



NEEDS AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Executive Summary

Clinic by the Bay conducted a needs and resource assessment over an eight month period, (August, 2008 – March, 2009), to establish the location and program offering for a Volunteers in Medicine clinic in San Francisco. Objectives included gaining an in-depth understanding of the health care needs of the uninsured in the identified target neighborhood, gaining input from the community for the development of the clinic's scope of services, and determining the availability of retired and practicing doctors, nurses and other health care professionals willing to volunteer in a Volunteers in Medicine model clinic.

Methodology included completion of a landscape survey, inventory of the existing primary care safety net system, secondary data analysis and primary data collection via 17 key informant interviews, 104 surveys and 3 focus groups of uninsured residents. Personnel resources were measured via research from the California Medical Board, California Department of Consumer Affairs and meetings with local organizations and community health care providers.

Key Findings:

- The Excelsior/Outer Mission is a Medically Underserved Area that will benefit from a primary care clinic that provides care regardless of ability to pay.
- The uninsured need and desire access to affordable general and preventive health care.
- The number one barrier to health care is cost.
- The resource of volunteer physicians for a Volunteers in Medicine clinic is unquestionable: there are 5,610 licensed physicians in San Francisco; there are over 1,300 physicians with retired or voluntary status licenses in San Francisco, Alameda, San Mateo and Marin Counties
- Priority health care needs include general and preventive health, mental health, dental care, vision care, chronic disease and access to low-cost prescription medications.
- Chronic disease specific programming needs include: hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and mental health (stress management/depression).
- Culturally competent health education and prevention is needed in the Excelsior/Outer Mission particularly for infectious diseases (tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases).
- There is limited access to low-cost dental, vision, prescription drugs, and except for hospital clinics, there is very limited access to diagnostic procedures and surgical care for the uninsured.

San Francisco's Volunteers in Medicine clinic is called Clinic by the Bay. The clinic will utilize retired as well as practicing doctors, nurses and other health care professionals to provide compassionate care, free-of-charge, to uninsured residents of San Francisco and San Mateo counties who earn incomes at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level, and do not qualify for MediCal or Medicare. Both primary and specialty doctors as well as health care professionals and educators will be needed to provide comprehensive care.

*San Francisco's Volunteers in Medicine Clinic
A California non-profit public benefit corporation*