



The Affordable Care Act

As Christians, we know God is full of compassion for the poor and weak. So if someone is sick, He (and we) would desire that they could be given the help they need. That being said, people often disagree on what the best way is to give health care to the poor in our society. Our country has been steeped in debate on this topic for many years now. Currently, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is in place as the law of this country. We all need to understand it more and the effect it is having on various segments of our society.

To that end, we wanted to share some thoughts from Laura Beavers, Community Outreach Coordinator at the McLean County Health Department. Ms. Beavers shared how the ACA has rolled out incrementally in pieces beginning in 2010. The open enrollment period began on October 1, 2013 and concluded on March 31, 2014. During that time approximately 650 people were able to enroll in McLean County with the aid of the County Health Department; others enrolled online or with the help of other organizations. The goal at the Health Department is to create **a culture of coverage**. Many people have not been able to afford any kind of health insurance due to increasing costs.

Beavers believes that those who benefit most from ACA coverage are those with pre-existing conditions or chronic health conditions like diabetes who were often unable to find an insurer that would cover them. She gave an example of someone who would have needed to pay \$600 for a policy that they could now get for \$90. She did note, however, that Medicaid coverage in Illinois is still pending approval, meaning that some individuals who appear to be eligible and have signed up are

waiting to hear if they will receive coverage. Beavers believes that making sure people get primary and preventative care is key to investing in community health and wellness.

A major part of the Health Department's work regarding the ACA is to help people understand the many aspects of the system and the choices available to them, and to assist them in signing up. The counselors at the department help citizens make sense of the 42 available plans and explain the various medical and insurance terms. They also desire to teach members of the community about how to make full use of the benefits they receive, such as the going to see the doctor annually, as this is a new system for many of them. Beavers thinks that the numbers will continue to rise and notes that the next open enrollment period will begin on November 15. As usual, individuals can apply for Medicaid at any time.

It's VBS Time!

Immanuel Health Center values partnerships of many kinds—prayer support, volunteer workers, supply donations, and financial support. Would you consider including Immanuel Health Center's needs as part of your VBS focus this year? We could provide informational flyers, a speaker (a doctor or nurse, for example) to share with the children about what we do, lists of items that we need to continue operating smoothly, or simply be considered for a financial donation. We would be honored to be the local mission focus of your VBS program!

Praise God for...

- **His faithfulness as we celebrated Immanuel**

**Health Center's
1st Anniversary on April
30!**

- a generous donation of bread to distribute to patients.
- approval by the State of Illinois Medicaid “Meaningful Use” program, which will bring substantial funds.
- Incentive money received from Meaningful Use.
- the help of a local accountant.
- a new nurse tech.
- a new clinical tech volunteer.

Please pray for...

- volunteer nurses to help on a regular basis (**CRITICAL NEED**).
- a doctor to help on a regular basis, or fill in during Trina’s vacations & share call (**urgent need**).
- donations and payments to arrive on a timely basis.
- April, our Practice Manager, who underwent surgery on May 19. Her surgery went well--pray for a quick recovery and that all work related issues would be resolved easily in her absence.
- one of our volunteer nurses whose father recently passed away.
- patients with cancer and their families.
- patients with mental health concerns and their families.

Practice Manager's Report:

April A. Brucker

God continues to provide for our current needs and expenses. The past couple of months have been a

challenge, as we have had some major insurance expenses and our donations and insurance reimbursements are beginning to slow down. Please continue to pray that all our financial needs are met.

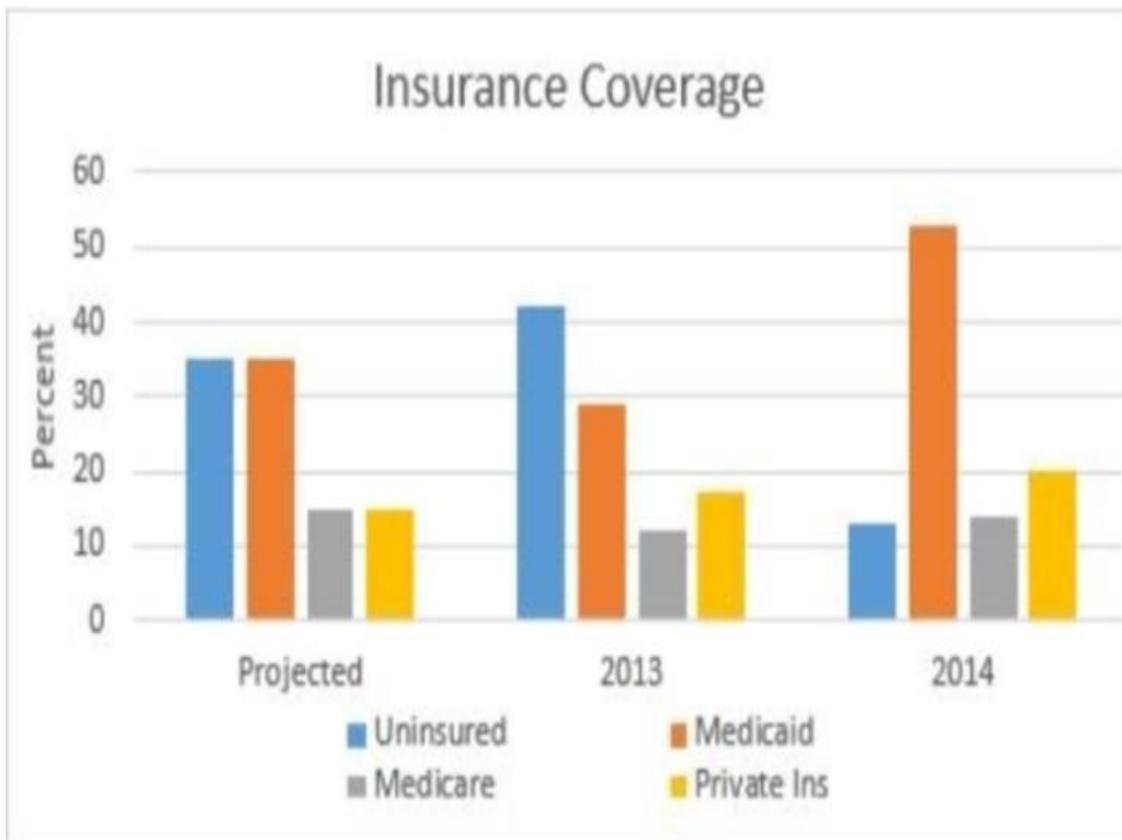
Over the past 6 months I have been working to submit our 2013 State of Illinois Incentive Program: Meaningful Use. I was told to expect a denial the first round of submission, but God blessed us and we were approved on the first attempt. With our acceptance letter we were told that we would receive payment by no later than the middle of June. Again, God blessed us and we received our payment mid May. We also received our incentive pay from Advocate Physician Partners, who handles all of our commercial insurance contracts.

A huge thank you to all of you who have been so willing to pray, volunteer, and donate to Immanuel Health Center. Many of the operational items needed last newsletter were provided for. Your generosity is a key to keeping our doors open.

Medical Director's Report

Dr. Trina Scott

Following our first completed year of operations, we have done an analysis of our patients and visits. We have seen 459 distinct patients for a total of 1356 appointments. Our goal is serve those with the greatest medical need, specifically those without insurance or with Medicaid. The following graph demonstrates the insurance breakdown compared to projected numbers. This includes April–Dec of 2013 and Jan–April of 2014.



The 2013 insurance breakdown was close to the projections. However in 2014, Medicaid greatly increased compared to projections and the 2013 results. This large increase is believed to be a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA allowed many patients who were uninsured, some who had not had their own doctor for several years, to obtain coverage; many of those now qualify for Medicaid. Imagine for a moment how patients who have not had a doctor feel now to have coverage and “their” physician; we see many who are glad and eager to address their health concerns.

A component of the mission of IHC is to bring medical care to west and near east Bloomington. These are areas where medical care was largely unavailable and inconvenient. The bulk of patients (67%) are from Bloomington, 35% from our specific “neighborhood.” The remaining 33% are from Town of Normal (20%), other McLean County (8%), other cities (5%). The patients are 22% pediatric, 78% adult, 65% female and 35% male. The number of patients from the targeted area and the insurance breakdown are just two indicators that IHC is in the right place.

We are looking forward to year 2!



Volunteer Spotlight

Keeping Us Clean

You know that feeling, when you walk into your home or an office and it just feels neat and clean and crisp? The dust is gone. The air is fresh. The clutter has been organized. That's a good feeling, and it gives us a sense of restfulness and peace. That is how we feel at Immanuel Health Center after Ken has been in on Saturday.

Ken Radley, at 82, loves to clean. He and his wife, Florence, both retired from custodial work with US West Bell Systems in Omaha, Ken having worked there for 23 years. Soon after retiring, Ken had a heart attack, and decided that not working was not good for him. As soon as he was able, he was back to work, cleaning and maintaining numerous venues as a volunteer, including some time in Iowa and Colorado. To say he has a lot of experience is an understatement! Florence passed away five years ago just days after their 60th anniversary. Then just over one year ago, he moved to this area to be near his daughter and her family, with whom he lives.

Through a program at the YWCA, Ken has volunteered his cleaning services at three different care centers in the Bloomington/Normal area and often works 6-8 hours a day. He comes to IHC on Saturdays usually, but can often be found during the week at Advocate BroMenn, dusting desks and photo frames, washing fingerprints from windows, and cleaning the catwalks between the parking garage and hospital. When Ken had a pacemaker put in on December 5, he was happy to report that he only missed one week of work, and was back cleaning the IHC office the very next Saturday. He said that he receives a badge to wear at each of his jobs.

"I'm kind of proud of my badges," Ken says.

Well, Ken, we are proud of your badges too, and of your commitment to serving others in this community. Thank you so much for helping at Immanuel Health Center and giving us and our patients a clean and lovely place to be during the week.

Spiritual Care Team Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers who can come in on a regular basis to pray with patients, for the mission of Immanuel Health Center, for our staff and board members, and other needs. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us!

Here is what one Spiritual Care Team member has to say about praying for IHC and its patients:

"My name is Susan Rice and I have been interested in the vision and work of the IHC for many years, and from its inception wanted to be involved in some way--if possible--with its patients. Having no medical background but a love for God and people, I thought that being part of the Spiritual Care team was a

good fit. I'm grateful to have been invited to volunteer in this way and have come in most Friday mornings this year, and a few time last fall... An obstacle for me at the beginning was feeling like I wasn't "doing much" during those hours, but once I realized they typical flow of things and embraced it, I started enjoying it much more, and spending the rest of the time working on other things or using the time to pray for the Center...

I have found the majority of patients to be kind and receptive. I've had the great honor of hearing people's stories, having some wonderful discussions, and praying with them many times. I just get the sense that some people are shocked to have someone pray so personally for them and their family as though God were really real and listening and going to answer! It's a great blessing and hopefully is drawing some closer to Him...Overall, this has been a wonderful opportunity. I look forward to how God will grow this part of the IHC."

Volunteer Opportunities

- Nurses who can help on a regular basis on Mondays and as needed to cover illnesses and vacation days.
- Creative and experienced person to find and write grants that would benefit IHC.
- Experienced and talented person(s) to direct and enhance the IHC Communication and Partnering Plan for Financial Stability.
- Primary Care Physician and/or family practice Nurse Practitioner to help cover time off for Dr. Scott and to see patients.
- Energetic person to clean and organize supplies and storage closets.

AmazonSmile

Are you a regular Amazon.com user? If so, consider participating in AmazonSmile and designating Immanuel Health Center as your charitable organization.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Immanuel Health Center every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Immanuel Health Center.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com, choose "Immanuel Health Center" from the list of charitable organizations, and continue shopping. Be sure to bookmark AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return. Every time you shop using AmazonSmile, IHC will receive a donation from every eligible purchase.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

We Care Twin Cities Races

September 26-27, 2014

Calling all runners, walkers, and anyone who knows someone who runs or walks! Immanuel Health Center is a non-profit partner in the We Care Twin Cities race weekend. The options include a Kids' Fun Run and 5K race on Friday night and 10K and Half Marathon races on Saturday morning. You can participate in several ways (even if you don't run!). Here's how:

- Go to the [We Care Twin Cities](#) website, sign up as a runner, and pick Immanuel Health Center as your non-profit partner.
- Set a personal goal for your finish time AND your total support amount to raise.
- Tell your friends, family, co-workers, and fellow runners/walkers about the opportunity to sponsor you--they can do that on the website as well.
- OR, they can sign up to run or walk and get their own sponsors!
- Train, train, train!
- On the day of your race, have fun running/walking with other Twin City athletes who care about our community!

If you cannot participate as a runner/walker, consider helping as a volunteer at one of the races on behalf of Immanuel Health Center. Sign up to do that [here](#).

Thanks for running, walking, helping, and/or donating for IHC!

Operations and Support Opportunities

Please contact [April Brucker](#) (309.808.2778 #5) for any questions and/or to avoid duplication of large items.

1. Support a day at Immanuel Health Center: \$792.92 or support a patient: \$99.12.
2. Utility Runner Mat for providing protection to the floor and for safety for the back door hallway entrance. (3ft x 20ft; www.americanfloormats.com \$288.51 or similar alternative)
3. Outdoor Bench or chairs for patients to use while waiting for rides or appointments. This could be gently used or new. (Amazon: Dura-Trel 11136 5-Foot Park Bench 100-percent maintenance free; PVC vinyl \$199)
4. Flowers for our outdoor flower pots.
5. Table for the women's bathroom. This could be gently used or new. (Amazon: Winsome Wood Beechwood End/Accent Table, \$43.99)
6. Water bill for past 6 months: \$287.80
7. Lab annual fee: \$200 (for our CLIA Waiver, which allows us to do point of care labs)
8. AAA & AA batteries for medical equipment. Our biggest need is AAA.

IHC'S Board of Directors

Sharon Adams
Penny Cermak
Jackie Magee
Trina M. Scott, MD
Larry Stevig
Bishop Larry Taylor
Wendy G. Troxel
Becky Wiese

*You are invited to pray with and for
Immanuel Health Center!*

We gather for prayer the third
Thursday of each month from 12:15-
12:45 p.m.
in our reception area. Please join us!

Practice Manager

April A. Brucker

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Immanuel Health Center is a 501(c)(3)
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