

2017 People's Health & Wellness Clinic Program Summary

For House Health Care Committee Testimony

Peter Youngbaer, Executive Director

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The People's Health & Wellness Clinic has been providing primary health care and wellness education to uninsured and underinsured central Vermont residents who could not otherwise afford these services since 1994.

Our services include primary medical care, mental health, oral health, body work and other complementary health, diet and nutrition, and vision care.

We are the regional contact for Ladies First, providing screening for breast and cervical cancer, as well as lifestyle coaching and memberships in weight loss programs for cardiovascular health for eligible women. Even if you are insured, Ladies First can fill gaps in coverage or provide complementary services. Tobacco cessation counseling and nicotine replacement therapies are also provided, as well as screenings for alcohol and drug use.

We also continue to provide navigation services for patients needing to sign up for health insurance through Vermont Health Connect, whether it's for Medicaid or commercial health insurance.

In Calendar Year 2017, the People's Health & Wellness Clinic served 557 (543) (478) unduplicated individuals, who came for 1170 (826) (633) clinical visits, requiring 2846 (2289) (1664) patient interactions. 287 (271) (177) of these patients were new to the Clinic. All of these numbers are significant increases since 2015. We had 866 (826)(556) medical visits, 281 (270) (75) medical consults, and 904 (691) (691) diagnostic tests. 112 individuals came for 155 (93) (77) dental hygiene visits and 99 (51) (51) referrals to dentists for treatment. We provided 160 (210) (186) pharmaceutical samples, immunizations, and vouchers, and wrote hundreds more prescriptions. Our services include screening all patients for eligibility in a variety of health insurance and assistance programs. We also helped many patients navigate the application process for a variety of programs including Vermont Health Connect, Medicaid, Ladies First, and Central Vermont Medical Center – UVM Health Network and other hospitals' patient financial assistance

programs. Through all these efforts, we were able to successfully enroll them 134 (251) (150) times, many in more than one program.

Volunteer practitioners are the heart of our service model. In 2017, over 60 (75) (100) volunteers gave over \$88,000 (\$77,700) (\$65,700) worth of their time serving our patients. Over \$95,000 (\$78,400) (\$47,000) worth of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies and other services were donated for our patients. We paid \$6,721 (\$5,357) (\$9,666) for diagnostic testing, and leveraged another \$19,513.58 (\$6,300.21) (\$6,696) of tests.

We define our primary service area as all of Washington County, plus the Orange County towns of Orange, Washington, and Williamstown, but we do not restrict geographic access, and ended up serving people from 48 (45) (45) Vermont towns. People must have household income of less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level to be eligible for our services, but 90% were under 250% - basically the “working poor.”

As a federally-deemed free clinic, we cannot charge for services. We depend on grants and donations, including from our patients. For more information on our services, to make a donation, or to volunteer, please visit our website at phwcvt.org. Patients are seen by appointment only – call 802-479-1229, Monday through Thursday.

We are grateful to the voters of central Vermont for many years of support for the Clinic, and are very pleased to be able to provide these services to the community. Thank you.