

# Access to Care

## Harford County, Maryland

**A Partnership in Caring**



**April 30, 2008**



# A Partnership in Caring



## Harford County, MD

One of the fastest growing counties in MD

- 24% rate of growth between 1990 and 2007
- BRAC – anticipated 19% increase in next 10 years
- 2007 population projection – 239,993
  - 84% White
  - 11% Black
  - 2% Latino (*thought to be drastically under-reported*)
- 87,000 households
- \$65,000 median household income

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## Harford County, MD

- 12,000 or 5% live below the poverty level\*
- Estimated 21,000 – 34,000 are uninsured\*\*
- 9,458 children receive MCHP benefits – a 238% growth since 2000
- Age-adjusted death rate of blacks compared to whites is greater than 12 other jurisdictions in MD, including Baltimore City\*\*\*

\* US Census 2005 American Community Survey

\*\*US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates

\*\*\*DHMH Office of Minority Disparities

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## Upper Chesapeake Health (UCH)

### Our Vision

- To become the preferred, integrated healthcare system creating the healthiest community in Maryland

### UCH at a Glance

- Two-hospital non-profit integrated health system
  - Harford Memorial Hospital (Havre de Grace)
  - Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (Bel Air)
- 95 year history of serving the community
- Home Health and Hospice – largest agency in service area
- Community Health Initiatives

 **Upper  
Chesapeake  
Health**

*...Unparalleled*

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## Upper Chesapeake Health (UCH)

### Services

- Medical & Surgical Services
- 24-Hour Emergency Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Intensive & Coronary Care Unit
- Same Day Surgical Services
- Family Birthplace
- Women and Children's Services
- Outpatient Diagnostic & Treatment Services
- Behavioral Health Services at Harford Memorial Hospital



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## Upper Chesapeake Health (UCH)

### Services

- Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Surgery
- Upper Chesapeake Breast Center
- Upper Chesapeake Pain Center
- Upper Chesapeake Sleep Disorder Center
- Upper Chesapeake/St. Joseph Home Care and Hospice
- Upper Chesapeake Cardiovascular Institute
- Upper Chesapeake Joint Center



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## Upper Chesapeake HealthLink Primary Care Clinic (UC HealthLink PCC)

- Founded in 2001
  - \$50,000 seed grant from MD Health Care Foundation
  - 1 Nurse Coordinator, 3 Volunteer Primary Care Physicians
  - 1<sup>st</sup> HealthLink Mobile Medical Van (converted Winnebago)
  - Nurse Coordinator negotiated specialty referrals
  - Labs & Rads provided through UCH

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## Upper Chesapeake HealthLink Primary Care Clinic (UC HealthLink PCC)

- **Founded in 2001**
  - **Goals**
    - Serve eligible underserved and low-income seniors (50-65) in rural areas of Harford County
    - Address lack of access to preventative and primary healthcare
  - **Outcomes**
    - 64 patients
    - 180 primary care visits
    - 34 specialty referrals

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## Upper Chesapeake HealthLink Primary Care Clinic (UC HealthLink PCC)

### Some key milestones

- 2002
  - Primary Care Clinic rural health care project ends when the MD Health Care Foundation funding expires
  - UCH Foundation steps in to replace essential funding to continue primary care clinic; have remained a key partner ever since
  - New focus on “urban” areas, age range expanded to 40-65 years
- 2004
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Stationary Clinic
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Nurse Practitioner (.6 FTE)
  - Hospital Volunteer Association donates funds for a new “state of the art” Mobile Medical Van

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## Upper Chesapeake HealthLink Primary Care Clinic (UC HealthLink PCC)

### Some key milestones

- 2005
  - 1,200 patient visits
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Emergency Department diversion study
    - Primary Care Clinic Patients
    - Tracks number of non-emergent ED visits the year prior to & the year after becoming a Clinic Patient
    - 3 to 5 fold reduction in ED visits for sample group

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership (2005)

- The Community Access to Care Committee convenes
- Key Partners
  - Upper Chesapeake Health
  - Harford County Health Department
  - Office on Mental Health, Core Services Agency
  - Harford County Government, Department of Community Services
  - Department of Social Services

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership (2005)

- Community Access to Care Committee
  - Goals
    - Identify existing resources / programs
    - Identify gaps in health services
    - Explore existing models of care in other communities
    - Identify and begin the process of securing a HPSA/MUA/MUP designation for Harford County
    - Explore opportunities for collaboration
      - No wrong door
      - Wrap around services

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership (2005)

- Access to Care Committee collaborates with PCO
  - HPSA/MUA/MUP Designation (*on-going*)
  - Significant opportunity for service expansion
- Access to Care Committee devotes considerable time to developing a collaborative comprehensive access to care strategic plan for Harford County.
- UCH and HCHD pool resources to hire Grants Administrator to secure necessary project funding

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership (2006)

- Health Care for the Homeless (Baltimore City) contacts UCH and HCHD
  - HRSA grant expansion opportunity for northern counties
  - Work of the partnership enabled a quick response
  - Wrap around services to the Homeless Population with entry into a single, integrated program
    - Case Management – Harford County Health Department
    - Primary Care – UC HealthLink Primary Care Clinic
      - Mobile Medical Van to travel to homeless shelters
      - 2 Stationary Clinic Sites – UCH, HCHD
    - Mental Health – Office of Mental Health, Core Services Agency
    - Substance Abuse – Harford County Health Department
    - Entitlement Services – Department of Social Services

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership (2006)

**Strong collaboration and partnership in meeting the comprehensive scope of needs of the homeless**

**Partnership identified as key reason for receiving successful grant award**

**Health Care for the Homeless  
a typical scenario**



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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership

2007

- UC HealthLink PCC relocates to new clinic space courtesy of UCH
- HCHD awarded grant to open a Dental Clinic for children

2008

- UC HealthLink Primary Care Clinic awarded “ED Diversion Grant” to provide a medical home for 2,400 patients presenting in the ED for non-emergent care
- HCHD awarded grant to provide targeted treatment to inmates with co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorders

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership (2008)

- Access to Care Committee now in process of developing Phase II of comprehensive strategic plan for Access to Care in Harford County

### **Vision:**

*Quality Care for All  
Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies, Healthy Spirits*

### **Mission:**

*To provide an integrated, comprehensive and culturally sensitive healthcare delivery system designed to promote health and wellness for underserved populations in Harford County*

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership

### What's next?

- Strategic Plan – Phase II
  - Resources
    - Gaps
    - Categorical funding
    - Sustainability
    - 3 to 5 year goals
- Continue efforts to achieve HPSA / MUA designation & ultimately an FQHC

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## Harford County Access to Care Partnership

### Results

- Cooperative, common goal
- Non-duplication of services
- Ease of cross referrals
- Shared funding
- Shared expertise



# Harford County Access to Care Partnership

*Thank You !*

*Questions?*