



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

November 18, 2014

The University of Arizona Family and Community Medicine Mobile Health Program

Introduction

Enclosed is a September 29, 2014 memorandum from Health Department Director Dr. Francisco Garcia regarding this subject, as well as a September 23, 2014 letter of request from The University of Arizona College of Medicine.

The request is to provide financial support for the Mobile Health Program (MHP) clinic operated by The University of Arizona College of Medicine. The services provided are primarily doctor's visits to medically underserved areas as well as rural Pima County and southeastern Arizona. As in many cases, the program experienced unanticipated repair costs to the service delivery vehicle and other previous funding being withdrawn or failing to be renewed.

The College of Medicine's request is for \$10,000 from the Health Department; however, such has not been budgeted in the Health Department's approved budget for Fiscal Year 2014/15. The September 29, 2014 memorandum from Dr. Garcia recommends \$5,000 be allocated to the MHP.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors approve a Contingency Fund allocation to The University of Arizona Family and Community Medicine Mobile Health Program in the amount of \$5,000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.H. Huckelberry".

C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/anc – November 5, 2014

Attachments

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Health Department



MEMORANDUM

Date: 29 September 2014

To: Jan Leshner
Deputy County Administrator
Medical and Health Services

From: Francisco Garcia 
Health Department Director

Re: University of Arizona Family & Community Medicine Mobile Health Program

The Mobile Health Program (MHP) run through the University Of Arizona College Of Medicine was started to “support a range of health programs in rural and underserved areas of Arizona including along the U.S. - Mexico border, and within Native American Reservations and tribal units”. The services range from doctor’s visits and a clinic on wheels, to vaccinations, diabetes education, retino-therapy services, pre-natal and birth care to expectant mothers. Each year approximately 1,600 persons are served in Southeastern Arizona in areas where little to no health care services are available.

The MHP clinic reaches those who do not come into normal health service settings but are readily looking for local care. This creates an opportunity to extend access to care throughout our region and conduct outreach to those who missed signing up for health insurance coverage during the 2013/2014 Affordable Care Act open Enrollment Period. Using the MHP to provide information about health insurance options, and offer health literacy education on what health care options are available when insured will create a healthier Pima County.

There are several new resources available to assist with this opportunity to conduct education & outreach, as well as do enrollments. Utilizing Enroll Americas ‘commitment cards’ and their new ‘enrollment scheduler’ (official name is TBD) learning about health insurance, and setting enrollment appointments has never been easier. Using these resources will take the burden of following up and ensuring enrollments off MHP staff and allow Enroll America to track and follow who has or has not completed the enrollment. These partnerships will allow a more efficient means of access to care.

Based on this program and adding additional resources to MHP for access to care we recommend that \$5,000 be allocated to the Mobile Health Program under the pretense of maintaining the mobile clinic to further their efforts in reaching those for whom transportation restricts access to health care.

September 23, 2014

Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH
Director, Pima County Health Department
3950 S Country Club
Tucson, AZ 85714

Dear Dr. Garcia,

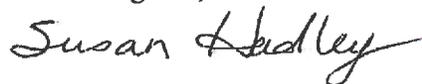
As you know, the University of Arizona Department of Family and Community Medicine Mobile Health Program and the Pima County Health Department have a long history of working together to provide highly accessible healthcare to some of the most vulnerable populations in Pima County.

The Mobile Health Program (MHP) has a fully equipped medical van that provides full scope medical care to many uninsured and underinsured resident of Pima County. Many of these patients do not present to traditional fixed location sources of healthcare, and seek out the mobile clinic because it is more accessible. We believe these walk-ins and appointments are an ideal, and currently underutilized, opportunity to identify those uninsured/underinsured patients who could potentially be eligible for AHCCCS or Marketplace product coverage. Since patients are in a "healthcare seeking frame of mind" when they come to the clinic, we also believe that this is an ideal opportunity to engage them in a process to determine eligibility and get them signed up for health insurance coverage, and thus increase their access to care beyond that provided by the MHP.

To help further the Health Pima goals and initiatives of improving access to care, we are proposing that the MHP screen all patients for insurance coverage and then refer the uninsured/underinsured patients to the Pima County/Get Covered Connector. Unfortunately the MHP recently encountered some unanticipated major repairs to the van, which eliminated our ability to provide an additional service, such as identification and referral, with out additional financial support. Therefor, we are requesting \$10,000 from the Pima County Health Department to provide identification and referral services for the uninsured/underinsured patients presenting for MHP services.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us, if you require further information. Thank you so much for considering our proposal and your ongoing support of the Mobile Health Program.

Sincere regards,



Susan Hadley, MD
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