

Washington County Clinics Q&A

March 2015



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

Department of Health and Human Services

What is happening with the Washington County clinics?

On February 24, 2015, the Board of Commissioners approved HHS Director Marni Kuyl's policy recommendation to transition out of direct clinical services and close the two health clinics in Beaverton and Hillsboro on or before June 30, 2015. Washington County will contract with local safety net providers to provide primary and preventive health care.

What services do the clinics currently provide?

Washington County clinics provide limited services including family planning, immunizations, and sexually transmitted disease (STD) screenings and treatment. The clinics **do not** provide primary care.

How will this plan improve health care?

Everyone deserves a comprehensive medical home within a primary care environment. For example, you should be able to get treated for asthma or other chronic condition, obtain birth control and get immunizations all in one place. This plan will allow more patients to receive this kind of care through our contracts with local safety net providers. Funded providers will be held accountable through quarterly reports and other monitoring methods.

What is *not* changing?

The following core public health programs are **not affected** and will still be provided by the County at the same (or increased) level:

- Tuberculosis/communicable disease and STD investigation and control (epidemiology)
- Outbreak investigation, management and control
- Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Planning
- Chronic disease prevention
- Maternal and Child Health services
- Environmental Health services
- Assurance role – helping people connect to services

Where will patients go for services?

Multiple and in-depth conversations have taken place with safety net providers including Virginia Garcia, Neighborhood Health Center, SW Community Health Center and Planned Parenthood. They have all indicated an interest and capacity to serve more patients.

All interested Washington County licensed and qualified health care providers will be invited to submit a proposal to provide services in order to receive County funds. We expect at least the four providers named here to apply, but there could be others.

How will County funds be used?

The board will allocate \$500,000 each year for at least five years to licensed and qualified health care providers that will provide primary care (3,500-4,000 patients) and preventive care (2,100) **for the uninsured**. An additional \$293,000 in Title X funds will be passed through to a provider for reproductive health/family planning services for at least 3,000 patients (uninsured or underinsured) annually.

Will more or less people receive health care through this plan?

More. Please see chart at right.

What about teens?

For STD testing and treatment, teens can go to their school-based health center. For birth control (as well as STD services), they can go to Planned Parenthood.

Do clinic patients know what is happening?

Many patients have heard about this through the media, word-of-mouth and

signage at the clinics. We are assembling a communications workgroup with the safety net providers to develop messaging and materials in English and Spanish so that patients know that the clinics are closing and where to go for services.

Will the Hillsboro clinic site still be available for partners to provide services?

Yes. The board has agreed to allow HHS to develop agreements so the safety net providers can use the Hillsboro clinic building (at no charge to the providers). SW Community Health Center and Planned Parenthood have indicated an interest in using the space; there could be others as well.

What about the clinic staff?

Public health and human resources staff are working hard to help all affected staff find suitable employment with Washington County or one of the safety net providers.

Does this affect the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program?

No. The WIC clinics are not closing. There are no changes to WIC services or clinics.

How can I stay up to date?

We will post the most current information at www.co.washington.or.us/clinics.

Washington County Patients Served, Current Versus Future

