

MHCN NETWORK

news & notes

MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS NETWORK - MARCH, 2010

Sixth Annual
**MOBILE HEALTH
CLINICS FORUM**

MHCN Members Respond to Haiti



Hope for Haiti ~ Vehicle donated by Matthews Specialty Vehicles
(Dennis Hoag, Brad Matthews, Tami Kane)

The earthquake in Haiti left many of us deeply saddened to witness the unfathomable degree of devastation to the peoples and infrastructure of our Caribbean neighbors. Reaching out with compassion and assistance, MHCN members world-wide have responded with donations of money, supplies, and their talent.

MHCN teams with Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation (MCF) ~ Shipping a mobile unit to Haiti

MHCN joined MCF in an unprecedented effort in reaching out to the greater mobile health community for supplies and equipment to send to Haiti. We are especially grateful to MHCN Corporate Member **Matthews Specialty Vehicles** for their generous donation of a vehicle. Says **Brad Matthews**, President of Matthews SV, "We had this vehicle and knew it could do a lot of good in Haiti; we just didn't know how to get it there. We're proud to work with MHCN and MCF to do some good where it's really needed. This is what partnership is all about." According to **Steve Samuelson**, ED of MCF, "We have a warehouse of donated supplies and equipment being prepared for shipment (along with the donated vehicle) to Haiti by the late March."

Response from MHCN members

Cherie Etherington-Smith, International Planned Parenthood Federation in London, reported that "PROFAMILIA (IPPF Member Association in the Dominican Republic) mobilized immediate response, sending mobile health unit teams to assist with medical services and working from the Regional Office to connect PROFAMIL to key contacts on-the-ground and internationally." **Ed Bartolini**, Mobile Medical Missions in Phoenix, put out a call to colleagues for donations to Water Missions International, a non-profit (with destroyed offices in Haiti) with the ability to bring solar-powered clean water to Haiti. In California, **Connie Vavricek** told MHCN that "we collected donations among our employees; the total amount matched by VSP Vision Care. Senior administrators went to Haiti to assess the situation and how we could help with portable optometry equipment and eye glasses." From **Dr. Ralph Heckard**, Intercept Systems in Idaho, we learned that his staff collaborated with American Haitian healthcare providers in New York City, spending weeks in outlying rural areas surrounding Port-Au-Prince treating patients from make-shift tents. Says, Dr. Heckard, "There is an overwhelming

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Mark Your Calendar!
September 25 – 28, 2010
New Orleans Hilton Riverside

MHCN is honored to announce that **Donald LWeaver, MD, Director, Office of Special Health Affairs, HRSA** will serve as keynote speaker at the 2010 Annual Forum. Says MHCN Executive Director, **Darien DeLorenzo**, "HRSA agencies have acknowledged the contribution of mobile healthcare services in increasing access to health-care for underserved populations nationwide. Dr. Weaver will address how HRSA views further opportunities for mobile health programs to meet the challenges of access to medical and oral health preventive care in the U.S."

The Forum planning committee is engaged with designing the agenda and selecting speaker topics that will address this year's theme ~ *Mobile Healthcare: At the Crossroads of Opportunity*. In the next few weeks, the Forum Call for Abstracts will be emailed to MHCN members and posted on our association's website. And, by the end of March, meeting registration and hotel reservations will be open online. New this year ~ Program Poster Sessions will be accepted and coordinated by MHCN members at Tulane University. For more information or assistance, contact MHCN: mobilehealthcare.com.



MHCN Featured Affiliate

Mobile Health Providers Coalition of Chicago



Formed in 1999, Mobile Health Provider Coalition (MHPC) of Chicago consists of organizations that provide healthcare to underserved communities throughout metropolitan Chicago via mobile medical and dental clinics. Clinics administer a range of services, including dental care, school physicals/immunizations, sexually-transmitted disease education/treatment, asthma care, general services, pediatrics, and healthcare for the homeless. Most clinics provide bilingual personnel and resources to assist Spanish-speaking families.

Says **Steve Samuelson**, Coalition Coordinator and Executive Director of the Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation, “our

MHPC mission is to improve the health and well being of low-income and at-risk populations in Cook County and neighboring communities, using a coordinated approach of health promotion, education and outreach.” The Coalition serves as a clearinghouse for ideas and resource sharing; coordinates member organizations to avoid duplication of services; promotes cross-referrals between member organizations; and addresses the various obstacles encountered when delivering quality healthcare services to, oftentimes, challenged communities. Additionally, MHPC works with local and state agencies to make its resources known and available for emergency response and disaster preparedness planning. Coalition members meet on a quarterly basis and,

on occasion, coordinate community expositions. Currently, there are 25 member organizations (*see Coalition members pictured above*) that operate mobile clinics and an additional 33 partner organizations (e.g. city departments, state agencies, social service organizations, vendors, and Mobile Health Clinics Network) that support activities of MHPC through collaborative partnerships. The Coalition’s activities have been supported through the generosity of Otho S.A. Sprague Memorial Institute.

For more information about MHPC, visit: www.mobileoutreach.info.

MHCN Member Profile



Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics (RMYC) is a non-profit network with three pediatric clinics, two mobile health clinics and more than 20 smaller off-site satellite clinics. Says **Stephanie Wasserman**, Director of Community & School-Based Health Programs, “*our mission is to provide accessible, high-quality healthcare to children and adolescents regardless of their insurance status, or their family’s ability to pay for service*”. Two Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® clinics, donated by Ronald McDonald House Charities, travel around Denver and Colorado providing health and preventive dental care to medically and dentally underserved children and adolescents, from infants to age 18. The medical clinic provides well-child exams, sports physicals, diagnosis and treatment of minor acute illness, immunizations, routine lab tests, management of chronic illness and referrals to community agencies for other care. The dental clinic provides oral screenings, teeth cleanings, fluoride treatments, dental sealants, tooth brushing education, x-rays and referrals to low-cost dental clinics for additional dental care. A third RMYC Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® will be added in 2010 to meet the growing demand for healthcare services. For more information, go to: www.rockymountainclinics.com

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Awareness Dates

May ~ Asthma Awareness Month

Corporate Member News

ADI Power Systems: Introduced the 416 Series Mobile Generator – compact, quiet, powerful, and easy to maintain; 10K hours of life. Contact: info@advanceddynamo.com

Union Commerce Financial: New MHCN corporate member. Offers financing options for the purchase of used or new mobile health specialty vehicles. Contact: larry@unioncommercefinancial.com

Membership Services

Planning to purchase a used or new mobile health clinic? MHCN provides guidance on vehicle cost, liaison with vehicle manufacturers for building a new mobile unit, and listings of currently available used mobile units for sale by MHCN members.

Contact: mobilehealthcare@aol.com

Consider expanding your program services to include cholesterol screening and education. For more information, go to: <http://www.mobilehealthclinicsnetwork.org/cholesterol.html>

Member Quotes

“Our organization recognizes MHCN as a key factor in our success (in launching our mobile dental program). Thank you for everything!” (**Monica Dunn, RDH**, Sarah Bush, Lincoln Health System, IL)

“Yes, I am looking forward to speaking (at the annual meeting of the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America) and meeting Felita Jones (Director, Los Angeles Breathmobile Program). I would be more than happy to reference MHCN. Thank you for passing along my name. I feel like we have all networked a lot in the past year – the more we can collaborate, the better.” (**Leah Berger**, Tulane On the Road van program)

“Thank you very much for all your guidance and support in getting us to this point (in launching a national demonstration project that could be the blueprint for health promotion on college campuses across the country).” (**Reginald Fennell, PhD, CHES**, Miami University, Ohio). This project was funded by The Ford Foundation. Project Contact: fennelr@muohio.edu

Want to be an active MHCN member, or start a mobile health coalition in your region?

Contact: mobilehealthcare@aol.com

Program Resources

The Ford Foundation: Strengthening People and Organizations. “In making grants, we look for fresh thinking and for innovative people and organizations. We set benchmarks to measure success and monitor progress to ensure that goals are being met.” The mission of the foundation is to reduce poverty and injustice and promote democratic values, inter-national cooperation and human achievement. Grants are made in three broad programs: Asset Building and Community Development; Peace and Social Justice; and Knowledge, Creativity and Freedom. Within these programs, 13 key fields of work have been identified as ways to target our resources most effectively. For more details, go to: www.fordfound.org

Newman’s Own Foundation: Causes include health initiatives worldwide. Newman’s Own Foundation is fortunate to have access to a team of strong advisors to inform domestic and international grant-making efforts and recommend organizations that are capable of delivering effective programs and services. The Foundation’s Board of Directors meets regularly to determine priorities and to identify grantees. For more details, go to www.newmansownfoundation.org/basics

Henry Schein Access to Care: Helps to meet the needs of community-based health professionals and NGOs to reduce disparity by providing much needed healthcare products and equipment (dental and medical) for underserved communities. The [Global Donation Program](#) contributes medical, dental, and veterinary supplies to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) annually. These organizations provide healthcare services to underserved communities and at-risk populations in the U.S. and abroad. The Access to Care program also actively participates in the planning, coordination, and shipping of vital healthcare supplies in response to disasters around the world. For more details, go to: www.henryschein.com/usen/Corporate/Areas_AccessToCare.aspx

Mobile Medical Ministries (M3): Provides matching grants and educational material to the Christian (non-denominational) community for launching mobile health services. “*Our mission - to mobilize and empower the Christian Church as a leading partner in the delivery of quality healthcare services to those without access to the current paradigm of medicine*”. M3 Executive Director, **Ed Bartolini** also works with **Water Missions International** (www.watermissions.org). Says Ed, “*Our focus right now is to bring clean water to Haiti.*” For more information about M3 and WMI, contact: ed@privatesectorsolutions.net

MHCN Website ~ A Wealth of Information: The association’s website is a valuable resource for a broad spectrum of information relevant to mobile healthcare providers. From the home page you can access information related to the association’s **Sixth Annual Mobile Health Clinics Forum**, the purchase of specialty vehicles, featured allied websites, U.S. government agency links, our healthcare partners, and member profiles. And, on the **Members Only** page you will find the MHCN quarterly (back) issues, a list of nationwide and regional organizations and resources, the 2009 Annual Forum (power point) Intensive Training Course, and a library of mobile health articles and literature. Go to: www.mobilehealthclinicsnetwork.org

MHCN Members Respond to Haiti

(cont’d from page 1)

collapse of infrastructure; not a medical school is standing; people are so incredibly thankful for our help. In the next few months, vaccinations are the focus, especially for those with pre- (earthquake) existing conditions.” And, from Puerto Rico, **Dr. Carlos Lopez Diaz** is leading an effort to bring a mobile dental clinic to Haiti.

Additional donations needed for Haiti ~ to donate a vehicle, email mobilehealthcare@aol.com; to donate funds, supplies and equipment, email ssamuelson@mobilecarefoundation.org



Awards

MobileHealthMap.org

Best Prevention Idea of the Week

Developed by a team from Harvard Medical School in collaboration with MHCN, the **MobileHealthMap** is accessible to mobile health programs nationwide. Organizations can place their program “on the map” and enter service data and operating costs to receive a return on investment evaluation of their program. Data (from all programs) is aggregated and showcased on the website to demonstrate the cumulative impact and savings the mobile health community has on the healthcare system at-large.

Says **Dr. Nancy Oriol**, Project Co-PI from HMS, “*Much progress has been made in developing the **MobileHealthMap.org** toward our goal of “mapping” every mobile health program across the country. When fully developed, the Map will make a graphically impressive (hyperlinked) directory of mobile clinics that enables prospective clients and funders to locate community programs and learn about services provided.*” Team leader and The (Boston) Family Van Executive Director, **Jennifer Bennet** says, “*We are very pleased with the level of program participation, especially among MHCN members; program-listings and beta-testing have been a success.*”

Mobile Health Clinics ~ saving lives while saving money. *The power of prevention.*

According to MHCN Board Chair, **Anthony Vavasis, MD** (Project Co-PI), “*In the long-term, the **MobileHealthMap** is proving that mobile health clinics are: 1)widely distributed across the United States, 2)a vital component of the healthcare system and 3)a cost-effective model for providing care to medically disenfranchised or underserved communities.*”

Join us on the Map

To list your program, go to www.MobileHealthMap.org



MAMMO SIG TO SURVEY PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE

Mammography SIG (Special Interest Group) Co-Chairs Tina Hembree and Melissa Lofton are working diligently on the agenda for the **2010 Annual Forum** (in lovely New Orleans!). First, the introductions ... Tina is an MPH from Norton Cancer Institute, Prevention & Early Detection Program in Louisville, KY. The Mobile Prevention Center, operating since March 2008, provides a wide range of services for men and women age 40 and older, including screening for cancer of the breast, cervix, prostate, colon (fecal occult blood test) and skin. The program screens approximately 2600 women and men per year; 1600 per year for mammography/breast cancer. Melissa is an MBA with The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Mobile Mammography Program. The Mobile Program, operating since 1996, provides screening services to more than 4500 women per year in the Greater Houston area.

Since the Mobile portion of the Annual Forum is intended to help all mobile mammographers learn and grow as providers, as well as create an opportunity to meet and talk about best practices, the MHCN Mammography SIG is planning to distribute a survey to glean the most pressing issues in the nation for Mobile Mammography. The survey, to be emailed to all MHCN mammography members, will ask for feedback on what issues should be addressed at the Forum that would be valuable to mobile mammography programs. Say Melissa and Tina, “*it is very important to us that we provide a conference program that brings value to you, and the best way for us to do that is to know what you need! Thank you in advance for your participation, and we look forward to hearing from you and seeing you this September in New Orleans.*” Have you ideas to share for other initiatives that can be explored by the Mammography SIG? Please contact the Co-Chairs: tina.hembree@nortonhealthcare.org (or) melissa.lofton@mdanderson.org



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