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OUR SERVICE SITES

La Clinica health centers:
Central Point Health Center
Downtown Medford Health Center
East Medford Dental Clinic
La Clinica Mobile Health Center
Phoenix Health Center
West Medford Health Center
Women's Health Center

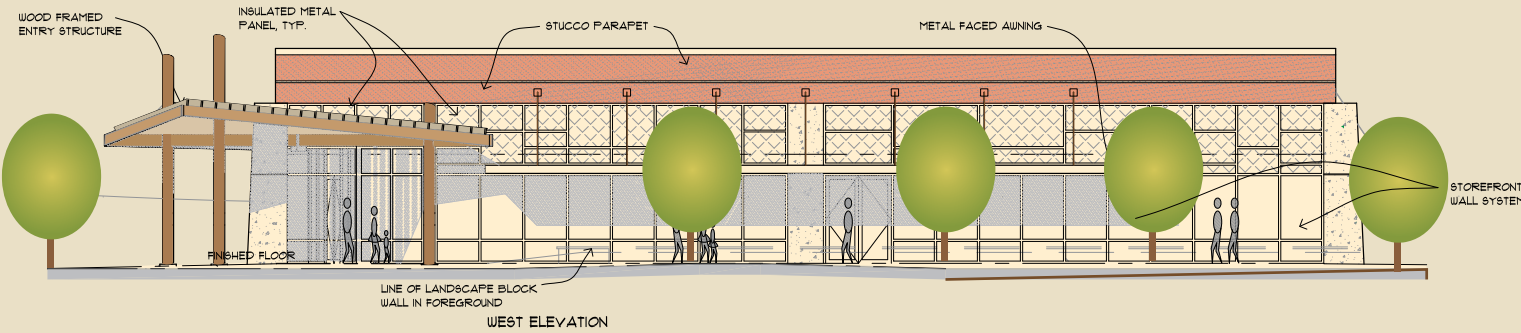
School-based centers:

Crater High School
Jackson Elementary School
Jewett Elementary School
Oak Grove Elementary School
Phoenix Elementary School
Scenic Middle School
Washington Elementary School



JULY 2014
LA CLINICA

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



Center will ensure access for growing patient population

Helen's world shifted the day she learned she would receive insurance through the Oregon Health Plan.

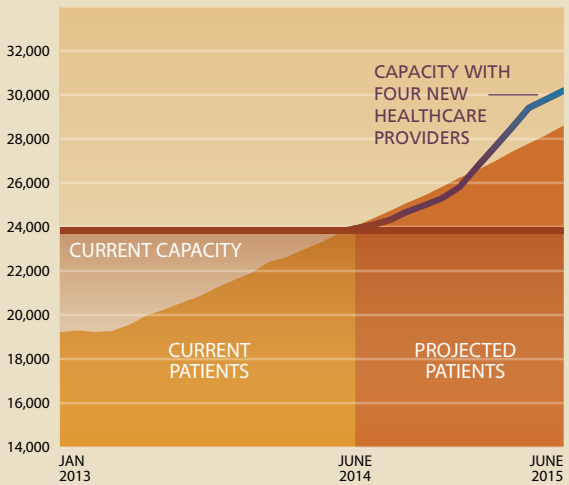
She hadn't had coverage for five years, since she used up her savings paying premiums to an insurer who she said raised her rates when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and then canceled her insurance when she ran out of money.

"I'm having a mammogram Friday, my first one in five years," she said. "I couldn't even go to the doctor before. I can't be more thankful."

The Medford woman is among about 19,000 Jackson County residents newly insured by OHP this year and like many others has started care at La Clinica. The number of OHP patients assigned to La Clinica has doubled since November, and the organization's medical practice has added 350 patients monthly this year.

These numbers led La Clinica leaders to a decision this spring to open a new health center in a high-need area of Medford next year. La Clinica Wellness Center, at 730 Biddle Road, will rise from the skeleton of Medford's former post office distribution center. La Clinica plans 15 medical exam rooms and space for complementary health services such as acupuncture, nutrition, or physical therapy.

Even before it is open, La Clinica anticipates hiring several medical providers to address growing need within existing centers. The new center is anticipated to serve about 5,000 patients. Learn more at www.laclinicahealth.org/wellness.



La Clinica will seek community support for \$2 million for the project and will take out loans to cover the remaining costs, estimated at \$2.4 million

La Clinica joins in work to improve health equity in region

La Clinica is part of a regional group formed this spring to improve the health and well being of people throughout the community.

The Health Care Coalition of Southern Oregon secured a three-year Oregon Health Authority grant to operate a Regional Health Equity Coalition. The group will bring together community organizations to examine health disparities among racially and ethnically diverse communities; people with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities; and low-income people.

"Research has shown that 60 percent of health outcomes are not related to health access or insurance but associated with socio-economic factors around housing, neighborhood, and access to healthy foods," said La Clinica Development Director Maria Ramos Underwood, who is co-chair of the new coalition and consulted on the grant. "We have an opportunity here to improve the health of our community as a whole."

The coalition plans a July 10 training and strategic thinking session and will show the PBS film series "Unnatural Causes," which discusses health inequities, this summer. Learn more at facebook.com/hccso.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Our deepest thanks to everyone who attended our open house May 29 celebrating our 25th anniversary. We had an opportunity to share plans for our newest project at the site of the open house, and many friends reconnected and shared memories. Original executive director Polly Williams, left, and CEO Brenda Johnson were both on hand (see more photos, page 3).



INSIDE

Collaboration serves mental health, addictions patients

Raise Your Heart for Health is coming in August

OUR VISION: WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE EXCELLENCE IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL.

Dentist once needed kinds of services she now provides

Daniela Diaz has vivid memories of the migrant health center where her grandmother would take her as a child.

"We were very poor," she says, and while Daniela wasn't sick often, her grandmother suffered from health issues that brought the pair to the health center down the road from Phoenix Elementary frequently.

Daniela Diaz didn't know then that she wanted to work in health care, that she'd ever see southern Oregon as a permanent home, or that the little migrant health center would somehow play a role in her future. School, jobs in other fields, some serious soul searching, and more school had to come first.

Working at a budding career in market research in Portland after college, she felt vague dissatisfaction—that, and a love of the time she spent at her dentist's office. She remembers telling her boyfriend, whom she later married: "You want to hear something crazy? I think I want to be a dentist," she recalls, laughing. "And he's like, 'What!?' "

Her long road to actually doing that included multiple stints at health clinics devoted to serving low-income people and a growing realization that this, finally, was the work that called to her.

In her interview with La Clinica staff late last year, "From the questions they were asking me I could see how protective they were of their patients," she says. "I really identify with being in the position of that patient."

Which is understandable; she once was. The migrant center she visited as a child eventually became La Clinica. La Clinica grew over the years to include dental care. Early this year that allowed Diaz to join the staff of a place that in many ways already felt like home.



Daniela Diaz moved from Mexico City to Oregon as a child, and she and her grandmother used services of a migrant health center that preceded La Clinica. Now she's employed as a dentist at La Clinica's Central Point Health Center.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

About 200 people attended our May 29 open house at 730 Biddle Road, the site of the La Clinica Wellness Center set to open next year. In the photos, from left: La Clinica employee Alicia Mangiaracina, in yellow, describes the new project to supporters Michael and Diana Quirk; center (from left), Jim Shames, now Jackson County's medical director and an early La Clinica provider, reminisces with longtime employees Danette Moss, Chareva Reyes, and Alma Elder; right, board of directors member Benny Suarez talks with Lilia Caballero and Milo Salgado, both of whom served on the board early in La Clinica's history.



Get tickets now for Raise Your Heart for Health

Tickets are on sale for La Clinica's annual fund-raising event, Raise Your Heart for Health. Join us on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Grizzly Peak Winery in Ashland. We have a fun night planned with games, music, and the ever-popular dessert auction. Purchase your tickets online at www.laclinicahealth.org/raiseyourheart or by calling Yolanda Gil at 541-512-3114.

Proceeds from this year's event will support the opening of the La Clinica Wellness Center on Biddle Road in Medford next year.



Event proceeds help thousands access dental care

Proceeds from last year's Raise Your Heart for Health helped complete the \$4.4 million community capital campaign for La Clinica's East Medford Dental Clinic. Today, this site is at 75 percent of capacity, with 26 of 34 exam rooms in operation. This will expand when La Clinica opens the last bank of eight exam rooms, Dental Suite D, later in 2014.

In 2011, before this new site opened, La Clinica served 5,701 dental patients a year. At full capacity, the East Medford Dental Clinic will provide care to nearly 10,500 patients, almost doubling the number of dental patients in the organization's care. This is an incredible gift to our community, made possible by the generosity of our community. Many, many thanks!



Physician Kerri Hecox is providing care to recovering addicts and people with mental health disorders at the new center.

Partnership brings care to recovering addicts, mental health patients

Cole stands on the scale and grimaces at a couple new pounds, holds out his arm for a blood pressure check (normal), and tells the medical assistant he's working to cut back on smoking. That's when his visit to the doctor's office takes a decidedly nontraditional turn.

Cole, a recovering heroin addict, is a patient at La Clinica's new Downtown Medford Health Center, where an innovative partnership is bringing a new kind of care to patients. Today most of his visit with physician Kerri Hecox will focus on his progress with his family, his recovery, and issues threatening to derail his work so far. Hecox judges how he's doing on the medication he's taking to wean himself from heroin and guides him as he considers next steps in his life.

La Clinica is working with OnTrack Inc., Addictions Recovery Center, and Jackson County mental health on the project, to provide comprehensive health care for people in treatment for addictions and mental health disorders.

"This type of service is available for this population virtually nowhere else in our community," said CEO Brenda Johnson.

Most patients arrive at the center with a complex set of health issues ranging from physical and mental complaints to how they can be supported in recovery and their lives.

"People tear up because it is such a warm, welcoming place. They're not used to that," said registered nurse Anne Daugherty, who is part of the center's staff.

The center is at 225 S. Holly St. in Medford until the end of the year, when it is due to become part of Jackson County's new health services building under construction downtown.



Support from federal partners made new service possible

Generous support from federal partners has made La Clinica's new service at the Downtown Medford Health Center a reality.

The center is supported by an annually renewable grant designed to provide access to health care to people not already served.

In addition to offering services at the county building when it is complete at the end of the year, La Clinica is partnering with the Housing Authority of Jackson County to provide dental outreach services to residents of low-income housing units in the area. This includes screening and education, plus referrals to dental care for those who need it.