



## **Expansion of Health Services in Pinellas County Project Summary**

Community Health Centers of Pinellas, Inc. (CHCP), is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center that provides affordable, high-quality primary health care services to the residents of Pinellas County. In 2016, CHCP served nearly 50,000 residents of Pinellas County. Importantly, 96% of CHCP's patients were at or below 200% federal poverty level.

The proposed project aims to address few of the urgent needs in the Pinellas County.

### **Goal 1:**

*Actively participate in the guided by the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force activities aimed to reduce the number of opioid based death and injuries in the County.*

In 2016, there were 415 drug-related deaths in Pinellas County; 1 every 21 hours. The District 6 Medical Examiner's (ME) office estimates the number will rise to 475 in 2017. From January to June 2016, the District 6 ME's office (Pinellas and Pasco counties) reported the highest number of deaths with either Oxycodone or Methadone present, in the whole state.

CHCP will expand its efforts in an area of Substance abuse prevention and treatment. This will be a multi-directional program, executed within the framework proposed by the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force and in collaboration with Pinellas County Department of Human Services. CHCP strategy utilizes research and practice proven interventions, including those utilized in nationally recognized programs as *HealingNYC*. The availability of support of Pinellas County Government will allow CHCP to initiate and expand following specific actions:

- Establish county-wide naloxone kits distribution points at CHCP service locations. In collaboration with Florida Department of Health, CHCP will establish necessary procedures and protocols for receiving and distribution of naloxone through organization's pharmacy program. CHCP will participate in available State programs to obtain naloxone at no cost. All members of CHCP's patient service team will receive an education of naloxone's distribution and patient training. CHCP will conduct annual training for all providers as it relates to naloxone effectiveness as an overdose response option.
- Conduct an ongoing education program on opioid death and abuse prevention for CHCP dentists and members of dental staff.
- CHCP will collaborate with Florida A&M University (FAMU) to incorporate information on proper use and disposal of prescription opioids within the framework Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program. The proposed program's innovative design allows patients the flexibility of receiving either personal face-to-face MTM services at two CHCP service sites or via a remote connection from any of other CHCP locations.
- Utilize CHCP OB and pediatric program to collaborate with community partners on Operation PAR "Mentoring Moms" program including the Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN). One of the major problems identified in published on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 HHS "Final Report: Opioid



Use, Misuse, and Overdose in Women” is a lack of communication among treatment providers in interdisciplinary health care teams. CHCP will work to mitigate the existing gaps through utilization of embedded medical personnel within specialty settings and exploring the higher levels of EHR connectivity.

- Establish dedicated positions for Case Manager and Community Health (Outreach) Worker necessary to improve patient engagement and community-outreach. This will also include an inclusion of a Healthy Start workers as a part of the patient intervention team. Intensive Case Management will allow to provide a “warm handoff” from a primary care provider (PCP) to a substance abuse care provider or another referral.
- Closely collaborate with community and universities based programs including USF’s Family Study Center, AHEC, Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas County, and others.

In addition to the salaries and benefits for the personnel directly involved in proposed opioid based death and injuries prevention activities, creation and distribution of project related materials and all training and education expenses needed for the project. The estimated amount of funding needed for this goal is \$259,723.

**Goal 2:**

*Assist with addressing the need for quality and equitable health care services for residents of Lealman community by expanding access to high-quality health services.*

The City of Lealman had a population of nearly 20,000 and referred as an at-risk zone of South Pinellas. Over 50% of area residents have an income below 200% of poverty. The project will allow CHCP to increase the Lealman Clinic and offer extended hours of operations. This expansion will remove essential constraints to access to pediatrics and family medicine and create a part-time OB/GYN service for local residents. CHCP will hire and train a Community Health Workers to connect patients with medical and social support assistances, to track the utilization and results of various services, and following up with patients to assure continuity of care and best possible outcomes. These activities will also include supporting of substance abuse prevention activities and proactive case management for patients with the substance abuse diagnoses.

The project will build on the existing CHCP capabilities and systems including the use of state of the art Electronic Health Records (EHR) and highly regarded analytical tools. CHCP is an accredited and certified patient-centered Medical Home that complies with Section 330 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. Additionally, CHCP health centers are dually accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHHC) and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)., community partnerships, and allow scalability for an ongoing increase in the volume of rendered services.

The project will support the salaries and benefits for the personnel serving patients at Lealman facility or support its operations. The estimated budget for this goal is \$610,602.



**Goal 3:**

*Improve access to dental care for residents of South St. Petersburg and Clearwater.*

Oral Health is directly linked to other chronic health conditions, including diabetes, stroke, coronary heart disease, low birth weight, etc. According to the research brief published by the Health Policy Institute of American Dental Association: “The number of emergency department (ED) visits for dental conditions in the United States continues to rise. In 2012, ED dental visits cost the U.S. health care system \$1.6 billion, with an average cost of \$749 per visit.”

Access to dental care or oral health care is a concern across the state of Florida. Oral health indicators in Pinellas County are consistently below state-wide indicators. According to the Centers for Diseases Control BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data 17.9% of adults over the age of 65 in Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan area has all their natural teeth removed. This is 35.6% higher when comparing to the 13.2% State average.

To improve access to dental care for neediest areas of Pinellas County and reduce unnecessary utilization of ER services, CHCP proposes to hire an additional dental provider with 2.7 additional FTE’s of ancillary staff. This will allow the organization to increase the volume of services for neediest residents of South St. Petersburg and Clearwater.

The will support the salaries and benefits for the additional dental personal serving patients at Johnnie Ruth Clarke and Clearwater facilities or support its operations. The budget for this goal is \$233,709.

To successfully implement all stated above goals, CHCP will invest \$137,421 for purchasing of necessary medical, dental, and computer supplies and equipment. All acquisitions will be competing in accordance with organizations policies and procedures that meet all guidelines applicable to FQHC operations.

The total budget for personnel, benefits, training and educational materials for the proposed project is \$1,240,416. CHCP will need financial support from the Pinellas County Government in amount of \$476,072. CHCP will provide remaining \$764,344 necessary for the proposed improvements in access to medical services for Pinellas County residents. Furthermore, CHCP will assume and cover all other operational expenses for the project.