Casa de Salud

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I. Introduction
Casa’s history

- Healthcare void left by closure of La Clinica and Accion Social Comunitaria in April 2009
- A new model of immigrant healthcare delivery services championed by:
  - Father Biondi, President of Saint Louis University
  - Bob Fox, Philanthropist and Community Activist
  - Mary Ann Cook, Former Executive Director of La Clinica
  - The Hispanic Community and its Leadership
Mission

- Dedicated to achieving improved access to care by the immigrant Hispanic population
- And built upon two basic principles:
  - Healthcare is a right
  - The best healthcare system is a patient-first system
- Casa is designed specifically to
  - Decrease the barriers
  - Enhance those factors that facilitate access to basic medical services and referral to primary care
Services

- Pre-access to Care
- Basic, episodic medical services
  - Family Medicine, Internal Medicine
  - Specialty Services: Dermatology, Gynecology
  - Behavioral Health
- Post Provider Care
  - Robust referral services
  - Patient tracking
  - Navigator services
- Community Services
II. St. Louis context
St. Louis Beacon, February 14, 2010

- St. Louis Area: “The 2007 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau put the number of Hispanic residents in the St. Louis area at roughly 58,000” (Sandoval, 2010).

- St. Louis Region: “An estimate often cited for both documented and undocumented Hispanics in the St. Louis region is between 80,000 and 90,000” (Sandoval, 2010).
Poverty

- Below the poverty level in 12 months prior to survey
  - About 22% of Hispanics
  - About 9% of whites

- Children under age 18 years in below poverty level
  - About 29% of Hispanics
  - Above 30% for Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Hondurans
In our society, lack of health insurance inhibits access to care.
In 2004, those without health insurance coverage varied among Hispanic subgroups:
- 37.6 percent of Mexicans,
- 20.4 percent of Puerto Ricans
- 22.8 percent of Cubans
- 32.3 percent of other Hispanic or Latino groups.
In 2007
- 32.1 percent of the Hispanic population was not covered by health insurance
- 10.4 percent of the non-Hispanic White population.

HRSA Office of Minority Health, October, 2009
Barriers to primary care access

- Language barriers
  - Spanish language preference is a marker for poorer access to care and preventive health services
- Cultural barriers
- Fear of detection
- Racial discrimination
Factors facilitating primary care access

- Community health workers
- Culturally competent care
- Addressing the cultural needs of those served
- Health literacy
- Employment
- Social support
Interaction with the larger healthcare system and the Hispanic community

Note: The St. Louis Metropolitan area has a Hispanic community estimated at nearly 100,000 people (Sandoval, 2010)
III. Experience
Getting Casa Started

• The politics
• Overcoming community fears
• Not becoming a medical home
• Developing relationships
Hispanic community partnerships

- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro St. Louis
- Hispanic Leaders Group
- Interfaith Partnership
- International Institute of St. Louis
- Professional Latino Action Network
- Puerto Rican Society
- St. Cecelia Parish and other parishes and churches serving the Hispanic community
- STL TV
Healthcare system partners

- Barnes-Jewish Hospital
- Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center
- Cohen Eye Associates
- Crider Health Center
- Family Care Health Centers
- Goldfarb School of Nursing
- Grace Hill Neighborhood Health Centers
- Health Literacy Missouri
- Myrtle Hilliard Davis Comprehensive Health Centers
- O’Donnell Eye Institute
- People’s Health Centers
- St. John’s Mercy Neighborhood Ministry
- St. Louis Children’s Hospital
- St. Louis City Department of Health
- Saint Louis County Department of Health
- Saint Louis University Doisy College of Health Sciences, Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Social Work and Public Health
- Saint Louis University Hospital
- South Side Catholic Charities
- South Side Day Nursery
- Washington University School of Medicine and Brown School of Social Work
Institutional support

- Saint Louis University (Founding and sustaining sponsor)
- Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation
- Ladue Chapel
- Missouri Foundation for Health
- Saint Louis University Hospital Auxiliary
- St. Louis Children’s Hospital
- Sal Mirowitz Day School
- Washington University School of Medicine
- Women’s Club of the SLU School of Medicine
Clinical services

- Between January 18 (opening) and April 17, the number of clinical visits totaled 566
- This yields an average of 50 visits/week
- Casa operates on a relatively complex schedule, averaging 32 hours/week devoted to clinic visits
- Low cost model of care – relies on volunteers
Community Programs

- Health Fairs
- HIV Screening
- H1N1 immunizations
- Interpreting
- Health Literacy
- Diabetes Screening
Experience

- Scenario 2. Acute abdomen issue requiring emergency surgery.
- Scenario 3. An adult with a complex health problem requiring the intervention of multiple agencies and professionals, ie. the health department, an FQHC and multiple medical specialties.
- Scenario 4. A patient requires urgent but minor ophthalmologic surgery.
IV. Reflection – group discussion
The End