

Clinic Partners with Community Care of the Sandhills



Angelene Smittle

for verifying eligibility, both with new patients and in recertifying patients annually. "I am excited about meeting these challenges and optimistic about the opportunities for growth while helping our community."

Angelene Smittle, CCS Enrollment Specialist

The Moore Free Care Clinic shares a staff person with Community Care of the Sandhills (CCS), a state-supported organization of case managers under the auspices of FirstHealth Community Health. CCS helps care for uninsured and Medicaid-eligible persons of Moore County and across the state. These case managers assist low income persons in accessing health care and medications, therefore, many of the people whom they case manage are MFCC patients. Angelene Smittle joined CCS in February as the Enrollment Specialist for HealthNet and the MFCC, as well as two additional clinics. Her responsibility with the MFCC is the screening, eligibility of patients, and identifying immediate needs; i.e. housing, utilities, food, etc. Three days a week, Angelene occupies the office located across the hall from the clinic. In the first few months in this position, she has focused on creating a cohesive and thorough process

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, just call our office at 910-246-5333.



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A Newsletter for Friends and Supporters
of Moore Free Care Clinic
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Health Care Reform (Say it ain't so, Joe.)

Mark asked me to write an article that explained what health care reform in America would mean for free clinics. That is not possible because no one in America knows for certain what the Act: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PP&ACA) means, or how it will be finally implemented. The regulations for the Act are being written now and each new addition has changes from the previously published information. The Act makes several assumptions that may or may not prove to be correct. A number of provisions should be very useful reforms. Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) if correctly implemented could return care from the "Money Changers" back to patients and physicians.

Several things in American Medicine do seem to be clear as:

- 1) The increasing cost of health care to the public and the U.S. Treasury is not sustainable.
- 2) Access to care for low income individuals will become an increasing problem for this segment of our population.
- 3) The plan to significantly increase the Medicaid rolls, thus shifting health care cost to the states will fail. The States are broke and unlike the federal government they cannot print money.
- 4) There is a massive medical manpower deficit in America that is growing and will require significant time to correct.
- 5) The way we pay for medical care is distorting clinical care and making quality improvement difficult. We pay for individual units of clinical activity that may or may not contribute to helping the patient get well.
- 6) Insurance and third party payments for routine first dollar medical service payments are a bad idea. Patients need to be actively involved in medical care decision making. Third party and insurance payments tend to isolate the patient from the immediate cost of the medical service plus we lose up to 20% of the money managing these enterprises.
- 7) Today's physicians are better trained and know more medical science than ever before. They

are engaged in a medical care delivery system that does not effectively allow highest and best use of their talents and skills.

What does all this mean for the Moore Free Care Clinic? Clearly, the demand for our services will increase. We must become more productive so we can meet a larger percentage of this increased demand. Our Board of Directors is working hard on several new projects to try to meet this increased demand. The MFCC is close to an agreement with First Health that will result in a truly Integrated Delivery System (IDS) for our community. Our IDS will significantly increase our clinical production and provide First Health with expanded access for follow up of discharged patients who could not find outpatient care and frequent visitors to the Emergency Department. We hope to prevent readmissions to the hospital and the Emergency Department.

One of the assumptions of health care reform was that it would increase access for low-income people. If any of my above 7 statements are correct, PP&ACA will make actual access to quality health care an increasing problem for low-income patients. Maybe long term access for low-income patients will improve; for the foreseeable future the MFCC will be needed more than ever. All of us must work to make the MFCC better.

"Say it ain't so, Joe" the little boy cried! "Yes, I am afraid it is" replied Joe Jackson, of Black Sox Scandal fame. (It was unclear if the White Sox shortstop, Shoeless Joe Jackson, was guilty in the World Series "fixing" scandal. He was banned from baseball.)

Respectfully submitted,
H. David Bruton, M.D.

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Our Mission

With a spirit of compassion and with the utmost respect for the dignity of all persons, the Moore Free Care Clinic provides high quality primary, preventive and specialty care to limited income people of Moore County who are uninsured and can't afford access to health care.

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Our Community Partners



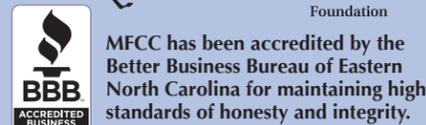
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Meet our Clinic Director



The Moore Free Care Clinic is fortunate to have Debra Lee Bateman, Family Nurse Practitioner join our staff in April as Clinic Director. Debra received her Bachelor of Arts from Chapman University in Orange, CA in Psychology/Education. She graduated with a master's degree as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist from Duke University School of Nursing.

Currently, Debra is certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She brings a wealth of knowledge to her position with the MFCC

having been employed in primary care, administration, mental health, teaching, and long term care. "I came to work at the MFCC because of the autonomy and the mission it offers. I wanted to be a part of the great things the clinic has and is doing in the community", Debra relates.

Living in Moore County for 24 years, Debra enjoys gardening, motorcycle riding, reading, and the beach. She has one daughter who is presently pursuing her masters in speech pathology. We welcome Debra to the staff at the MFCC. Her skills will further hone our operations enabling us to be more productive in our patient care.

"Changes and Gratitude"

In recent weeks the Board of Directors has undergone some change of leadership which will now include members who represent several of the major medical partnerships of the clinic. Among our new members is Dr. Daniel Barnes, who is chief of the Hospitalist Program at FirstHealth of the Carolinas. Dr. Barnes not only volunteers with us but has also played a major role in offering guidance to the clinic's operations. As our Board of 15 expands with about 4 or more members we will include a representative from Pinehurst Surgical, Pinehurst Medical Clinic, and the Southern Pines Women's Health Center. Also joining us is Teri Williams, CPA, who will take over as Finance Chair.

While we always rejoice in new leadership which brings creative change, we also have deep regrets when those who have faithfully served us as Board members transition out. On behalf of the Board of Directors, our staff, and our patients I express our sincere gratitude to Joel Shriberg (former chair), Tony Munday (former Finance Committee chair) and Carol Mulcahy (former Board member) for their years of dedicated service both as Board members and volunteers. These have been an essential part of the mission of the MFCC and have all contributed in special ways to improve the great work of the MFCC. Mr. Shriberg has guided and encouraged our growing partnership with the hospital, constantly pushing us to uphold our mission; Mr. Munday has developed the financial affairs of the clinic in an organized way, bringing us from a place of "simple" to professional accounting; Mrs. Mulcahy contributed in numerous ways, most of all in guiding us in the development of professional policies and helping to put in place a quality assurance program. Again, we are extremely grateful to all of them.

My wife, Beth, and I plan to fully step out of the MFCC leadership by late this summer or early fall. While offering leadership to the growing

development of the clinic has been both enjoyable and fulfilling, it has now become the kind of clinic which needs more than a "preacher's vision and gifts". The MFCC needs the full guidance and support of the whole Sandhills community, and persons at the helm who have strong health care credentials. I delight that such leadership is developing in these ways. While it will be sad to step down, it will be with deep gratitude for what the MFCC has become as a champion for the uninsured and low income of Moore County.

Mark W. Wethington, Ph.D., CEO



Semi Arrives at St. Joseph of the Pines

April 30th was a BIG day in Southern Pines, North Carolina, as the 53 foot long "Together We Can Do MOORE" semi rolled into the Belle Meade Clubhouse parking lot. Some 250 people attended a fundraising event complete with cookies shaped like semi's, "semi" sweet chocolate desserts and parting gifts of "semi" sweet chocolate "semi" shaped candies.

Guests got the first tours of the inside of the semi, which opens up hydraulically to house two fully equipped clinic exam rooms, an office for screening potential patients and for private consultations, a large storage area and a stage. There is a lift at the back of the semi to make the vehicle handicap accessible.

Special Guest Arrives in Style

Congressman Howard Coble, North Carolina was escorted onto the property by the Union Pines Marching Band. He is the person responsible for assisting CHE and SJP in the appropriation process. Our proposal passed the House of Representatives in July of 2009, went on to the Senate and was part of an Omnibus Bill passed by President Obama December 31, 2009. St. Joseph of the Pines received the first funds to build the semi in November of 2010. Now completed, it is ready

to begin serving the people of rural Moore County; people who have no access to healthcare services.

Partnerships

SJP has partnered with the Moore Free Care Clinic. The semi will be used as a satellite office for the clinic. This will enable patients from the rural parts of the county with no access to the clinic to be seen right in their own community. We have also partnered with the Sandhills Community College to help people get their GED and receive assistance in getting a job – from resume writing to job fairs. The Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care will be screening people to offer assistance with power bills and provide non-perishable food items. The semi will also bring the food to children in the Back Pack Pals Program during the summer months.

The third week of June will be the first trip. Robbins has been selected as the first community to have a visit from the "Together We Can Do Moore" Semi. Carthage will be the fourth week of June. The semi will return to St. Joseph of the Pines for an Open House for all associates at the beginning of July.

Susie Buchanan, MFCC Volunteer