

THE FREE CLINIC TIMES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 JULY 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Greetings!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Fourth Annual Ohio Association of Free Clinics Conference October 19 – 21, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Worthington (Columbus). If you have not already marked your calendars, please do it now. The conference is an important capacity building and networking opportunity. The OAFc Conference Committee has planned informative workshops for learning and sharing best practices. I always come home energized by all that is happening in free clinics throughout the state and with new ideas to implement. Please encourage staff and volunteers to at-

tend. Your presence at the conference enriches your colleagues and will help the individuals you serve. See you at "Healthy Free Clinics Creating Healthy Communities"!

It continues to be a pleasure to work with Amy. The OAFc is very fortunate to have this talented young woman as our Executive Director. We recently "loaned" her for two and a half months to the Emergency Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future. This arrangement helped the Association financially, as we continued to raise operating funds. It is great to have Amy back full time as she is a vital component for the future of our Association.

With participation from all of our members, we will continue to strengthen the Association in order to support the work of free clinics in providing affordable care for individuals who otherwise would not have access to medical services.

The Trustees continue our efforts to be responsive to the needs of the member clinics. We look forward to the challenges ahead! Please get involved and join us in making our association as strong and successful as it can be. You will make a difference. Helen Keller said, "When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life... or in the life of another". Lee Elmore

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ISSUES HEAT UP

The OAFc has received numerous reports from concerned members regarding the rising costs of medical malpractice insurance. For this reason, the Association will initiate an ad hoc committee to study this issue and make recommendations. The current Good

Samaritan Law will be reviewed and evaluated. The committee will include attorneys, member free clinics, doctors, nurses, state department personnel and advocates. A panel discussion at the Ohio Free Clinics Conference in October will serve as the starting

point for the committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Amy Rohling. For more information about proposed policy changes that will impact the Good Samaritan Law, please see Page 5 of this newsletter.



OAFc BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Lee Elmore, President
(North Coast Health Ministry)*

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NEW PROPOSED PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM

Senator Hagan and Representative Dale Miller have both introduced legislation (SB 14 and HB 166) that would create a discount prescription drug program. In order to participate in the program a person would have to be a resident of Ohio, be ineligible for other federal, state or county programs that pay part or all of the cost of prescriptions, and have no prescription drug coverage through a third-party payor. The

amount of the discount would be determined by rules.

Unlike other programs, such as the Golden Buckeye Card, eligibility for this program would not be based on age. The program would be funded by rebates paid by the pharmaceutical manufacturers. This program is modeled on the Maine Rx Program that was recently reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court. The Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs is advocat-

ing for the passage of this legislation in Ohio.

SB 14 received 2 committee hearings at the end of June. The OAFCD has not yet taken a position on these bills, although the Legislative Committee is studying them.

Please log onto www.legislature.state.oh.us to view the bills. If you would like to provide input, please contact Amy Rohling at (614) 221-6494 or arohling@ohiofreeclinics.org.

“BE THE CHANGE THAT YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD.”
MOHANDAS GANDHI



WEBSITE SIMPLIFIES SEARCH FOR PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

On April 28, a new Website was launched to assist patients and healthcare providers in locating low- and no-cost medications.

RxForOhio.org was developed by sixteen pharmaceutical companies and healthcare organizations. It allows users to determine what programs they are eligible for by entering the patient's age, income, and the particular medication they are seeking. The Website matches this

information to one of the 140 industry-sponsored programs and 400 government and private programs and provides the contact information needed to apply for assistance. A toll-free number (1-877-RX-4-OHIO) is provided for people who do not have access to a computer.

In 2001, 135,000 Ohioans received free medications from pharmaceutical companies. Since the Website was launched in April, approximately

48,000 Ohio residents have received assistance after accessing the site.

The Ohio Association of Free Clinics is working with members of PhRMA to streamline access to prescription assistance programs. If you have any comments about the Rx For Ohio Website or phone number, please contact Amy Rohling at (614) 221-6494 or arohling@ohiofreeclinics.org.

WHAT WOULD IT COST TO COVER THE UNINSURED?

The following is an excerpt from a Kaiser Family Foundation/ *Health Affairs* press release dated June 4, 2003:

If the country provided universal coverage under the current health system, the cost of additional medical care provided to the newly insured would increase health spending's share of gross domestic product by less than one percentage point—or about 3 to 6 percent of total health

care spending, according to a new report prepared for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. Urban Institute researchers...conclude that the “cost of expanding insurance coverage may be a relatively small or at least a very worthwhile investment when considered against the benefits of improved health, increased longevity and potentially greater national income.

“While it won't be inexpensive to

cover the uninsured, this paper shows that a major coverage expansion would only be a small fraction of what the United States already spends on health care,” said John Iglehart, founding editor of *Health Affairs*.

The full report can be found on the Kaiser Family Foundation's Website: www.kff.org.

Healthy Free Clinics Creating Healthy Communities

The Fourth Annual Ohio Free Clinic Conference

October 19-21, 2003

Why should you make sure that you (and your staff, board and volunteers) attend this conference?

Great workshops on topics such as:

- Supporting Quality Volunteers in the New Age of Volunteerism
- Liability Issues for Free Clinics
- Communicating the “Best Kept Secret in Town”
- Spirituality and Health Care
- Financial Management in Free Clinics
- Board Management
- Fundraising Strategies for Free Clinics
- HIPAA’s Implications for Free Clinics
- Outcomes: How do you KNOW that you’re Doing Good Work?
- Wound Care on a Shoestring
- Health Literacy
- Holistic Health Care in Free Clinics
- Asthma, Depression and Diabetes
- Utilizing Rx Patient Assistance Programs
- Facilitating Access to Medicaid

The Fourth Annual Conference has been expanded to allow you to make the most of your valuable time!

The Conference will begin on Sunday evening with a recognition banquet and will conclude with lunch on Tuesday.

All of this AND:

- CME’s and CEU’s (pending)
- Inspirational Keynote Speakers
- O AFC Annual Meeting
- Silent Auction
- Exhibits
- Networking Time
- Free Massages
- Entertainment

**Please see registration form on
the reverse side in order to
register TODAY!**

Sponsored by:

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield (primary sponsor), Cardinal Health, the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, the Nord Family Foundation, National City Bank, US Bank, GlaxoSmithKline, and AstraZeneca.



An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ® Registered marks Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

For more information, contact Amy Rohling at (614) 221-6494 or arohling@ohiofreeclinics.org.

Registration Form
 Healthy Free Clinics Creating Healthy Communities
 October 19-21, 2003

Early bird registration must be received by 9/1/03

Regular registration must be received by 10/1/03

	Entire Conference	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Members	\$150.00 (Early) \$200.00 (Regular)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members	\$200.00 (Early) \$250.00 (Regular)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friends of OAFC	\$170.00 (Early) \$220.00 (Regular)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Residents	\$100.00 (Early) \$125.00 (Regular)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Students	\$40.00 (Early) \$50.00 (Regular)	
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day Only Rates	\$50 (Sunday-only) \$140 (Monday-only) \$70 (Tuesday-only)	

Please note that registration includes Sunday banquet, Monday breakfast, Monday luncheon, Monday dessert reception, Tuesday breakfast, and Tuesday lunch.

Special Dietary Guidelines—Please describe _____

Total _____

Name	
Free Clinic Name	
Address	
Phone	
Fax	
Email Address	

Please return form with check made payable to the Ohio Association of Free Clinics to 65 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Call (614) 221-6494 with questions.

Hotel Information: A group rate for rooms at the Holiday Inn in Worthington has been arranged. In order to receive this rate (\$99.00/night) reservations must be made by September 19, 2003. Please call (614) 885-3334 to make your reservation.

Continuing Education Credits: Please note that we are in the process of applying for CME's and CEU's for the conference. Please let us know the type of continuing education credit in which you are interested and we will attempt to accommodate: _____

IMMUNITY LAW PROPOSALS

As reported in the April 2003 edition of "The Free Clinic Times", the Ohio Association of Free Clinics has been working with Senator Amstutz (R-Wooster) on a revision to the Good Samaritan Law. The proposed revision will change the definition of surgery, so that minor procedures will be covered by the statute. Procedures that require general anesthetic and the support of a surgical facility will not be covered under the proposed changes. Also, the operation must be a procedure that is typically performed in an office and must be within the scope of the physician's practice, according to the O AFC's proposal.

Senator Amstutz's legislation has not yet been introduced. The Ohio Association of Free Clinics will continue to work with the Senator on this issue when the Ohio General Assembly re-convenes in September.

In May 2003 Senator Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) introduced Senate Bill 86, a bill which will expand the immunity provisions that currently exist under the Good Samaritan Law. This piece of legislation, which is supported by the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, will extend immunity to health care professionals who provide free care to people below 200% of the federal poverty line regardless of where they are practicing. Current law only protects professionals who are practicing in a clinic setting.

Senate Bill 86 was requested by Access HealthColumbus, an organization that is seeking to improve health care access for the more than 130,000 Columbus residents without health insurance. The Physicians Free Clinic is working closely with Access HealthColumbus on this project that hopes to recruit (continued on page 6)

NEW INTERN AT O AFC

Amanda Rhoades began her internship at O AFC this month. She is a third year student in the Masters of Social Work program at Ohio State. Mandy is focusing on administrative social work and is planning on completing her coursework by June 2004. Mandy is also working full-time in children's services and has had experience with the foster care and family court systems. She is very interested in advocating for child and family issues.

Although Mandy started out as a clinical social work student, she became interested in the policy/administrative aspects of social work after taking social welfare policy and organizational behavior courses. She believed that she might be able to be more effective working at the organizational/institutional level in order to affect change rather than working at the individual level.

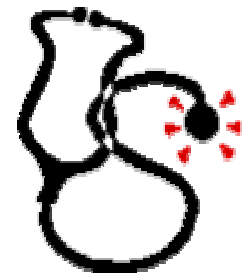
Mandy is a graduate of Hilliard High School and Ohio Wesleyan University. She is married and has two cats. She loves warm weather, traveling, reading, swimming and spending time with her family.

Mandy looks forward to meeting you all at the Conference in October!

FREE CLINIC SPOTLIGHT

This quarter's free clinic spotlight is on Sue Krichbaum, a volunteer at Reach Out of Montgomery County. Typically, a free clinic needs two kinds of volunteers to orchestrate daily operations: those that provide the free medical service and those that prepare the provider to deliver free service. Such is the case for Reach Out of Montgomery County. In addition to Reach Out's dedicated medical volunteers, the front desk volunteers are critical to the success of this free clinic that has been providing care to uninsured Montgomery County residents since 1995.

Sue Krichbaum has been an exemplary Reach Out front desk volunteer for 3 years. She greets the patients, determines their eligibility and helps set the priority for patients to be seen. Sue holds her own even with two sets of eager onlookers: the patients who would like to be seen as soon as possible and the volunteer medical staff who would like to start seeing patients as soon as possible. Sue's patience truly benefits the organization. Every time she completes a chart with quality specifications she has helped to secure funding for the organization. Sue's accurate and thorough documentation illustrates the real need for access to care for the uninsured in Dayton. Free clinics depend on people like Sue!



“HOPE” IS THE
THING WITH
FEATHERS—THAT
PERCHES IN THE
SOUL—AND
SINGS THE TUNE
WITHOUT THE
WORDS—AND
NEVER STOPS—
AT ALL.
EMILY
DICKINSON

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AMY ROHLING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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**SERVING AS AN ADVOCATE FOR FREE
CLINICS AND THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE.**

CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR O AFC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The O AFC is busy preparing for its very exciting and informative Annual Conference this October. It is at this meeting that the 2004 Board of Trustees slate will be presented.

The nominating committee is seeking potential candidates. Are you interested in serving on the Board of Trustees of the O AFC? Here is a brief description outlining time commitment, roles, expectations and responsibilities:

—The Board of Trustees has the charge, control, and management of O AFC property, affairs and funds.

—The current Board has six trustees, but Association

Code of Regulations allow up to nine members. The Board will consider expanding its membership in August.

—Trustees must commit to monthly Board meetings.

Most meetings are conducted via conference call, although some meetings require travel to Columbus. Trustees are also expected to serve on at least one committee to help carry out the mission of the Association.

Trustees may also be asked to participate in planning, presenting and/or staffing the Annual Meeting held in October. Trustees are also expected to make a financial

contribution at any level of their choosing.

The time commitment for Board members is not overly labor intensive and, in many cases, connects well to the daily tasks within our normal workplace. After all, we all have very similar missions and we all serve as advocates for our own clinics' and for the populations we serve throughout the state.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees or know of a potential candidate in the medical or corporate fields, please contact Paul Baumgartner at 440-277-7602 or lcfc@hbr.net.