

## Health Reform

Health Ministries & Health Centers:  
Compassionate Care for All

## Community Health Centers

- History
- Description
- Mission
- Values
- Services

## Health Center History\*

- Johnson Administration, the War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Movement
- Neighborhood Health Centers – 1965
- Provide health and social services access points in poor and medically underserved communities
- Promote community empowerment

\*Taylor, J. (2004). *The Fundamentals of Community Health Centers*. National Health Policy Forum Background Paper, The George Washington University. Washington, DC.

## Health Center Description

“Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are community-based health centers that provide comprehensive primary health care and behavioral and mental health services to all patients regardless of their ability to pay or their health insurance status. Located in medically underserved areas, FQHCs are a critical component of the health care safety net.”

The Commonwealth Fund

## Sample Health Center Mission Statements

- *Our mission is to provide quality health care, health education and preventive health care services to residents of Northern Sonoma County, regardless of their ability to pay.*  
Alliance Medical Center
- *Santa Rosa Community Health Centers is dedicated to providing excellent, affordable medical care and health education in a supportive and culturally-appropriate environment. We are committed to acting as advocates for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the individuals in our community.*  
Santa Rosa Community Health Centers
- *The mission of the Congregation is rooted in the mission of Jesus and continually unfolds in the Church - that all people may be united with God and with one another. To bring about this unity, the Sisters search out and undertake every spiritual and corporal work of mercy within the power of the Congregation.*  
St. Joseph's Health System

## Health Center Values

**CORE VALUES\***

- We believe that the Health Center is a sanctuary, a place of refuge for those who need healing and community.
- We believe that all who enter our doors must be heard, valued, and respected.
- We constantly strive to create a tolerant and loving environment for our patients and community.
- We insist on a continuous progression in words and in deeds towards a better understanding and service of the needs of our community.
- Through all our endeavors, we promote the community's ownership of the health center. We rely on the cultural wealth of our community to sustain and strengthen our health centers.

\*Santa Rosa Community Health Centers

### Community Health Center Services

- Services at health centers can include:
  - Patient outreach and education
  - Family Planning and Reproductive Health
  - Pediatric Care and Well-Child Visits
  - Primary Care
  - Dental Care
  - HIV Care
  - Chronic Disease Management
  - Physicals for school, work, sports, etc.
  - Health and Nutrition Programs – CalFresh, WIC, Education, etc.

### Community Health Centers

- In 2009, health centers served over 5 million patients at over 800 clinic sites\*
- Health centers are often the only providers available to residents who are uninsured or on Medi-Cal\*
- Health centers generate savings of \$9.9 to \$17.6 billion annually. The average cost of care per patient at a health center is \$455 per year\*

\*California Primary Care Association

### Health Centers and Health Ministries: What do we have in common?

- Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of Go in Christ?
- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
Book of Common Prayer, Page 305
- **“We believe that all who enter our doors must be heard, valued, and respected.” –SRCHC**

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### Faith Reform in Health Care

A Faith Inspired Vision Of Health Care:  
“As people of Faith, we envision a society where each person is afforded health, wholeness and human dignity.”

“That vision embraces a system of health care that is inclusive, accessible, affordable and accountable.”

\*Developed by the members of Faithful Reform in Health Care,

### Faith Reform in Health Care

What can you do? Some selected activities:

- Make at least 3 contacts with elected officials via phone, letter or personal visit
- Join a local health advocacy group (learn more about your community health center)
- Volunteer in a local program that provides health care services for the uninsured
- Take responsibility for leading a study or dialogue series in your community of faith

### PICO Petition

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane” – Martin Luther King, Jr. in a speech to the Medical Committee for Human Rights. 1966

## Selected Resources

- [www.churchimpact.org](http://www.churchimpact.org)
- [www.calchurches.org](http://www.calchurches.org)
- <http://covertheuninsured.org/faith/>
- [www.raithfulreform.org](http://www.raithfulreform.org)
- [www.piconetwork.org](http://www.piconetwork.org)
- [www.ipnrc.parishnurses.org](http://www.ipnrc.parishnurses.org)

## Contact Information

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