



Reproductive Health Update

Women's Health as a Priority

Creating access to comprehensive women's health services has remained a priority of Central Health since our inception in 2004. In June of 2013, Central Health signed a Master Operating Agreement with Seton Healthcare Family creating the Community Care Collaborative or CCC to serve as the linchpin of an integrated delivery system to improve the provision of health care services to low income and uninsured individuals in Travis County with an emphasis on improving patient health outcomes.

In recognition of concerns about the Ethical and Religious Directives under which Seton operates, the Master Operating Agreement states Central Health will work "to expand programs that seek to ensure that comprehensive health care services are provided to women in Travis County." Additionally, the agreement between the parties states that Central Health maintains a majority interest in the new entity to ensure that a full range of women's health services can be provided, as well as to ensure proper oversight of public funds.

Women Receiving Care at Seton Facilities

For the women in Travis County who are served by the safety net health care system, a system of integrated care works to deliver care both in the inpatient setting (in the hospital) and outpatient setting (in a clinic). In the clinic setting, the full range of women's health services are available to eligible low-income women through contracts with Central Health partners such as CommUnityCare, Lone Star Circle of Care, Peoples Community Clinic, El Buen Samaritano, Planned Parenthood and others. Women may also elect to deliver at a St. David's Healthcare facility, which allows them to receive comprehensive post-partum family planning services onsite following delivery.

For women who deliver at Seton Healthcare Family hospitals, their prenatal and postpartum care takes place in outpatient settings with providers who are trained in patient-centered family planning counseling. During their time as admitted patients at Seton, they may receive family planning counseling from their treating physician, including information about pregnancy planning, sterilization, and contraception. Services requested in these areas will be provided elsewhere. For example, a woman who gives birth at a Seton facility may inquire about contraception or sterilization services and be counseled on her options and then be referred to access services.

Community Care Collaborative and Health Transformation Projects

Central Health uses local dollars to draw down federal funds that substantially increase services available for the community. These funds are used to purchase hospital care and new and expanded services to meet the needs of the uninsured in Travis County through special projects

via the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payments (DSRIP). Within DSRIP, Central Health supports 7 projects focused on expanding access to family planning, patient-centered prenatal care, and preventive screening services, which have been underutilized by low-income women.

- Two projects are coordinated through Planned Parenthood: Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and Sexually Transmitted Infection Screening & Treatment.
- CommUnityCare coordinates the Centering Pregnancy program which aims to improve birth outcomes in low income women, by providing group care to a cohort of expectant mothers.
- Seton is also a performing provider of women's health DSRIP projects with University Medical Center Brackenridge providing four OB Navigation and Women's Oncology Screening and Navigation projects.
- As a partner in support of Maternal and Child Health, the City of Austin is also funding and coordinating three additional projects: Peer to Peer Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Healthy Families and Pre/Post Natal Program for African Americans.

Women's Health Redesign Pilot Project

As part of the creation of the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, Central Health and the Community Care Collaborative have worked closely with the recently hired Chair of the Department of Women's Health, Dr. Amy Young, to redesign and transform the delivery of women's health in Travis County. By focusing on current women's health best practices and patient-centered care delivery, Dr. Young is working closely with providers within the Community Care Collaborative to evaluate ways to leverage resources from the Dell Medical School in clinics that serve low income residents in order to improve women's health outcomes in Travis County.

The project plans to pilot certain efforts in local clinics, such as:

- Improved data sharing between the hospital and health center in order to coordinate and improve the quality of care in both settings,
- Implementing evidence-based guidelines of care across provider types to standardize care,
- Optimizing service-delivery and triaging for high-risk pregnancies,
- Ensuring equitable resources for care across health centers, including antenatal screening, laboratory testing, diagnostic and treatment resources, and more.