Travis County Healthcare District
University Medical Center Brackenridge
Community Health System Network of Travis County
Austin, Texas MSA

OPERATIONAL

Travis County Healthcare District

- In 2004, City of Austin transferred oversight authority to Travis County Healthcare District as a limited-purpose taxing district (primary funder along with Bureau of Primary Health Care) for providing health care to indigent persons residing in Travis County. The district contracts with area providers to provide health care to the community's medically indigent and underserved residents.
- Majority of its budget is dedicated to contracting with other entities to deliver and manage direct health care services, including those provided through University Medical Center Brackenridge, Austin Women's Hospital, Seton Shoal Creek Hospital, and CommUnityCare's 16 Federally Qualified Health Centers.
- A separate political subdivision of the State of Texas and is not a part of Travis County Government. The boundaries of its health care service area are contiguous with Travis County.
- Led by a nine-member volunteer Board of Managers: Four are appointed by the Austin City Council and four are appointed by the Travis County Commissioners Court. Both governmental bodies jointly appoint the ninth member. The statute enabling the District requires that the Board of Managers adopt a budget each year and that the Travis County Commissioners Court set the tax rate associated with the annual budget.
- The District owns University Medical Center Brackenridge (UMCB)
- Part of the District's efforts include developing the necessary infrastructure, reaching out to existing and potential partners, informing the community of the need for various restructuring initiatives, and performing the necessary analysis to inform and direct changes in the health care system and associated programs.
  - The Travis County Healthcare District developed a strategic plan to guide all of these efforts. The plan is reviewed and revised annually by staff and the TCHD Board.

University Medical Center Brackenridge

- Leased by the city of Austin (now by the Health District) to the Seton Hospital Network (private, faith-based nonprofit) since 1995. Lease revenue goes to the Travis County Healthcare District
- Seton is a member of Ascension Health, the largest nonprofit health network in the nation. Seton runs other hospitals and CHCs.
- SHN includes other urban hospitals, clinics (including rural and mental health)—4 of 10 Central Texas (11 counties) inpatients are served by a SHN facility
- Trains physicians and nurses from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

AREAS OF EMPHASIS/SERVICES OFFERED

- Only Level II Trauma Facility serving the Central Texas area. A Level-I designation is expected in the fall of 2009.
- Fourth-busiest emergency department in the state.
- Nationally renowned Brain & Spine Center.
- Certified Stroke Center
  Conducted 111+ research studies on topics such as spinal cord injury, heart failure and stroke.

Hospital-specific data not readily available on:

- Licensed Hospital Beds
- Inpatient Admissions
- Emergency Department visits

CommUnityCare (not under purview of Seton)

- Under contract with the Travis County Healthcare District.
- Formerly known as the Community Care Services Department of the City of Austin.
- 16 locations in Travis County—inpatient affiliations with Brackenridge and Austin Women's Hospital.
- Served 50,000+ patients in 2008.

Services offered (CommUnityCare)

Primary care, dental, mental health, pharmacy

Personnel (Seton System only)

- Number of Employees 9,700
- New Jobs Created 900

Statistics

- Total Admissions 63,678
- Emergency Department (Treat and Release).....232,703
- Total Outpatient Visits 515,121
- Inpatient Surgical Visits 17,233
- Outpatient Surgical Visits 22,958
- Babies Delivered..... 9,983
- Babies Cared for 1,265
  in Neonatal Intensive Care
- Open Heart Surgeries 448
- Heart Transplants..... 8
- Patients Served at Seton's Community Health Centers 12,712

- Psychiatry (Inpatient Stays)..... 3,889
- Management team structure

FINANCIALS

Travis County Health District

- Health Care delivery expenses ..... $83 million
- Ad valorem tax revenue ..... $58 million
- Seton Lease including program DS ..... $20 million
- Other revenue (net tobacco settlement): ..... $3 million
  includes University Texas Medical Branch $58, 740
- Primary Care Expenses 50%
- Hospital Care Expenses..... 40%
- Mental Health 3%
- Pharmacy..... 1%
- Other 6%

Financing mechanisms

Travis County Health District

- Ad Valorem Tax: 2008–2009–.0679 per $100 valuation decreased from 2004–2005–.0779 per $100 valuation

University Medical Center Brackenridge

- Part of Seton Network, which is part of Ascension Health
- Hospital-specific financial data is not available.

CommUnityCare:

Payer mix:

- Uninsured 42%
- Medicaid.....32%
- Medicare..... 7%
- Medical Assistance Program (MAP) 19%
  MAP is funded by the Travis County Healthcare District. The Medical Assistance Program (MAP) provides access to health care through a network of established providers for those Travis County residents who meet enrollment criteria.

SIMILARITIES TO NASHVILLE

- Teaching hospital.
- Strong CHCs.

DIFFERENCES FROM NASHVILLE

- Has voter-approved health district with taxing authority.
- Has robust Information Technology infrastructure.
- University-affiliate is part of larger national network.

OTHER NOTABLE FACTS/ISSUES

- Magnet designation.
- Project Access and the Indigent Care Collaboration.

PROJECT ACCESS

The Travis County Medical Society, working with the Indigent Care Collaboration, has initiated Project Access, a coordinated system of volunteer physician care, hospital care, diagnostic services, and medications assistance for the low-income, uninsured of Travis County.

The mission of Project Access is to provide ready access to appropriate health care services for uninsured people in Travis County whose incomes are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and to improve the overall health of our community. (200% of Federal Poverty Level Guidelines are based on gross income.)

Project Access is a highly visible example of physician leadership in action with 870 area physicians providing volunteer services. Since commencing operations in early 2003, Project Access has enrolled over 1,600 patients and provided over 8,000 patient encounters, resulting in over $6.5 million in donated care.

Indigent Care Collaboration

The Project Access staff assigns patients to a medical home, then coordinates and tracks referrals to specialists. The staff manages the referral process so the physicians will not be assigned more patients than their commitment pledge, thus effectively removing the issue of disproportional referrals as a barrier to physicians' good faith participation.

The Integrated Care Collaboration (ICC) is a nonprofit, regional collaborative of 24 hospital system, nonprofit clinic, FQHC, MHMR, medical society, health department, university, healthcare district, and other providers who arrange for or provide care for uninsured or underinsured individuals. The ICC is responsible for the ongoing development and management of the ICare system, a nationally recognized

health information exchange unique in the scope of data for uninsured patients available for research, program analysis, and treatment support at the point of care. ICare currently contains patient specific demographic, encounter, and medication data for over 700,000 individuals with over 4 million encounters at 60 locations throughout the region. Individuals sign authorizations compliant with HIPAA and state privacy laws to view their individually identifiable data.

The ICC is unique in Texas, and one of a relatively small number of sustainable health information exchanges in the country. According to the Fifth Annual Survey of Health Information Exchange at the State, Regional, and Community Levels, by eHealth Initiatives, only 42 health information exchanges are fully operational in the country, with most reporting difficulties in developing a sustainable business model.