

Traverse Health Clinic



because everyone deserves good health

February 2010

Traverse Health Clinic Update to Community Leaders

We are pleased to update you on our 2009 accomplishments, in collaboration with *many* others, to provide access to health care services for the uninsured and underinsured in our communities. In spite of the very prolonged national debate about health care in the United States, we have had some local successes that are truly the result of community collaboration and support.

For many years, there have been “grass roots efforts” to assist those who could not afford, or did not have access to, health care. The roots of our organization's efforts date back to the mid 1970's when a group of physicians and nurses came together to form the Community Health Clinic, which existed as a largely volunteer organization providing free services for over 25 years. In 2000, as the needs for services for the uninsured increased, the Clinic underwent a significant expansion.

Another effort, which the Community Health Clinic fostered, was the development of the Grand Traverse Regional Health Care Coalition (GTRHCC) for Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties in 2003. GTRHCC created a collaborative provider network of physicians, hospitals, health departments and other practitioners. The purpose of GTRHCC was to develop and administer programs, not to provide direct services, that offer access to health care to uninsured adults with income and assets at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). 200% FPL is currently \$21,660 per year for one person. Additionally, GTRHCC became what is called a county health plan by working with the State of Michigan to administer the Adult Benefit Waiver (ABW) program in the three counties. ABW is for the poorest of the poor, typically childless, single adults, who have a maximum income of 35% FPL which is slightly more than \$300 per month.

The Community Health Clinic and GTRHCC had the same mission and were complementary in function. They formally merged in 2007 and are now called Traverse Health Clinic (the Clinic). The Clinic remains as a private nonprofit 501 (c) (3), and the mission statement is *"To provide access to affordable health services through community collaboration to people in need."*

We achieved the following results in 2009 only because of the strong collaborative efforts amongst the Traverse Health Clinic, all Munson Healthcare subsidiaries, particularly Munson Medical Center, the three counties of Benzie, Leelanau and Grand Traverse, the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department, the Grand Traverse County Health Department, and the hundreds of physicians, dentists and other health practitioners and providers who donate uncompensated services in their offices or at local hospitals. We also have the invaluable support and services of our many loyal on-site volunteers.

2009 Fiscal Year Accomplishments:

- A record number (> 4,000) of people requested our help.
- On-site clinic encounters (all types, including specialty) increased 12% to 9,057.
- Off-site volunteer primary care practitioners donated \$128,963 worth of services to 500 of the 1,500 patients enrolled in the volunteer access program called CHAP.
- Off-site volunteer specialists donated \$372,819 worth of services to CHAP enrollees.
- Volunteers at the Clinic donated 2,840 hours of service at a value of \$85,321.
- Vision referrals increased 99% to 558, with 432 people receiving corrective eyewear.
- Dental services provided increased 17% with about 300 patients receiving dental care valued at \$197,287.
- The number of persons served by various Clinic programs averaged 2,300/month, and for every \$1 spent to run the programs \$10 worth of services were donated - great ROI.

2009 Fiscal Year Total Value of Services Provided:

□ Munson Healthcare: Donated services, all subsidiaries	\$3,299,425
□ Traverse Health Clinic: Services provided on-site free to patients	\$454,686
□ All Private Medical Offices: Donated primary care and specialty care	\$557,882
□ Eyewear: Purchased by Traverse Health Clinic at reduced costs	\$52,749
□ Dental Services: Dental Clinics North and private dentists	\$197,287
□ Pharmaceutical Companies: Donated medications	<u>\$2,743,100</u>
Total Value of Services Provided FY 2009	\$7,305,129

The Clinic continues to be a county health plan that administers the ABW program for the three counties. This status allows the Clinic to receive Indigent Care funds through a complicated financial process that starts with local dollars in each of the three counties. By a series of contracts that exist between the Clinic and Munson, and the Clinic and county health departments, the local county dollars are used at the state level to capture federal matching funds that eventually support health care for the indigent. While these dollars are very significant, they will not grow. Therefore, the above donated services are imperative, and without them this successful and comprehensive, collaborative program could not exist.

Traverse Health Clinic Sources of Funding (not including provider donated services) for FY 2009:

□ Indigent Care Contract	\$1,500,000
□ Capitation Payments to administer the ABW program	\$900,000
□ Community, Private Support <i>(the only area of significant potential growth to expand services)</i>	\$250,000
□ Grants of various types	\$200,000
□ Third party reimbursements (ABW & Medicaid) for on-site clinic services	<u>\$85,000</u>
Total Direct Funding FY 09	\$2,935,000

As this report shows, the tremendous community support behind this local safety net provided \$7.3 M worth of services with only \$2.9 M worth of direct funding. Any questions or comments about the Clinic may be directed to Arlene Brennan, Executive Director, 231-935-0351.