

COUNTY OF DUKES COUNTY Departments 1500 & 800
VINEYARD HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT, FY 2008: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Client Services: The Access Program's core service is connecting the Island's lower-income residents with affordable insurance and helping them to retain this coverage. We provide public benefit health care program enrollment and retention services, information and referral and advocacy; referrals to primary care, specialty care and complementary care; helping clients to make appointments and manage medical debt; and creating access to services like specialty care, vision care and prescription medication assistance.

FY 2009 approvals for affordable insurance and coverage programs include Commonwealth Care – 791; MassHealth – 998 children and adults; and Health Safety Net or “Free Care”-- 693; Medicare Part D and Prescription Advantage for seniors and the disabled -- 208.

We submitted 1,768 applications, which resulted in a total of 2,690 approvals.

The Access Program's discounted care programs continued to provide affordable services to the uninsured. These include the Dental Access Program, the Specialty Network for the Uninsured (SNU) and the Prescription Medication Assistance Program (PMAP). The SNU is a regional program operated under the Cape and Vineyard Community Health Center Network. It has over 80 participating providers in 26 specialties; ***there were 616 patient visits for free or discounted specialty care in FY2009.***

The David Kurth Memorial Fund provides emergency financial assistance to Islanders with medical-related expenses that they cannot afford, primarily prescription medication. ***In last half of FY2008 and in FY2009 (18 months) we provided \$15,995 in financial assistance to 305 low-income uninsured or underinsured Islanders.*** The Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard continues its strong support for this program. Other contributions in FY2009 came from the Farm Neck Foundation, the Peter and Elizabeth Tower Foundation; the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center; the United Methodist Church; and individuals and local businesses.

Outreach in ongoing in the form of public service announcements, distributing fliers, brochures and cards throughout the community, school mailings, presenting to English as a Second Language classes, and networking with health and human service agencies, and newspaper advertisements. We continued our outreach to clients of the Dukes County House of Corrections and the Community Corrections Program.

Vineyard Smiles: The Dukes County Health Council's Oral Health Working Group provides oversight for Vineyard Smiles, which is a collaboration between the Access Program and Island Health Inc. The program provides school-based mobile dental services and dental education for children in Head Start and grades K-12; care facilitation for adults with unmet oral health problems; and a community awareness campaign. ***In SY 2008, 412 children received dental care including exams, cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealants and fillings.*** Every K-2 classroom on the Island participated in Tooth Tutoring.

Vineyard Smiles began a pilot program for lower-income seniors in FY2009. 3 clinics were held in March and July at Island Elderly Housing; ***49 elderly and disabled patients received services.*** Patients had a variety of issues ranging from severe periodontal disease to broken teeth, cavities and lesions. Additional services for seniors are being planned for the coming year.

County of Dukes County: Health Services Department - Vineyard Health Care Access Program
Annual Report FY 2009, Page 2

Local and Regional Initiatives: Access Program employees have been involved in a number of additional health care initiatives including:

- The Dukes County Health Council's Oral Health Working Group
- The MassHealth Training Forum
- The Specialty Network for the Uninsured
- The Tri-County Community of Oral Health Excellence
- Healthy Immigrant Families: Cape & Vineyard Initiative

Funding

The agreement between the County and Towns to share a portion of the program's budget was implemented in FY2009, with the County providing 50% and the Towns providing 50% of \$88,864, or around one third of the total budget.

In addition to the County and all six Island Towns, FY2009 funding sources included Massachusetts' Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands, United Way of Cape Cod and the Islands, Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & the Islands and local funders including the Rotary Club, local businesses and individual donors. The program's total budget for FY2009 was \$257,297.

Program and Staff Information:

Telephone: (508) 696-0020
Fax: (508) 696-7352
E-Mail: info@vineyardhealthaccess.org
Mailing Address: Vineyard Health Care Access Program
P.O. Box 1298
West Tisbury, MA 02575

Office Location: 114 New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs

Staff:

Director	Sarah Kuh	skuh@vineyardhealthaccess.org
Health Access Specialist	Mary Leddy	mleddy@vineyardhealthaccess.org
Community Health Outreach Educator II	Maria Mouzinho	mmouzinho@vineyardhealthaccess.org
Administrative Assistant	Carol Seale	cseale@vineyardhealthaccess.org

Volunteers: Dorothy Duarte, Patsy McCornack

Board of Directors: Eleanor Beth, Mary Jane Cleare, PhD, Janet Holladay, Leslie Leland, Beth Donnelly, MD and Else Mulder-Membreno, MD

Ex Officio Board Members: Patricia Begley, RN and Sarah Isenberg, BSN, MA