

Progress Update



JUNE/JULY 2004

Welcome to Progress Update, a newsletter designed to help you stay in touch with the developments of Access HealthColumbus. Access HealthColumbus is a public-private partnership with the mission to assure access to health care for vulnerable people in Franklin County.

Access Network Program Update

The *Access Network Program* is a collaborative effort to match low-income/uninsured people with a medical home (primary care physician) and coordinate access to specialty, diagnostic, and hospital services. Access to low/no-cost medical interpreters, transportation, and prescription drugs services are also coordinated. Doctors and hospitals pledge voluntary care that is coordinated by Access HealthColumbus' care coordinators.

<u>Results to Date: 12/15/03 – 6/30/04</u>	
• Clients served:	936
• Clients with new medical homes: (no regular source of health care prior to enrolling)	666
• Clients enrolled in insurance:	18
• Doctors participating in the program:	432
• Hospitals participating in the program:	11
• Transportation services coordinated:	434
• Medical interpreter services coordinated:	23
• Prescription drugs coordinated:	1,150
• Value of Services Coordinated*:	\$358,681

* financial value of voluntary medical care and subsidized services paid by Access HealthColumbus

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.

Prescription for Good Health Program Update

For Franklin County residents not eligible for the Access Network Program, a new prescription drug assistance program is available for people who are low-income and uninsured. The *Prescription for Good Health Program* coordinates enrollment into drug company patient assistance programs. If eligible, patients can receive prescription drugs for a \$10 copayment per month per drug. The program also contains a drug copay pool to assist those patients with more than five prescription drugs per month.

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.

Vision Services Expansion

A collaborative effort focused on increasing access to vision services at the East Central Health Center was recently completed. Our findings identified a sustainable way to increase the number of patients served from 925 to 2,400 over the next twelve months. Based on the analysis, the Access HealthColumbus' Board of Directors approved a one-time grant totaling \$39,360 to the Columbus Neighborhood Health Center to support the expansion of vision services. This effort will benefit people enrolled in Medicaid as well as those who are uninsured.

Please call 614-645-5535 to learn more about vision services at East Central Health Center or to refer vulnerable people with vision needs. Access HealthColumbus would like to thank Sherry Williams and Kira Zeyer (Prevent Blindness Ohio); Greg Graves, O.D. (Columbus Neighborhood Health Center); Vision Service Plan (VSP); and Chip Lothes (Select Optical) for their community service and collaboration.

Collaborative Effort started to improve the Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP) Application Process

In June 2004, representatives from The Ohio State University Medical Center, Children's Hospital, Mt. Carmel Health System, and OhioHealth met with Access HealthColumbus to identify opportunities to improve the HCAP application process. The Hospital Care Assurance Program (HCAP) is the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' mechanism for meeting the federal requirement to provide additional payments to hospitals which provide a disproportionate share of uncompensated services to the indigent and uninsured. Access HealthColumbus is excited about the possibility for improving the patient application process for hospitals in Franklin County. We would like to thank Ron Moder (OSU), Aaron Dillon (OhioHealth), Carlos Jordan (OSU), Eric McCarroll (OSU), Jenny Torbett (OSU), Kelly Webb (Mt. Carmel), and Molly Wiegerig (Children's) for voluntarily participating in this important initiative.

Operational Assessment of Columbus Neighborhood Health Center

In partnership with the City of Columbus, the Columbus Health Department, and the Columbus Neighborhood Health Center (CNHC) Board of Trustees; Access HealthColumbus is facilitating an independent assessment of CNHC to identify opportunities for operational improvements. The goal of this initiative is to strengthen the operations of CNHC as a cornerstone of the community's health care safety net. Working with a steering committee, Access HealthColumbus has allocated resources to facilitate the project and plans on presenting the first set of recommendations over the next 30-60 days.

New Access HealthColumbus Board Directors

Access HealthColumbus is pleased to announce the following individuals whom were recently appointed to serve on its Board of Directors:

- Elizabeth B. Lottes, D.O. representing the Columbus Academy of Osteopathic Medicine
- Michael Mishkind, M.D. representing the Columbus Medical Association
- Carol Stewart representing consumers

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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Franklin County



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