Welcome!

the Bridge

PROVIDENCE
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Issue 11

www.providencechc.org

Providence Healthcare in Crisis

In early May, the State cut RIteCare coverage for 2,400 children, one third of these patients (700) are seen at PCHC. As of the time this newsletter went to press, 9,000 adults were waiting to hear of their own fates.

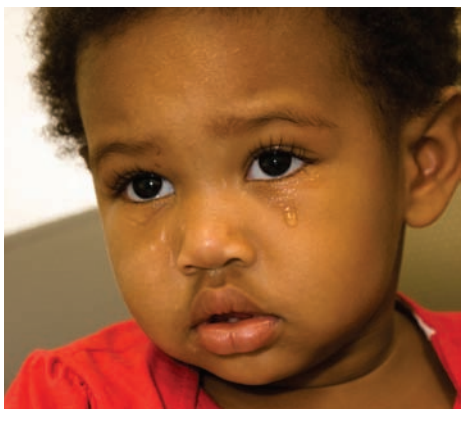
As the challenges with the State budget continue, the number of uninsured patients at PCHC grows. If these budget cuts continue, PCHC's ability to continue to support the growing number of uninsured will be at risk.

At the current time, 42% of PCHC's patients are uninsured; 50% of these patients are children. If PCHC's percentage of uninsured continues to increase to over 50%, the future of our programs becomes at risk.

PCHC is currently working with advocacy organizations to help resolve some of these issues at the State level.

Take action to support the most-needy in your community. To help the Providence Community Health Centers, visit www.ritecareworks.org and sign up to get involved; or send an email to Craig O'Connor, NHPRI Advocacy Manager at action@ritecareworks.org.

In these times it is more important than ever to help each other, to advocate for those who cannot fend for themselves, and to rise to the crucial need for community strength. If almost 3,000 children can be cut from the health care rolls without a bat of the eye, it is difficult to say when the heart of legislation will beat for the rest of those in need.



State budget cuts have eliminated almost 3,000 children from insurance coverage. Contact your representative today to keep RIteCare alive for Rhode Island's most needy.

Future Allen Berry Clinic to Open in South Providence

Senator Reed and PCHC CEO Merrill Thomas receive check to build new Allen Berry Health Center.

U.S. Senator Jack Reed joined Merrill Thomas, CEO and Executive Director of PCHC to announce that the organization will receive $241,000 in Federal funding to build a new Allen Berry clinic in South Providence. Senator Reed worked with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse to secure funding in the 2008 Appropriations Bill. In conjunction with a $400,000 Federal Brownfield grant, PCHC will build a new 60,000-square-foot facility at 369 Prairie Avenue, the location of the old Federated Lithographers site. Merrill Thomas commented, "We are thankful for Senator Reed's critical role in securing this funding. The new health center will help improve access to much-needed primary and preventative care, improve the quality of our health care system, and ultimately help to save money and lower health care costs."

The Allen Berry Center will be part of a large, state-of-the-art urban industrial park that is expected to create sustainable jobs through commercial and retail operations, and to offer green-space for community enjoyment.

"This Federal investment will help protect the health and well being of residents and the environment," noted Senator Reed. "It is anticipated that the new park will generate job growth, increase surrounding property values, and strengthen the local economy."

An opening date has not yet been scheduled. Until that time, the current Allen Berry Health Center is fully operational.

Tee Up for the Second Annual PCHC Golf Tournament

It's that time of year again to hit the greens – and possibly a few golf balls – in support of PCHC. Whether you hit worm burners or whooshers, are a professional or amateur, we want you to join the team that plays for PCHC patients.

When: June 11, 2-008.
Registration, massage, and golf tips from 10:30-11:30. Shot-Gun start at 1:00.
Where: Shelter Harbor Golf Club in Charlestown, RI
Why: Award-winning course, fun, prizes, and a worthwhile cause

Sponsorships are still available, and all donations are accepted with our heart-felt gratitude. We wish to thank our Leadership Sponsor, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, for their ongoing support. For more information, contact Susan Heaney, PCHC, 401-444-0400 x3148.

PCHC Mission Statement

"Provide neighborhood-based, high quality and accessible primary medical care to improve the health status of the residents of Providence and surrounding communities, regardless of their ability to pay."

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375 Allens Avenue
Providence, RI 02905

New Health Care Options for Adults on Medicaid

We are pleased to announce that last Fall PCHC started a program called Connect Care. With over 150 patients, this new program serves adults with disabilities. This program is a health care option from the Department of Human Services (DHS) for adults 21 years or older who have Medical Assistance coverage. Eligible adults may enroll in PCHC's Connect Care Program through their Primary Care Physician (PCP).

This unique program focuses on helping individuals maintain their independence living in the community, while receiving quality care from a PCP and Nurse Care Manager (NCM). This holistic view of healthcare gives enrollees the best of all worlds: medical coverage, access to their PCP, and ongoing wellness programs.

Qualifying adults must at least 21 years old and have Rhode Island Medical Assistance (no RIteCare or Medicare); and live in the community independently or in an assisted/ independent living facility (not an institution or nursing home).

The Connect Care Program allows patients to receive their care at neighborhood PCHC Health Centers instead of incurring the cost and aggravation of Emergency Room visits.

For more information, contact Eileen Hogan, PCHC Nurse Care Manager at 401-444-0400 x3138; or contact Ellen Mauro, Chief Family Health Systems at DHS by calling 401-462-6311. Information is also available online at www.dhs.ri.gov under "New Health Care Options for Adults in Medicaid."

Open Access Programs makes scheduling an appointment easier for people with busy lives.

Open Access Opens Doors

On May 1, 2008 the PCHC Chafee site went live with Open Access, our innovative program that allows patients to receive care the same day that he/she calls for an appointment. PCHC has found that this service is convenient and timely for patients and has the side benefit of incurring fewer no-show appointments.

Open Access honors our patients busy and unpredictable lives. Patients can now make an appointment when they know that they have a ride and child care, and when they are having an issue that needs attention 'in the moment,' instead of 'by appointment' at a later date.

All Health Centers, except for Allen Berry, now offer Open Access. Allen Berry will offer the program in the fall of 2008.

PCHC Dental Clinic Keeps Growing

May 2008 marked the third anniversary of PCHC's Dental Clinic. The clinic, which cares for children and expectant mothers, has grown tremendously since its opening.

This year a second full-time dental hygienist was hired. In July the third full-time dentist, Dr. Kyung-Hong Kim, will join our staff; and pediatric dentist Dr. Melissa Weintraub will join us part time. The addition of these professionals enables the clinic to provide care to ever-more patients who are being educated to the need for dental care. Beginning in July the clinic will open at 8:00 a.m., expanding our hours as well as our staff.

PCHC is also expanding dental care at our Crossroads site where Dr. Recino and Dr. Kim provide care to the homeless of Providence.

Please join us in celebrating our third anniversary, and in giving the residents of Providence something more to smile about!

In Memory of Accessible Health Care

From time to time, PCHC is honored to receive memorial gifts in the names of those who have passed on. We cherish these offerings, as they attest to the compassionate care we strive to provide for the families and patients who come through our doors.

Following are recent memorials, for which we express our gratitude:

Fox Point Health Center (Chafee):
$100 In memory of Helen and Bob Engles
From Helen and Y. Jacob Schinazi

Providence Community Health Centers:
$25 In memory of Thomas Twitchell
From Denise Fortin

If you or your loved ones would like to make a memorial donation, contact Loretta Tharp, Director of Income Development and Public Relations, 401-444-0411 x3175.

Board of Directors
51% of PCHC Board Members are also our patients.

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Chief Operations Officer

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CPA Vice President,
Chief Financial Officier

Loretta L. Tharp
Director, Income Development
and Public Relations

THE PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS LOCATIONS

Administrative Offices
375 Allens Avenue
401-444-0400

Allen Berry
202 Prairie Avenue
401-444-0570

Capitol Hill
40 Candace Street
401-444-0550

Central
239 Cranston Street
401-444-0580

Chafee
One Warren Way
401-444-0530

Crossroads
160 Broad Street
(401) 521-2255
(phone to change January, 2007)

Olneyville
100 Curtis Street
401-444-0540

Dental Clinic
557 Broad Street
401-444-0430

Met School Clinic
325 Public Street
401-752-2600

Whitmarsh Clinic
557 Broad Street
401-444-0483

Visit us at www.providencechc.org
or call 401-444-0400