Connecting Health & Faith...
Our Call to Action

METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES
OF SOUTH TEXAS, INC.

“Serving Humanity to Honor God”
Kevin C. Moriarty, President & CEO
June 26, 2009
Who Are We?
Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas Board of Directors

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Information Technologies
IT System
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*Serving Humanity to Honor God*
METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES
A Call to Mission

Mission Statement
“Serving Humanity to Honor God”

To serve by improving the physical, mental and spiritual health of those least served in the Southwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church.
Why We Exist

- 45 million uninsured Americans
- 5.4 million uninsured Texans
- 372,115 Bexar County uninsured
- 99,950 Bexar County children are uninsured
Who Do We Serve?

• AVG Age – 25 to 64
• 150% of poverty
• Unemployed and working poor
What Makes us Unique?

-Holistic approach to Health and Wellness
Body, Mind & Spirit

-Each staff member of MHM’s team delivers services from a common point of view, that the person who is the recipient is already whole and complete just as they are. Regardless of what their outward condition or status in life might appear.
Fulfilling Our Mission

• Partnerships

• Joint Partnership with HCA

• Owned and operated services
Fulfilling Our Mission
Partnerships

• MHM funds other not-for-profit organizations with a similar mission
• MHM funds primary care (medical, dental, mental) public policy issues, advocacy, social services
• 45 organizations in 19 counties in 2008
• In 2008, MHM’s funding accounted for over 150,000 visits
2006 includes $1,400,000 for purchase of Wesley Community Center and one time grants of $9.9 million.

2008 includes $10,000,000 for strategic planning.
METHODIST HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES
CLIENT ENCOUNTERS
Welcome to this extraordinary challenge, to be Christ in the world, creating change that lasts.
From Charity to Justice

• Why we care
• The Social Principles on Health Care
• Advocacy through action for health care
• Why Involved in State Policy

“Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an everlasting stream.”
Amos 5:24
This concern is continued in the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and the ministry of its members, as well as the agencies of our denomination.
Social Principles on Health Care

• “Health care is a basic human right….It is unjust to construct or perpetuate barriers to physical wholeness…”

• “We also recognize the role of governments in ensuring that each individual has access to those elements necessary to good health.”
Social Principles on Health Care

“We encourage individuals to pursue a healthy lifestyle and affirm the importance of preventative health care, health education...good nutrition...."
Why Involved in State Policy
Uninsured Snapshot:
Texas: 24% (5.5 M)
National Average: 15%
Health Policy in Context:
Texas invests less per capita on the poor

(Source: National Association of State Budget Officers, 2005)

Spending on Public Assistance, per Person in Poverty
- Texas: 1.96
- Average for U.S. States: 44.64

Spending on Medicaid, per Person in Poverty
- Texas: 6.78
- Average for U.S. States: 74.58
Texas Invests Less Than Average on Public Health

Per Capita Spending on Public Health
2005 Data, U.S. Census Bureau

(Source: United Health Foundation, 2006)
Texas Under utilizes Federal Dollars for the Poor

Federal Public Assistance Spending per Poor Person Average by State, 1998 (Texas is Ranked 44th)

Amount per capita, persons below poverty level

Texas: $49
U.S. Average: $301

(Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities, 2002)
Obesity/Diabetes

Can We Afford it?
Obesity Trends* Among U.S. Adults
(*BMI ≥30, or about 30 lbs. overweight for 5’4” person)
Some Costs of Diabetes

• It costs approximately six times as much to provide medical care for a year to a diabetic as to a non-diabetic. (NIH, 2000)

• In 2002, the cost of treating diabetics was $91.8 billion nationally. This does not include indirect costs (lost workdays, disability, etc.) of $39.8 billion.

• Individuals with diabetes are 28 times more likely to have a lower-limb amputation.

• Low-income individuals with disabilities and huge hospital bills tend to become indigent care patients.
Flavored Milk in Schools

Substituting white milk for chocolate milk could result in a child losing 8 lbs. over 1 year – all else remaining the same.

-Peggy Visio, Nutritionist, Get FIT Program of Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Poverty Rates (%)

0-11%
12-15%
16-20%
21-29%
30-50%

Obesity

Poverty

Source: State Demographer
Economics and Obesity

A dollar can buy 1,200 calories of cookies or potato chips but only 250 calories of carrots.

*New York Times, April 2007, You Are What You Grow*
Availability of Fresh Produce

• Only 21% of convenience stores stock fruits and vegetables

• 3 times as many supermarkets in wealthy neighborhoods as in poor ones
  – American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2002
Changes in Food Prices 1985-2000

Change in food prices, 1985–2000 (real dollars)

Advocacy

Moving an Agenda

• Access to Care: increase the insured rate in Texas
• Prevention of Obesity and Chronic Illness
Partnering with Statewide Faith Based Groups
United Methodist Women
Legislative Conference
Local faith groups seek to restore CHIP funding

BY BETH PRATT  A-J RELIGION EDITOR

Jackie Jarrett, a member of United Methodist Women, will be among several representatives from local faith groups to visit Rep. Carl Isett's staff today. The group will deliver an oversized postcard representing the postcards that have been sent previously to elected officials.
Reverend Kim Cape, SWTC Austin District Superintendent

CHIP Capitol Press Conference, May 2007
State-wide Faith-based Partners

Industrial Area Foundation (IAF) affiliates in Texas
COPS/Metro – San Antonio
Valley Interfaith - Rio Grande Valley
West Texas Organization – San Angelo area
Border Organization – Del Rio area
Policy Projects by Type of Activity

• **Process & Reflection**
  – *Amos Commission* Austin District, SW Conference
  – *Do This and You Shall Live* – Texas Impact

• **Basic Information**
  – *Texas Healthcare Primer* – CPPP
  – *New Ways* (HHS reorganization) – Texas Impact
  – *Estimates of Uninsured* – Dr. Murdock, Texas Demographer
Policy Projects (Con’t)

• Policy Education
  – *Texas Healthcare* (Legislative Outcomes)-CPPP
  – *Policy Solutions for Health Coverage* – Texas Health Institute
  – *Massachusetts Plan & Texas* – HPM

• Advocacy Training
  – *Faith In Texas Series* – Texas Impact
  – *Advocacy Tool Kit* – Any Baby Can Texas
Health care issues are National in Scope
Americans Spend More Out-of-Pocket on Health Care Expenses

![Graph showing total health care spending and out-of-pocket spending for various countries. The United States is circled, indicating higher out-of-pocket spending compared to other countries listed such as France, Netherlands, Germany, OECD Median, New Zealand, Japan, Canada, and Australia.]

Source: The Commonwealth Fund, calculated from OECD Health Data 2006.
Health care economic links

Texas pays: $1,551 for health insurance premiums.
Average national cost for premiums: $922

Uninsured go to emergency rooms for free federally-mandated care

More uninsured

Hospitals have higher uncompensated care costs

Hospitals increase charges to paying customers to offset uncompensated care costs

Some employees or employers drop coverage due to high premiums

Insurance companies pay higher claims, passing cost to insured through higher health insurance premiums

Texas State Comptroller’s office.
National: 1999 – 2005: % of Workers with health costs greater than 10% of payroll *

* Costs are health insurance and other health related costs.
Kaiser Family Foundation, Snapshots Health Care Costs: Employer Health Insurance Costs & Worker Compensation, March 2008
U.S. & Texas
Average single person premium ($), per year

**National: 1999 – 2005: % of Workers with health costs greater than 10% of payroll**

* Costs are health insurance and other health related costs.

Kaiser Family Foundation, Snapshots Health Care Costs: Employer Health Insurance Costs & Worker Compensation, March 2008
The Right Thing to do…

• Steps forward
  – Church-based example
    • Amos Commission – Austin District of UMC
      www.amoscommission.org

• Begin to build a plan
  – The Advocacy Framework
Amos Commission

The Amos Commission’s goal is to provide churches with resources to do advocacy and justice work.

Their web site will provide access to speakers, trainers, training programs, web resources lists of advocacy and community action organizations throughout the United States.
A major focus of Jesus’ ministry was on the poor, the sick and the vulnerable.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. . .” Luke 4:18; Isaiah 16:1
Amos Commission

The ministry of John Wesley and early Methodism was not merely to the poor, it was a ministry that involved the poor in the ministry.

From early in Wesley’s ministry, he showed concern for those with the weakest voices and the least power--the poor.
Amos Commission

There are two types of ministries:

• Ministries of charity or mercy, relieving suffering, pain, and hunger

• Ministries of justice, or setting things right
The Advocacy Framework

Issues
- Violence
- Environment
- War
- Poverty
- Criminal justice
- Economic justice
- Civil rights
- Education
- Healthcare

Advocacy Methods
- Empowering others to act
- Advocacy Process
- UMC Legislative process
- Discernment process
- Amos Comm. operating process

Creating the Kingdom of God

Creating trust and hope

Process
- Building coalitions

Relationships
- Within Amos Committee
- With sufferers/victims
- Church council
- Public
- Powers
- Congregation
Current National Healthcare Reform

• Best chance in 10 years
• Occurring over the next several months
• Issues of Access, Quality and Cost
Voice for the Least -Served

• Do not sacrifice the least-served, the voiceless, as an excuse to reduce the cost of reform

• Support policies that ensure that all can have access to quality health care regardless of what state one resides
Do Justice by…

• Being collective Bishop/faith based voice
• Learning health barriers in your Conference and informing Congress
• Working toward fixing system inequities
• Encouraging others to advocate for least served
• Public prayers for wisdom for Congress to address the inequities.
There is no better place to start doing advocacy work than within the church itself. We cannot go into the world and do justice if our own house is not in order. Now we shall be called to advocate for God’s world within our own walls.
“Serving Humanity to Honor God”

- Do all the good you can
- By all the means you can
- In all the ways you can
- In all the places you can
- At all the times you can
- To all the people you can
- As long as ever you can

John Wesley
Founder, Methodism