

Mission Statement

To increase access to health care for low income uninsured members of our community by using a volunteer network of providers working in a coordinated fashion to create a compassionate, respectful, equitable, accountable and efficient program of necessary services for those in need.

Anchorage Project Access

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Physician Leadership Team

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Anchorage Has a Project Access

First Patient to Enroll in October

Brian Green, Anchorage Project Access Acting-Executive Director, targets October for the start-up month. With the search for care coordinators well underway, Anchorage Project Access is prepared to streamline patients' access to physician participants, track utilization and provide a pharmacy benefit to patients who meet eligibility screening requirements.

Malpractice Immunity

The "Volunteer Health Care Provider Immunity Act of 2004" was passed by the Alaska legislature in 2004 (AS 01.10.070(c)). This act provides protection from liability for health care providers who provide services without receiving payment. At the request of APA, two Anchorage attorneys well-versed in medical liability issues reviewed the law and found it to be "a very good although untested shield against medical liability claims for free medical care."

Excellent Physician Coverage

With nearly 300 physicians, Anchorage Project Access is in an excellent position to accommodate the 1000 patients anticipated during the first year. Nearly all specialties are well-represented with 100% participation from private practicing endocrinologists, nephrologists, cardiologists, cardio-thoracic surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, hospital anesthesiologists, infectious disease specialists, urologists and neurologists. A substantial majority of OB/GYNs, orthopedic, general and vascular surgeons, rehabilitation physicians, pulmonologists, allergists, gastroenterologists, and oncologists are represented, as well as many pediatricians, several ophthalmologists, and 61 primary care physicians.

*"He gave medical knowledge to human beings so that we would praise him for the miracles he performs."
Sirach 200 BC*

The Community in Anchorage Has Welcomed APA

Reacting to the volunteerism of nearly 300 physicians, Anchorage community leaders and organizations have promptly responded by working to support the financial requirements of the program, which will include pharmaceutical and administrative expenses. As predicted

by national experience in other cities with Project Access programs, physician initiative in addressing the needs of the uninsured has been matched by generous support from Anchorage institutions. These include: United Way; Anchorage Access to Health Care Coalition;

the Municipality of Anchorage; Providence Medical System; the Denali Commission; the Foraker group; Christian Health Associates; the AK Department of Health and Social Services; the Rasmuson Foundation; Alaska Regional Hospital, and the Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association.

Growth and Development of Anchorage Project Access

Anchorage Project Access is seeking qualified personnel for administrative and care coordination positions to screen, refer and support patients eligible for APA services. The APA office would welcome referral of appropriate candidates for these staff positions (telephone 339-8746). Finding funding for pharmaceutical benefits will be an ongoing focus, as it has been for other Project Access projects across the country. Anyone who is interested in supporting fundraising efforts is welcome to join us. Anchorage Project Access will soon be forming a Board of Directors and clinical committees. Interest is also welcome from those interested in participating on these committees, which will become increasingly important as APA moves beyond the pilot project of the first few months. Please contact the APA office at 907-339-8746 or a member of the physician leadership team of you would be willing to serve in any capacity.

Notable Quotes

"You have fantastic physician support—you are ready to launch."

Suzanne Landis, Founder of the first Project Access in Asheville, NC (June 2005)

"I get it now....Project Access is what we are already doing but it is more efficient and more equitable."

An interventional radiologist, Anchorage, 2005

"This is amazing what you Anchorage physicians are doing—I had no idea anything could be done for the uninsured."

A patient, Anchorage, 2005

"We are behind this project 100% and are willing to back that up."

CEO of Anchorage hospital, 2005

"If Anchorage physicians are willing to do this, we will support them with thank-you banquets, prayer, transportation for patients, translators, thank-you letters written on behalf of these people."

Anchorage clergyman, 2005

"The Anchorage Medical Society has voted to endorse and sponsor Anchorage Project Access."

Leslie Dean, MD, President, Anchorage Medical Society, 2005

"Many nurse practitioners are willing to join APA and are just waiting to hear from the group how to proceed."

Cathy Feaster, Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association, 2005

"Thank-you so much for spearheading this incredible program. This will be a great asset to the medical community in Anchorage."

Letter from Anchorage physician volunteering to be part of Anchorage Project Access, 2005