

***Improving Access to Pharmacy Services Through
Virginia's Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers, Health Care for the
Homeless Programs and Rural Health Clinics***

Presented by the Virginia Primary Care Association
(doing business as the Virginia Community Healthcare Association)

To
Commissioner of Health
Senate Finance Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Joint Commission on Health Care
Virginia Department of Health

August 31, 2007

Section I: The Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$433,750 in funds to the Virginia Primary Care Association (doing business as the Virginia Community Healthcare Association) *"for the purchase of pharmaceuticals and medically necessary pharmacy supplies, and to provide pharmacy services to low income, uninsured patients of Community and Migrant Health Centers throughout Virginia."*

Summary of our results for the year ending June 30, 2007 follows:

- ***Funds*** allocated have been ***expended for the following purposes:***
 - *Purchase of medications*, partnering with local pharmacies, including paying dispensing fees
 - Purchase or upgrade computers to run *The Pharmacy Connection software*, maintain license of product and obtain latest version of TPC
 - *Staff* and associated office supplies and postage to operate an enhanced patient medication assistance program

- Virginia's community health centers have leveraged \$433,750 of state funding into more than \$26,549,368 (average wholesale price) worth of medications through accessing corporate indigent pharmaceutical programs to assist some of the Commonwealth's neediest citizens.

- Medications have been made available to over ***55,660 low income and uninsured Virginians*** in over 60 counties/municipalities throughout the Commonwealth.

- That means that on average, ***every \$1 invested leveraged over \$61 worth of medications*** (average wholesale cost).

- ***Seventy-six percent of this assistance has helped the poorest of the poor-*** those under 100 percent of the federal poverty level. The remaining funds assisted those under 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

- The average per patient cost was \$7.79. The average per patient value of medication received was \$476.99.
- For the twelve months ending June 30, 2007, our centers have served a total of **55,660 patients** with the following characteristics:

Patient characteristics

Gender of patients served:
62% female, 38% male

Ethnicity of patients served:
8.5% Hispanic,
31.9% African-American
51.9% Caucasian
.8% Asian
6.9% Other

Federal Poverty levels of patients served:
75.9% @ or below 100%
An additional 17.3% @ or below 150%
An additional 6.8% @ or below 200%

Age breakdown for patients served:
2.9% C 0 - 18
14.9% C 19 - 30
70.9% C 31 - 55
11.2% C 56 years and older

The **most prevalent diseases treated** and for which medications were prescribed and received through this program continue to be for the following chronic diseases:

- Hypertension/heart disease
- Diabetes
- Depression
- Asthma/Allergies

Section II - The Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 in funds to the Virginia Primary Care Association (doing business as the Virginia Community Healthcare Association), *“to expand existing or develop new community health centers in medically underserved and economically disadvantaged areas of the Commonwealth.”*

Recipient Organization	Location of Project	# New Patients to be Served
Tri-Area Health Clinic	Renovation and construction costs for a new health center on the campus of Ferrum College. Opened February of 2007.	3,400
Stone Mountain Health Services	Construction cost for a new health center in Hurley. Projected opening January 2008.	2,300
Peninsula Institute for Community Health	Renovation and construction of a new health center in Virginia Beach. Projected opening in December of 2007.	4,000
Healthcare on the Square	Planning and architectural costs for a new health center in Halifax. Projected opening in June of 2008.	2,000
New Horizons Healthcare	Planning and architectural costs for the addition of dental services in the health center in Roanoke. Projected date of operation is October of 2008.	1,000
Total		13,200

Section III

The Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$175,000 in funds to the Virginia Primary Care Association (doing business as the Virginia Community Healthcare Association), *“to expand access to care provided through community health centers”*

Outreach Funding Report – 2006-07

Recipient Organization	Location of Project	# New Patients to be Served - type
Tri-Area Health Clinic	Ferrum	3,400 (new site)
Capital Area Health Network	Richmond	500 (children – dental)
Blue Ridge Medical Center	Arrington	500 (children – migrant)
Loudon Community Health Center	Leesburg	1,000 (new site)
Eastern Shore Rural Health Systems	Nassawadox	700 (adult – dental)
Bland County Medical Clinic	Bastian	900 (adult – medicaid)
Johnson Health Center	Lynchburg	500 (children – dental)
Peninsula Community Health Center	Virginia Beach	4,000 (new site)
Stone Mountain Health Services	Hurley	2,300 (new site)
Total		15,800

Funding was held for a pain management training program for physicians in southwest Virginia, working in conjunction with the Department of Mental Health Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. After numerous pre-planning meetings and discussions the project proved not to be feasible. The Association will allocate the funds in this fiscal year to health centers for outreach and operational costs.