencies for all participants, including the clients themselves, the health care providers and the state agencies charged with enrollment into public insurance programs.

"This program allows us to provide patient support services at the same state-of-the-art level that we provide in our medical treatment," said Robert Gomez, executive director of El Rio Community Health Centers, who accepted the award.

El Rio pioneered Health-E-Arizona in June 2002 with: Community Health Center Collaboration Ventures, Arizona Association of Community Health Centers, St. Luke Charitable Health Foundation, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Administration (AHCCCS), Arizona Department of Economic Security Administration, and Pima Community Access Program (PCAP). In addition, charitable support has been received by The Stocker Foundation and Catalina Rotary Foundation.

Arizona Telemedicine Ophthalmic Program

It is estimated that 44,300 Arizonans suffer from mild to severe diabetic retinopathy and 900 cases of blindness emerge each year in Arizona due to Diabetes. Since April 24, 2002, Mountain Park Health Center (MPHC) has been participating in an on-site retinal screening program for diabetic patients. The Arizona Telemedicine Ophthalmic Program is a two-year urban demonstration program developed by the Arizona Foundation for the Eye in collaboration with MPHC, St. Luke's Medical Center, and the University of Arizona, Department of Telemedicine.

A non-mydratric retinal digital camera is used to screen for early signs of diabetic eye disease without having to dilate the patients' eyes. Through the use of the U of A's telemedicine network, the digital image and patient information are transmitted to St. Luke's Medical Center, where eye specialists review the patient's results, a report is then transmitted back to the MPHC. 836 diabetic patients have been screened a screening rate of 61.2% compared to 27.5% prior to the start of the program.

Advocacy Report on the Results of the 46th Legislative Session

AACHC had lofty goals for the 46th legislative session, but the State's \$1.3 billion shortfall reduced AACHC's ambitious legislative agenda to one agenda item; retain

the \$10.4 million current level of state funding for primary health care and Community Health Centers.

Budget battles raged beyond the designated 100 day session to 158 days of standoffs between legislators who insisted on deep cuts in health care and social service programs and legislators who insisted on protecting funding for the same programs. On June 17, 2003, Governor Napolitano signed the budget with 35 line-item vetoes that restored funding to, among other things, emergency dental care and vaccines.



Native American Program Receives Award

The Tucson Area Indian Health Service (IHS) awarded Ken Poocha, Director of Native American Programs, the Area Directors Merit Award. The award was given to Ken for sustained exemplary leadership, performance, commitment and support of the DHHS, IHS, Tucson Area in carrying out its mission to elevate the health status of American Indians. The award was given in Tucson on June 13 at the annual Tucson Area IHS ceremony. It was presented by Dr. Charles Grim, Director IHS and Taylor Satala, Tucson Area Director. The IHS has been a key stakeholder in the Native American Program since its inception in 2000.

Earlier in 2003 Two Arizona CHC's Received New Access Point Grants

Organization	City/ State	New Users	Area Served	Award
Chiricahua Community Health Center	Elfrida, AZ	5,433	Bisbee, Cochise County	\$274,269
North Country Community Health Center	Flagstaff, AZ	6,000	St. Johns/ Round Valley, Apache County	\$275,000

Sylvia Echave Stock, Mountain Park, CEO Honored For Community Work

Sylvia Echave Stock was one of eleven women from the Phoenix metropolitan area recognized for their contributions to the community. Ms. Stock, president and chief executive officer of Mountain Park Health Center, was honored at the YWCA 10th annual Tribute to Women in Phoenix as an outstanding business leader. The YWCA acknowledged Ms. Stock's attention to culture and diversity when serving her clients.