

Update

marin community clinics




Photo: Stuart Lirette

At A Glance

- Third largest health care provider in Marin, serving over 34,000 patients/year; almost 40% are children
- Clinics in Larkspur, Novato, and San Rafael (medical, dental, and teen)
- Nationally recognized Patient Centered Health Home model, which focuses on the patient/clinical team partnership
- Pediatric, Family and Adult Medicine – primary care, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, behavioral health, and specialty care
- Pediatric and Adult Dentistry
- Optometry, Radiology, Pharmacy, Lab, Chiropractic, and referrals to specialists
- Weekly Community Health Hubs with fresh food pantries
- Over 490 staff (390 FTEs), including doctors, dentists, nurses, and other clinicians
- Accepts Medi-Cal, Medicare, Covered California, and other insurances; patients without insurance receive sliding scale discounts
- Not-for-profit, supported by individuals, foundations, businesses, government grants, and public insurance reimbursement

Photo: L. Boughney, MCC



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Now, more than ever, the national health care scene is having a direct impact on the country's community clinics and their patients.

The proposed "public charge" legislation is one example. Many patients, acting out of fear and misunderstanding, are missing appointments and disenrolling in public support programs such as Medi-Cal. Community clinics across the U.S. are concerned about their sustainability, given reductions in Medi-Cal enrollment and

the related decrease in federal funding. If the public charge legislation is enacted, California's community clinics are projected to lose an estimated 102,000-195,500 patients and \$126-240 million in revenue.

On a broader scale, the ongoing uncertainty about the future of the Affordable Care Act continues to create instability for patients and healthcare providers across the spectrum.

Our Steadfast Commitment to Our Patients & Sustainability

Although the number of uninsured Marin residents continues to escalate, Marin Community Clinics remains steadfast in its commitment to serving those in need. We are not only closely monitoring public policy developments, but also taking action.

We've stepped up our advocacy efforts in support of patient access and are working hard with our partners to stem misinformation and fear. Importantly, we are financially strong and forward-thinking, and are putting plans in place to ensure our sustainability for the long-term. Rather than relying on Medi-Cal reimbursement as our major source of financial support, we are looking to broaden our patient population to include more patients who are covered by Medicare and other insurance plans and who need a primary care provider. New statewide programs are also part of the solution (see page 2) and community fundraising will continue to play a strong role.

It is not an easy time, but we are up to the task! And, thanks to the efforts of our Board of Directors, strong fiscal management, committed staff — and your strong support — we are on solid ground.



Mitesh Popat, MD, MPH, CEO

Our 2019 theme: "Marin Community Clinics is here for all and is committed to leveling the playing field so that everyone has equal access to high quality healthcare." Watch for the Spring issue of *Connecting for Health* to learn more about our 2019 plans.

Continued...

Our Mission

To improve the health of our patients and community by providing high quality, cost-effective, culturally sensitive, patient-centered health care.

Quality

Increased Focus on Customer Service

Our patients consistently give us high marks, but we are always striving to improve. To that end, we have increased our focus on Customer Service.

Staff training on cultural sensitivity is a big part, given that our patients and staff come from diverse backgrounds. Another example: new electronic signage in our clinic lobbies that give patients updates on waiting times.



Photo: Tim Porter

New Statewide Pilot Project to Improve Patient Access

The Clinics has been selected to participate in a statewide pilot project that will increase access to care for indigent, uninsured, and undocumented adults who are not otherwise eligible for state support. Funded by the California County Medical Services Program (CMSP), the "Path2 Health" project includes a community outreach component as well as subsidized preventive and primary care.

Marin Community Clinics will serve as the Marin provider and receive reimbursement for services; we are collaborating with Canal Alliance and North Marin Community Services on the outreach component.

Your Donations Ensure Our Future

2019 Summer Solstice: Save the Date!

Our Annual Summer Solstice Celebration will be held at the Marin Art & Garden Center in Ross the evening of **Wednesday, June 19**. This popular event brings together people who support the work of our Clinics in ensuring health care to all, regardless of ability to pay. Each year, we honor Community Health Champions at the Celebration.



Photo: Billy Cole

Legacy Circle Luncheon

Our Legacy Circle is comprised of donors who believe deeply in the Clinics' mission and who have made a personal commitment through planned gifts. Legacy Circle members ensure that the healthcare we provide will be sustained for many years to come.

On February 27, we will host our annual Legacy Circle Luncheon. Guests will hear from CEO **Dr. Mitesh Popat**, Novato Site Medical Director **Dr. Erik Schten**, and Legacy Circle member **Dr. Linda Tavaszi**, and meet other like-minded people who believe in compassionate, affordable health care for all.

If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact gifts@marinclinics.org by January 30.

Giving Marin Partnership Award



Photo: Stuart Lirette

In December, the Clinics was one of six Marin non-profit organizations honored with the 2018 Giving Award. The award, which included a \$10,000 donation, recognized our "exemplary work in the community."

The Marin IJ's Rob Devincenzi (l) and Liz Saint John (r) with Dr. Popat (c)

Want a convenient way to donate? Go to www.marinclinics.org/support-us.

Clinician Spotlight

Meet Jennifer Byer, MD

Last fall, obstetrician/gynecologist **Dr. Jennifer Byer** joined the Clinics. She brings a great breadth and depth to our Women's Health Division, and we are thrilled to have her on our team.



Photo: Lindsay Boughtey

Several days/week, she performs outpatient procedures and cares for high risk pregnant moms; other days, she works at MGH - delivering babies, supervising nurse midwives, performing surgeries, and seeing our patients in the emergency department. As a lead Clinics obstetrician, she is also creating protocols for our pre-natal program and bringing her expertise in infertility treatment and laparoscopic surgery.

Expertise — and Passion

Dr. Byer has a strong passion for her work. In high school, she knew she wanted to work in the medical field. Later, volunteering in an inner-city children's hospital and with Rotacare in Belize "hooked" her on a career in medicine.

She is already a real fan of the Clinics. *"The patients are wonderful," she explains. "They are very appreciative, love to learn, and open to what you have to say. The Clinics has all of the services under one roof — it's a wonderful atmosphere with a loving team."*

Dr. Byer is a graduate of the Wayne State University School of Medicine (Detroit). She served as Chief Resident in Kaiser Permanente's Santa Clara Residency Program and has worked at hospitals in Sonoma and Napa Counties.

"Dr. Byer is another example of the extraordinary qualifications, expertise, and commitment of the Clinics' providers," reports José Chibrás, MD, Chief Medical Officer.

This newsletter is available in both email and print. Let us know your preference or if you would like to be removed from future mailings — email gifts@marinclinics.org or call **415-526-8527**.

Want to learn more?

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