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Special Edition of **La Prensa** for **Lazo Cultural**



Community health centers provide prime examples of low cost, high quality health care

By Arooj Ashraf, *La Prensa* Correspondent

National Health Centers Week held Aug. 10-15, 2009 nationwide drew attention to the bright side of the health care debate and encouraged legislators to support reform bill.

Community Health Centers serve 18 million people nationwide, providing low income, uninsured patients with primary, preventive, dental care, addiction rehab, treatment for chronic and terminal diseases like HIV.

Ohio has six community health centers with over 150 locations, with three parent centers in Cleveland—Care Alliance Health Center, Family Neighborhood Practice, and North East Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc., serve more than 60,827 patients annually through their 11 locations.

Francis Afram-Gyening, Chief Executive Officer at Care Alliance Health Center, thanked community supporters present at the reception, held Aug. 13, for stepping up to meet the challenges and sustaining the health centers, saying they serve the most disfranchised populations, 94 percent of whom live below 100 percent poverty line.

The three centers share a strong partnership and serve distinct populations in the East, West, and Central parts of Cleveland. Care Alliance's strategic location allows it to serve the homeless population in downtown. NEON serves the predominantly African-American community of the East side, especially men between the ages of 18 and 55, who do not qualify for any other health programs. FNP serves the Westside, which has an increasing Latino population.

Jean Therrien, Executive Director of Neighborhood Family Practice, collaboration between the Cleveland centers strengthens the safety net for patients, "We are very proud of the collaboration between the three centers and instead of competing we are able to create a bigger pie ... and the community is better off because of it," she said. Therrien boasted 50 percent of NFP staff is bilingual, "We are very proud of that fact," she said.

Sherrod Brown, et al., tour facilities

State representatives Sherrod Brown, Dennis Kucinich, and Marsha Fudge were invited to tour the facilities and told there is strong support for health care reform among center patients.

Jenice Contreras, Director of Development at Care Alliance Health Center said they want supporters of reform to speak up and, "Right now they are only hearing from the tea-baggers and they need [to hear] from people who are for reform." Care Alliance is encouraging its patients to sign and mail letters of support to Senator Brown.

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Evalúan prisión en Michigan para transferencias de Guantánamo

Por JOHN FLESHER

STANDISH, Michigan, el 13 de agosto del 2009 (AP): Autoridades federales y estatales visitaron el jueves una prisión de máxima seguridad en la zona rural de Michigan a fin de evaluar las instalaciones para un posible traslado de los detenidos de la prisión de Guantánamo.

Una docena de funcionarios estatales, acompañados de 18 representantes de los departamentos de Defensa, Justicia y de Seguridad Interior, así como del Buró de Prisiones, participaron en la visita a la prisión de Standish, informó Russ Marlan, portavoz del Departamento de Correccionales de Michigan.

La cárcel en Standish, 233 kilómetros (145 millas) al norte de Detroit, y una penitenciaría militar en Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, son evaluadas para determinar si albergarán a los 229 sospechosos de ser miembros de al-Qaida o del Talibán, y a combatientes extranjeros que actualmente están en la prisión de Guantánamo en Cuba, en caso de que sea cerrada para el 2010 tal como ha dispuesto el presidente Barack Obama.

La visita fue una evaluación preliminar y los funcionarios federales no han propuesto que se transfiera a los detenidos a esta cárcel en Michigan, indicó Marlan.

"La visita a Standish tiene por objeto hacer una evaluación preliminar. No se han tomado decisiones finales", afirmó el secretario de prensa de la Casa Blanca, Robert Gibbs.

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Community health centers

(Continued from Page LP1)

Lindsey Reynolds, Government Affairs and Advocacy coordinator at *Ohio Association of Community Health Centers* said preventive care provided by community health centers reduces hospitalization and unnecessary use of emergency services, which drive up costs. She said because community health centers serve everyone regardless of ability to pay, insurance, or residential status they can treat patients who would otherwise delay doctor visits.

The health care bill presented by the U.S. House of Representatives includes new funding for health centers programs till 2019 and will save up to \$80 billion in overall health care costs when combined with other proposed changes such as expansion of Medicaid.

Ingrid Vargas, Outreach Coordinator at *WellCare*, is skeptical of the proposed health care reform and said Pres. Barack Obama is trying to solve too many problems in a single swoop. "These issues took years to develop," she said.

Vargas suggests there should be more oversight of programs like Medicaid and preventing abuse of these services can save enough money to pay for the changes proposed. In its current form, she said, the health care bill resembles a "credit card health system," which will lead to more problems—"It's like robbing one pot to pay for another."

Vargas said trying to insure everyone will overburden taxpayers—"Let the people who don't want to be insured remain uninsured," Vargas said.

Reynolds said federal investment in health care would allow for increase in public awareness of the centers, development of new locations, enhanced and comprehensive services in all existing centers so they can better serve patients who are most vulnerable.

Rahman Nelson, a patient of *Care Alliance*, was an alcoholic, who turned his life around with the holistic care he received at the center. "Coming in as an alcoholic and admitting it is a tough thing to do and Care Alliance gave me the dignity and respect no one else was willing to," he said.

Nelson thanked everyone at the center, saying they cured his addiction, healed his body, and the dental staff made him feel pretty which gave him the confidence to get a job. "You don't think about those little things but they matter a lot," Nelson said.

On the Internet: *Health Care Alliance*: www.carealliance.org
Neighborhood Family Practice: www.nfjmedcenter.org
North East Ohio Neighborhood Health Services, Inc: www.neonhealth.org

STATEMENT ON LA PRENSA READERSHIP

La Prensa has been publishing since 1989 and prints 12,000 issues of its weekly, bilingual issue as can be verified by calling our printer Michigan Web Press of Davisburg MI at 1.248.620.2990. In addition, Mid-month, *La Prensa* is part of the monthly publication *Lazo Cultural*, which prints 10,000. *La Prensa* has a 92% pick up rate with a readership multiple of 3.6, yielding in a total weekly readership figure of 63,680, including 14,000 weekly visits at www.laprensa1.com.



Writers, et al. Wanted

La Prensa is interested in journalistic/holistic/paranormal articles, essays, commentaries, healing-thought-pieces, poems, cartoons, art, photos, puzzles and other brainbashers, songs, and other provocative items, for possible publication in the weekly, bilingual publication known as *La Prensa*, publishing since 1989. We also post many of these items on our web site at www.laprensa1.com. We pay \$\$\$ for these published items. Bilingualism preferred (Spanish/English). For possible publication, please submit via email to: rico@laprensa1.com



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A petición de la Asociación de Profesionistas Mexicanos en Michigan (APROMEX), el Consulado de México en Detroit informa que dicha Asociación llevará a cabo su tradicional Fiesta Mexicana con motivo de la celebración del 199º aniversario de nuestra Independencia.

Dicho evento se llevará a cabo el viernes 18 de septiembre del presente en la ciudad de Farmington Hills (23666 Orchard Lake Rd. Farmington Hills 48336).

Anexo a la presente sírvase encontrar información sobre el evento, adquisición de boletos y oportunidades de patrocinio.

Mucho se agradecerá, en caso de requerir mayor información escribir al correo electrónico FIESTAMEXICANA@APROMEX.ORG.

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Performance Network announces 2009-10 Saturday Series for young audiences

Ann Arbor: *Performance Network* will present each of its touring *Children's Theatre Network* productions on the third Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM. Great entertainment for all ages, with a milk and cookie reception following each performance.

The entire schedule is at www.laprensa1.com with the first two productions:

Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 1:00 PM: "Coco has fun at the Halloween House;" through music, puppetry, movement, magic and lots of audience participation, *Maureen Schiffman* on mandolin and her kazoo playing puppet pal "Coco" invite you to visit a friendly Halloween house filled with lots of funny characters. Dress up in your costume and join in the festivities.

Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 1:00 PM: "Family Fun Concert" by *Guy Louis*. Join Guy Louis for a family fun concert that will surely delight young people of all ages. Put on your dancin' shoes, as Guy will have the entire audience rockin' and rollin' right along with him in the aisles.

Tickets for all performances are \$10 for adults and \$7 for 16 year-olds and under and can be ordered at the Performance Network Box Office at 734.663.0681, online at www.performancenetwork.org or by coming to the Performance Network Theatre (120 East Huron St., Ann Arbor) Monday-Saturday 11-6 or one hour before a performance.

MDCH reminds parents about the Importance of Immunizations

LANSING, August 14, 2009: The *Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)* is recognizing August as Immunization Awareness Month.

As the new school year approaches, physician offices and local health departments are busy working to ensure that children attending schools and child care programs have received all of their immunization shots.

MDCH encourages parents to make sure their children are up-to-date on their immunizations.

"Back-to-school physicals and checkups are a great opportunity for health professionals to remind parents and guardians about how important it is for children to be fully vaccinated," said *Dr. Greg Holzman*, chief medical executive for MDCH.

"Childhood immunizations are one of the best ways for parents and guardians to protect their children against vaccine-preventable diseases."

Children entering school must have a completed series of DtaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), polio, Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella, (Chickenpox).

It is important to know that these diseases still occur in Michigan, across the country and are common in many other countries. It is therefore more important than ever to receive all recommended vaccines as many diseases are only a plane ride away from countries where these diseases are much more common.

Each year, hundreds of children in Michigan become ill from diseases that could have been prevented. Infants are especially vulnerable to diseases that could be passed from school-aged brothers and sisters. Infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated are not protected from these preventable diseases.

In 2009, there have been more cases of *pertussis* than in recent years in Michigan and across the country. These outbreaks can be prevented by assuring that infants and adolescents are protected by receiving their pertussis vaccine.

As you take your children in for their checkups or sports physicals, it's a good opportunity to ask their health care provider to check on their immunization status, including when to return for the flu vaccine.

To be protected this flu season, children will need to be vaccinated against both the seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 flu because one vaccine will not provide protection against both flu viruses.

For more information about immunizations, visit: www.michigan.gov/immunize.

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Evalúan prisión en Michigan para transferencias de Guantánamo

(Continuación de Página LP1)

La región que rodea a Standish ha sido afectada económicamente, con una tasa de desempleo mayor del 17%, y algunos residentes vieron con beneplácito que se traiga a los detenidos si eso impedirá el cierre de la prisión, que tiene 340 trabajadores y se le considera el principal empleador del área.

"Dejen que vengan. Esta comunidad está muy afectada", destacó Gloria Watson, de 71 años, una residente del área mientras almorzaba en un restaurante céntrico.

Los sospechosos de terrorismo no van a ser más peligrosos que otros criminales que han estado en la prisión durante sus 20 años de historia, dijo Watson, pastora de una iglesia presbiteriana en el vecino pueblo de Twining. "Sólo espero que la gente deje de espantarse", agregó.

Otros temen que al traer a los detenidos de Guantánamo podrían convertir a Standish en un blanco de ataques.

"Sería como poner a toda la comunidad en el centro de la tormenta. Hay muchas cosas que pueden ir mal", destacó Tom Kerrins, secretario del sindicato de trabajadores de correccionales de Michigan, en Standish.

Kerrins, de 49 años, teme también que el trabajo de vigilar a los nuevos detenidos no irá al personal estatal, sino que estará a cargo de los guardias federales.



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