



MEDICAL SERVICES
HEALTH & NUTRITION EDUCATION
SOCIAL SERVICES & WIC

SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

1032 SOUTH 16TH STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53204
(414) 672-1353

BACKGROUND

I. Sixteenth Street Community

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center is located on the near south side of the City of Milwaukee, adjacent to the large industrial valley which separates the downtown and north side of the city from the south side. Historically a working class neighborhood, housing people of Central European stock, the near south side in recent years has become the home of over half the Hispanics and Indochinese in Milwaukee County.

The population of the City of Milwaukee totalled 611,291 in 1985, and the County population, based on the 1980 census, was 964,988. The SMSA population total was 1,397,143. The largest city in the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee is in many ways a typical "rust belt" city with a declining manufacturing and shipping sector and increasing low income and minority population.

Based on the 1985 Special Census for the City of Milwaukee, the immediate service area of the Health Center contains 68,532 persons, over 20% of whom have incomes under 100% of poverty. According to the 1985 Special Census, the racial breakdown of the neighborhood is:

22% Hispanic
3% Indochinese
75% Mostly Caucasian

Because of the multilingual staff and the sliding fee scale the Health Center applies to fees for persons without health insurance, the patient population of the Center includes an even higher proportion of low income and minority persons:

57% Hispanic
9.5% Indochinese
2.5% Black
.5% American Indian
78% with incomes below 100% of the poverty level

The near south side was originally founded on a manufacturing economy, with many well-paying blue collar jobs supporting the community. With the decline in the manufacturing sector and the corresponding increase in low paying service and retail sector jobs, the prosperity of the area has declined considerably in recent years. Based on a study conducted by the City of Milwaukee, the median income of City residents dropped 12% between 1977 and 1984. The residential area surrounding the clinic was found to be one of three in the City with increased numbers of low-income and welfare families during this period.

Accompanying this drop in income has been an apparent increase in the number of employed persons who are without health insurance to cover their medical care, as well as an increase in the number of unemployed. It is estimated that 15% of the population of the State of Wisconsin is without health insurance. Unemployment remains high in the area. Whereas the rate for the County has leveled off around 6%, the rates for Hispanics and Indochinese are significantly higher.

A survey of the health care services provided in the area was conducted in the summer of 1987. There are two clinics in the immediate area, one a City of Milwaukee clinic and one a Family Practice clinic affiliated with a local hospital. Together these clinics provide a total of 21,500 patient visits per year. There are also a few physicians in private practice, however none of them are OB/Gyns. There are the equivalent of 3.5 FTEs of Family Practitioners, 1.0 Pediatricians, and 4.2 Internists in the immediate area, clearly an insufficient number to meet the needs of the community. In fact, most of the service area has been designated a Health Manpower Shortage Area and a Medically Underserved Area by the government, based on the low number of providers in the community.

II. History of the Clinic

Since its beginning in 1969, the purpose of the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center has been to provide quality primary care and other health-related services to persons residing on the near south side of Milwaukee. Historically, residents of this area and their families went unserved because of low income or lack of insurance, or they received inadequate care because of their language or culture.

In 1969, the Health Center had a staff of five and saw several hundred patients a year. By 1979, the staff had grown to ten and the yearly patient load had increased to 2,600 in the Medical Program, and 2,322 in the WIC Program (Women, Infants and Children nutrition program). During this period, the Center was located at 1036 S. 16th Street in a rented storefront.

Between 1979 and 1982, the Center expanded to include the rest of the first floor of its building, 1032 S. 16th Street, and began to purchase major equipment. It obtained eligibility for Title 19 and Medicare reimbursement for eligible patients. A sliding fee scale was developed for patients without insurance and other means of payment. In a major step toward its long-term goal of offering comprehensive health services at one site and in one visit, the Center hired its first full-time staff physician, a family practitioner, in 1981.

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After conducting a fundraising drive in 1982 and 1983, the Center purchased its entire building in March of 1983 for \$95,000, all of which was raised from local foundations and corporations. A variety of existing structural problems with the building then led to a request to the City of Milwaukee Community Development Agency for a grant to remodel the first floor of the building. This was approved and a \$244,000 renovation was done in 1984.

Also in 1984, the Center received its first federal funding from the U.S. Public Health Service to increase staff and purchase needed equipment, including a computer system for data and patient tracking, and fiscal functions. Additional physician services were added, as well as off-site dental and pharmacy services. The first bilingual social worker also joined the staff.

In 1985, the Center joined HealthReach, a health maintenance organization. This enabled our Title 19 patients to continue receiving their medical care at the Center when the State of Wisconsin required that they be served through HMOs. Supplemental monies from the Public Health Service were used to include a fulltime family practitioner, internist, pediatrician, and OB/Gyn, and the nurse practitioner, and residents from St. Mary's Hospital Family Practice Clinic.

To accommodate the growth in staff and services, the Public Health Service also funded a second renovation of the facility, primarily of the second floor, during 1985 and 1986. In 1986, the Center's administrative and health education offices were moved to the second floor and additional exam rooms were made on the first floor to bring the total up to twelve. On-site parking for staff and patients was also provided.

Additional health education programs were then added, including a Parent Education Program which began in 1986, an Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction program which started in January, 1988, and a Perinatal Outreach program, which began in October, 1988.

Throughout these years, a commitment has been made to provide services in a culturally sensitive manner to area residents. The growing size of the Hispanic and Indochinese populations on the near south side resulted in the employment of five bilingual community health workers and the development of multilingual educational materials. A consistent effort is also maintained to employ other staff who reflect the diverse groups which compose the patient body of the Health Center. Sixteenth Street is guided by a Board of Directors composed of patients and representatives of the broader community.

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Primary funding sources over the years have included United Way of Greater Milwaukee, the State of Wisconsin for Maternal and Child Health, WIC, Refugee Health and the Parenting Program, and St. Mary's Hospital, plus the U.S. Public Health Service. The other major source of income includes patient fees, insurance and HMO payments.

The Center currently has a contract with Wisconsin Health Organization HMO. All of the Center physicians belong to St. Mary's Physician's Association in order to expand other HMO relationships.

In 1987, over 20,000 medical visits were provided by the six physicians who are currently on our staff. The WIC Clinic moved to another building at 1016 S. 16th Street in October of 1987 to accommodate the expansion of medical services which resulted from the addition of the second pediatrician and OB/Gyn in the summer of 1987. The Center is hoping to further expand its building in 1989 in order to improve patient flow, and to eventually accommodate additional on-site services.



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SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center is a private, non-profit community health center.

A. Services Offered

1. Family Health Care. In 1988, 5395 patients made 23,318 medical visits.
2. WIC (a supplemental nutrition education program). 2,524 clients.
3. Health Education; including Prenatal, Parenting, and Nutrition classes.
4. Social Services

All services are available in English, Spanish, Hmong and Laotian.

B. History of the Center

1. Twenty years of service.
2. Organized by community residents who felt a need for culturally and geographically accessible health services.
3. Building purchased with local foundation and corporate support in 1983.
4. Renovations funded by Community Development Agency in November, 1983.
5. Renovations begun in March, 1984 on first floor of building. Work completed in October, 1984.
6. Urban expansion funded in August, 1985.
7. Renovation of second floor and other improvements completed summer, 1986.

C. Funding

1. Patient Generated Revenue
2. State of Wisconsin MCH Block Grant.
3. State of Wisconsin WIC Program.
4. State of Wisconsin Parenting Program Grant.
5. United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Inc.
6. St. Mary's Hospital
7. U.S. Public Health Service.
8. March of Dimes
9. Faye McBeath
10. Other Private Foundation Grants

D. Recent Developments

1. Public Health Service funding first obtained in 1984, enabling the Center to hire additional medical staff, expand hours, hire bilingual Social Worker, expand Health Education Department, contract for dental and pharmacy services for our low-income, uninsured patients, and computerize our medical information system.

D. Recent Developments (continued)

2. Renovations funded by the Public Health Service in August, 1985--second floor and alterations to the first floor--completed summer, 1986.
3. Urban expansion grant in 1985 allowed the addition of medical personnel and support staff.
4. Two additional physicians were added in summer, 1987.
5. Additional urban expansion funds will be requested in 1989 to add support staff for new physicians and for further expansion of the facility.

E. Who are our Patients? (based on patient visits)

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|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. 33% children | • 5. 38% completely uninsured |
| 2. 69% female | 6. 47% Title 19 |
| 3. 57% Hispanic | 7. 15% with some form of insurance |
| 4. 10% Indochinese | |