

El Rio Santa Cruz Neighborhood Health Center

Mailing Address:

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Tucson, AZ 85719

Location:

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Tucson, AZ 85745

Phone: (520) 624-7750**Fax:** (520) 624-5352**Email:** grants1@elrio.org**Director:** Robert Gomez**HCH Coordinator:** Ken Burton**Medical Director:** Arthur Martinez, MD**UDS Number:** 090160

Project Description

El Rio Health Center is a non-profit community health center that serves as the primary provider of outpatient medical services to persons who are homeless in the Tucson area.

Services

Physicians, a family nurse practitioner, nurse care managers, eligibility clerks, and patient advocates staff the Health Care for the Homeless project. Outpatient services include primary care, specialty care, lab, x-ray, pharmacy, dental, and case management. The staff conduct daily outreach activities by providing direct services at local shelters, feeding centers, and rehabilitation centers. A new primary care clinic for individuals who are homeless opened in July 2003. Services at the new clinic include specialized integrated behavioral health care with an adjacent mental health outpatient clinic. The Health Education Project continues to educate persons who are homeless in Pima County, using health care professionals to address an array of health issues such as communicable disease, mental health, reproductive health, children's health, and nutrition. The project has 38 courses taught at correctional centers, churches, shelters, and local community colleges. El Rio Health Center is also an active member of the Tucson Planning Council for the Homeless.

Linkages

El Rio Health Center maintains long-standing reciprocal relationships with other community agencies to best meet the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of individuals who are homeless. Outreach, case management, feeding centers, emergency shelters, transitional shelters, temporary and permanent housing, short- and long-term mental health care, substance abuse treatment, pre-employment and re-employment counseling, employment placement assistance, parenting classes, and life skills development services are made available through collaboration with dozens of agencies community wide. Agencies involved with specialized programming for individuals who are homeless that work in concert with El Rio Health Center Health Care for the Homeless Project include the following: Adult Rehab Center, Casa Maria, Primavera Shelter, Bethany House (for women and children), Open Inn/Shared Kids (for adolescents and young adults), COPE Behavioral Health Services (mental health services), and Compass Healthcare (substance abuse detoxification and residential treatment).

Statistics

Estimated homeless population: 24,000 Project users: 2,418

Subcontractor(s):***Compass Healthcare***

2475 Jackrabbit Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85745

Contact: Joan McNamara

Phone: (520) 882-5608

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COPE Behavioral Services

82 South Stone Avenue

Tucson, AZ 85704

Contact: Pat Benechik

Phone: (520) 792-3293

Maricopa County Department of Public Health

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Director: Johnathon B. Weisbuck, MD, MPH

HCH Coordinator: Annette Stein, MA

Medical Director: Adele O'Sullivan, MD

UDS Number: 090750

Project Description

The Maricopa County Health Care for the Homeless Program (MCDPH) uses an integrated model of health care delivery servicing all of Maricopa County. Services include outreach, primary care, case management, behavioral health services, substance abuse counseling, and referrals for dental, vision, and entitlement programs.

Services

The HCH program is the only major provider of health care to uninsured people who are homeless in Maricopa County. Clinic services are provided at the homeless clinic located in downtown Phoenix. A clinical staff, consisting of a physician, nurse practitioner, nursing staff, psychiatric nurse practitioner, substance abuse counselor, and case managers, provides primary and secondary health care, prenatal care, preventive health care, and behavioral health care. Outreach services include basic health assessment, primary care, disease outbreak and health emergency response, food delivery, nutrition education, parenting and disease prevention education, and referral for housing and other services. Transportation is provided to medical appointments daily and as needed for emergency care to Maricopa Medical Center and local detox centers.

Linkages

Enrollment in Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System is provided by Medical Assistance Programs and onsite eligibility workers. Emergency care services and hospitalization are available at the Maricopa Medical Center. Dental services are provided by referral to the Central Arizona Shelter Services Dental Trailer. Vision services are available by referral to Lyons Vision Clinic. Referrals are also made to other MCDPH programs including the STD and TB clinics and the McDowell (HIV/AIDS) Clinic. Other mental health services are available by referral to Value Options. Project staff network with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Task Force on the Homeless, the Phoenix Health Care Coalition for the Homeless, The Consortium to End Homelessness, The United Methodist Outreach Ministry, Central Arizona Shelter Services, Phoenix Rescue Mission, and the Thomas J. Pappas School for Homeless Children.

Statistics

Estimated homeless population: 13,000 Project users: 6,636