

NEWS & NOTES

The Duke Endowment Grant

The Duke Endowment awarded Moore Free Care Clinic a \$241,559 grant over two years to implement electronic medical records. The purchase of the electronic medical record system and the necessary training will cost \$80,300.

Medical record keeping is a critical part of providing excellent health care at a free clinic where volunteer physicians and mid-level health providers are offering care.

Laura Tremper-Jones, the clinic's executive director, is on part-time sabbatical leave until June 15, but continues to work part-time to set-up the clinic's electronic medical records system. The clinic will be using the same system that FirstHealth of the Carolina's primary care clinics are implementing. We are currently looking towards a go-live date in July.

"Dog Days of Summer"

We would like to extend a special thank-you to the Pinehurst Business Guild. Their "Dog Days of Summer" fundraiser provided \$12,500 for the clinic to purchase medications for patients at the clinic.

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Moore Free Care Clinic's One-Stop-Shop

By H. David Bruton, M.D.

Past President

There is widespread agreement that public sector mental health services are disorganized and failing to meet the needs of many patients requiring mental health care. Public mental health administrators and providers are working hard to provide care in a system that is woefully under funded and in the process of being "reformed."

We are fortunate in our area to have Sandhills Center for Mental Health. They are making the best of

a bad situation. The center's CEO, Mike Watson, and its medical/clinic director, Dr. John Wagnitz, have created an integrated care model for Moore Free Care Clinic patients to receive their mental health care in the free clinic.

Screeners, psychiatric nurses, counselors, social workers and psychiatrists see and follow Moore Free Care Clinic patients at the clinic. We are integrating the care of their physical medical needs with their

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Foundation Being Created

By Mark Wethington, Ph. D.

Interim Executive Director

A couple of years ago the Moore Free Care Clinic board of directors approved the establishment of an endowment for future support of the clinic. The board is now in process of further establishing this endowment by setting up the Moore Free Care Clinic Foundation, a separate 501(c) 3 which will be overseen by a board of five to seven members. At least one or two members of the Moore Free Care Clinic governance board will be represented on the foundation's board.

The foundation will receive major

donations to the endowment and monitor its investment. Already the clinic has been notified by a couple who strongly supports our work and has designated a portion of their estate to go to the clinic's foundation. We are grateful for this designation, and this gift has inspired us to move forward to establish the foundation.

If you are aware of someone who could potentially be a major donor and might be interested in serving on the foundation board, please contact Stuart Tuffnell at 215-8903.

Generous Gift to Clinic

The estate of Mrs. Grace H. Hoad recently gifted Moore Free Care Clinic \$22,832. This donation is one of the largest individual gifts received by the clinic. We sincerely appreciate Mrs. Hoad's generosity to the uninsured of Moore County.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Mark Wethington, Ph. D.
Interim Executive Director

It is a privilege to be associated with Moore Free Care Clinic once again. I was able to assist in the start-up of the clinic several years ago, and have been able to keep in touch with its progress in services and overall growth.

I have been asked to fill in for Laura "TJ" Tremper-Jones from March 15 – June 15 while she takes some sabbatical time. During this period I'll be working on some new initiatives and doing some evaluation of the clinic's "growing pains." We have a very committed and highly capable staff and it is a joy to get to know them better.

The Open House, held on April 24, was part of a cooperative venture with the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics and in conjunction with the national "Cover the Uninsured Week," and it provided the opportunity for many community people to enter the clinic and see it first hand.

In addition, the articles contributed to *The Pilot* gave excellent coverage to the clinic's care and compassion for people in our wider community who are greatly benefiting from our health services. The numbers of volunteers are increasing as more and more word about the clinic is penetrating the Sandhills community.

Patient Mentoring Pilot Project Underway

One of the new initiatives we have launched is a mentoring program for patients with chronic illness. The nature of our patients often means that we struggle with patient compliance.

The task of mentors is to expand the care and compassion of the clinic beyond clinic appointments. Some of our patients do not fully understand the nature of their illness, or how to personally cooperate with treatment, and manage self-care.

Mentors are assigned to patients to assist them with chronic disease health education. They help patients monitor their care, teach patient self-care, work as patient advocates, and help to implement additional care that would assist the patient's self-care (such as diet, exercise, smoking cessation). Mentors make regular written reports to the clinic and these reports are placed in their medical chart for physician review.

On April 25 we began a pilot project for mentoring. I met with twelve persons from the community who agreed to serve as mentors, we reviewed the expectations, and they agreed to test this initiative over the next six months.

To date, ten of these mentors have been assigned a patient; a patient who has not only been identified by our clinic staff who will benefit from a mentor, but also one who is willing to receive one. As we move along with this pilot project we will further design the program and offer the design to other free clinics around the state. I am certainly open to other persons who might be interested in being a mentor and would welcome your call of interest.

3rd Annual Dining In the Pines

The Dining in the Pines committee is working hard to prepare an exciting evening of fine dining, fabulous desserts, bounteous theme raffles and thrilling auction items.

The 2007 event will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2007. Participants dine with friends in their homes throughout Moore County and then proceed to the Country Club of North Carolina for the "after-glow" events of desserts, raffle and live auction.

If you are interested in hosting a dinner should please contact Kathy Lannon, 235-9232 or Ginger Lash, 215-0002.

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Our Mission

In the spirit of compassion and concern, the Moore Free Care Clinic provides high-quality primary, preventive and specialty health care to limited-income people in Moore County who are uninsured and can't afford access to health care.

Our Core Values

The Moore Free Care Clinic is committed to the belief that health care is a basic human need. Every individual must have access to basic health care if a community is to be truly healthy.

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Universal Health Care Proposals Eyed

By Stuart A. Tuffnell

President, Board of Directors

As I write this article, I can't help but to reflect on the increasing publicity the problem of quality, universal health care is getting. Fledgling programs such as those in California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Maine are being watched carefully by other states and some federal politicians. Most of the presidential candidates have poked around the edges of such universal care with some advocating more comprehensive reform than others.

The fact that this problem is being discussed by so many is encouraging; but, I am afraid the fragmentation and complexity

make it very unlikely that we will see anything close to "universal" care any time soon. Most people are sympathetic to the concept but differ as to who should provide the care and by whom the costs should be borne.

We at Moore Free Care Clinic are helping to provide some families with their first genuine high quality health care. Thanks to our volunteers, both professional and others, the needs of Moore County's uninsured are being partially met. We are but one part of the answer; and we continue to be grateful to our donors and volunteers.

Moore Free Care Clinic's One-Stop-Shop

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mental health needs in our "One-stop Shop." The Sandhills Center has pledged to provide "what ever our patients need."

We are excited about this new service to our patients. A significant number of patients will benefit from services which the clinic was not able to provide prior to establishing this integrated clinic.

Often patients with mental health issues are simply unable to negotiate the complex arrangements of our current public system. North Carolina seems to be on a course to downsize our state mental hospitals before we can build sufficient community

capacity to care for our severe and persistently mentally ill neighbors.

Our integrated care model is clearly good for our limited number of patients and ought to be more widely available. Separating physical and mental health care makes no scientific, economic or social sense. It is the care pattern that has evolved and it frustrates us all. Patients, providers and payers all would like to have a better, more cost-effective system of care delivery. Meanwhile, back at Moore Free Care Clinic we just keep trying to care for our patients.

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In addition to office visits in the clinic and the ability to provide free labs and x-rays through FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, free medications are one of the most important tools in keeping our patients healthy and out of the hospital. We have increased our ability to acquire free medications from the pharmaceutical companies, and have actually received more this quarter than all of last year! However, sometimes we need to purchase medications to cover our patients over that four- to six-week period until we receive the medications from the various companies.

Thanks to the Pinehurst Business Guild for helping us provide those necessary medications for our patients.

Moore Free Care Clinic – Director’s Report

Reporting Period: January 1, 2007 to April 30, 2007

Patient Visits by Type		Number	Value
Patient Visits ⁽¹⁾	(This period)	639	
Established Patient Visits	(Since April 2004)	5,449	
Number of Patients Registered	(Since April 2004)	1,323	
Estimated Value of Visits	(This period)		\$91,635.00
Consults ⁽⁴⁾	(This period)		\$11,545.00
Dental Patients	(This period)	30	\$9,495.00
Physical Therapy	(This period)	6	\$913.85
Total			\$113,588.85
Medications			
Pharmacy			\$22,063.97
Patient Assistance Program ⁽³⁾			\$199,775.00
Samples ⁽²⁾			\$6,700.00
Total			\$228,538.97
Hospital Support⁽⁵⁾			\$111,379.25
Volunteer Hours			
		Hours	
Nurse	\$24.51/hour	117	\$2,867.67
Physician	\$125/hour	54	\$6,750.00
Clerical	\$18.04/hour	159	\$2,868.36
Physical Therapist	\$24.51/hour	12	\$294.12
Dentist	\$125/hour	32	\$4,000.00
Dental Assistant	\$18.04/hour	32	\$577.28
Total			\$17,357.43
Total Value of Services⁽⁶⁾	(This period)		\$470,864.50

(1) Patients are registered for eligibility before they are treated.

(2) Medication samples are provided to patients at the time of their treatment. These samples are donated to the clinic by physician's offices and pharmaceutical companies. The samples are provided as a "stop-gap" until the patient's Patient Assistance Program (PAP) is validated.

(3) Many pharmaceutical manufacturers have programs to help those in need obtain their medications at no or very low cost. These programs, Patient Assistance Programs (PAPs), are run by the manufacturers. Each program has its own rules, qualifications and medication disbursement method.

(4) Specially appointments seen in the clinic. The clinic also has other specialists who volunteer to see patients in their own offices but the value of those appointments are not reflected in this number.

(5) Laboratory and x-ray donated by Moore Regional Hospital.

(6) The total value of services does not include staff labor costs.

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