



HEALTH

Introduction and Programs

The Local Health Initiative was established by an initial three year grant by the Colorado Health Foundation in the spring of 2006 (summary background see Appendix A). A regional Health Care Needs Assessment was commissioned from the Joffit Group, which was delivered in December 2006. A group of regional healthcare providers and knowledgeable local citizens assisted with the data gathering and final recommendations of the assessment.

Following the completion of the healthcare assessment, a regional advisory group, called the San Juan Health Council (SJHC), of providers and healthcare experts was established to advise the programs and priorities of the Local Health Initiative (LHI) (see list of members Appendix C). A medical director, Michael Kappy, MD and administrator, Gary Steinbach, were recruited and hired to direct LHI program development and implementation.

Based on an internal evaluation of the results of the healthcare assessment, the medical director, administration and Telluride Foundation developed a list of goals, programs and priorities to launch the LHI. The SJHC met in February 2007 to provide input on the list. The consensus recommendations focused on the following goals for the LHI:

- 1) Identifying and establishing programs that increase access to healthcare services.
- 2) Identifying and establishing preventive healthcare services.
- 3) Identifying and establishing programs that increase knowledge and awareness of existing healthcare services and providers in the region.

The specific initial programs included the following:

- 1) Healthcare Services Directory
- 2) Medical Shuttle Service including a healthcare navigator
- 3) Tobacco Education and Prevention Program
- 4) CPR/Public AED program and training
- 5) Latino Preventive Healthcare Fund
- 6) San Juan Kids Cavity Prevention Program
- 7) Entitlement Enrollment Program

The LHI staff members identified regional organizations to establish strategic partnerships which would enable LHI to implement a quality and cost effective preventive healthcare delivery system for the selected programs. Multiple organizational partnerships that include both funding partnerships and facilities/staff sharing, have been established since inception. They include:

- 1) Telluride Foundation
- 2) Colorado Health Foundation
- 3) Caring for Colorado Foundation, Denver
- 4) El Pomar Foundation, Colorado Springs
- 5) The Children's Health Fund, New York
- 6) San Miguel County Commissioners, Telluride
- 7) Uncompahgre Medical Center, Norwood
- 8) Telluride Medical Center, Telluride
- 9) Telluride Family Practice, Telluride
- 10) The Forsyth Institute, Boston
- 11) Community Dental Clinic, Montrose
- 12) CPR World, Telluride
- 13) Telluride Association of Realtors, Telluride
- 14) Telluride, Norwood, Ridgway and West-End School Districts

Personnel from seven of our programs listed below, delivered 1313 units of service in 2007, and involved the 14 strategic partnerships listed above.

- 1) **Medical Shuttle Service:** Working with the San Miguel County Commissioners and the Children's Fund a weekly non-emergency transportation service to physician offices, hospitals and dentists has been established. To date, 81 individuals have utilized the service. A transportation navigator function has been organized with the Uncompahgre Medical Center to coordinate the service for residents in the service area.
- 2) **Healthcare Services Directory:** An internet-based healthcare provider service directory incorporating over 250 regional medical, mental health and dental providers has been developed. The Directory assists individuals seeking services as well as providers looking for consultants to assist their patients. Over 700 inquiries have been made seeking assistance from the Directory since August 2007.
- 3) **Tobacco Education and Prevention Program:** The State of Colorado has granted the LHI a grant to assist San Miguel Schools with youth tobacco use prevention. In 2007 the project helped school administrators evaluate and modify their policies to advance the prevention of tobacco use by students.
- 4) **CPR/AED Training:** Through the assistance of a visiting cardiologist, 32 Automatic Electronic Defibrillators have been purchased by the TF and installed throughout the Telluride community. To compliment this effort, the LHI procured funds from the Telluride Association of Realtors to provide scholarships for CPR/AED certification classes.
- 5) **Latino Preventive Healthcare Fund:** A donor to the TF has established a targeted preventive healthcare fund to finance primary and secondary preventive healthcare services to Latino's residing in the Telluride area. The Telluride Medical Center and Telluride Family Practice have provided services to hundreds of Hispanic residents since May 2007.

- 6) San Juan Kids Cavity Prevention Program: A collaborative agreement with the Forsyth Institute, Boston has resulted in the implementation of its evidence-based cavity prevention program for children ages 1-13. This is a school-based program that has received funding for start-up from the Caring for Colorado and El Pomar Foundations. The Forsyth Institute program is evaluated by a National Institutes of Health Research Grant that reports a 51% reduction in cavities in children after one round of treatment and near zero cavities with children after two rounds of care. The program has been offered since July and has seen over 500 children since its inception.
- 7) Entitlement Enrollment Program: As a component of the Cavity Prevention Program, a dental navigator function has been established through the Uncompahgre Medical Center. The program is designed to enroll eligible children and their families in Medicaid and the Colorado Health Plan. To date, over 50 children have been identified to qualify for entitlement programs.

The LHI has concluded from its first year of program development that the following key success factors will be pursued:

- 1) All services provided will be evidence-based healthcare services.
- 2) All services and programs will be financially self-sustaining.
- 3) All services and programs must provide access to services for its users.
- 4) All services will have an emphasis on the provision of primary and secondary preventive services.
- 5) All services and programs must have the ability to leverage and pool resources of public and private healthcare entities. This includes facilities, staff, equipment and funding.

In consultation with the San Juan Health Council the programs and priorities for 2008 have been identified as follows:

- 1) Expand Medical Shuttle Service
- 2) Increase Provider Participations and Public Access to Health Services Directory
- 3) Increase Kids Entitlement Enrollments
- 4) Review Existing Immunization Programs and Initiate Expanded Services
- 5) Review Existing Medical Screening Programs and Initiate Expanded Services
- 6) Initiate a Uninsured Health Insurance Initiative
- 7) Support UMC's Implementation of a Dental Service
- 8) Expand SJKCPP into School based health clinic sites in Delta and east Montrose Counties
- 9) Support Expanded Mental Health Preventive Services
- 10) Create and Maintain a Public Awareness Campaign of Services and Programs

Local Healthcare Initiative Background Summary

The Telluride Foundation was awarded a three-year grant, from the Colorado Health Foundation, to develop a “Local Healthcare Initiative” (LHI) for residents of Western Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties to identify and address urgent healthcare needs to improve the health status of the regions residents.

Mission

- Improve the health status of residents in west Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties through programs that provide solutions to critical healthcare needs.

The Components of the Program include:

- Conduct a healthcare needs assessment to identify prevalent healthcare issues, service gaps and provide a comprehensive community health services inventory.
- Hire project staff including a medical director and healthcare administrator to develop, implement, evaluate and track program outcomes.
- Establish a regional advisory group, the San Juan Health Council, which represents the healthcare delivery system in the region. The Council will help establish priorities for program development and support its implementation.
- Implement the State Tobacco Education and Prevention strategic plan and programs in San Miguel County.

The Healthcare Needs Assessment identified the following health care issues as a “priority” to be addressed through the LHI:

- Outreach to Community and Providers
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Mental Health Services
- Dental Care for Underserved Populations
- OB/GYN Education about the availability of prenatal care/birth control
- Non-emergent Medical Transportation
- Senior Services
- Uninsured and Underinsured Populations in the Region

For more information, please email info@telluridefoundation.org