

The Miami Rescue Mission Health Clinic–Fact Sheet

A partnership between Miami Dade College and the Miami Rescue Mission

DESCRIPTION: The Miami Dade College Medical Center Campus (MDC) and the Miami Rescue Mission (MRM) have a long history of collaboration. Located less than one mile apart, hundreds of MDC nursing and health sciences students and faculty have provided services to the men, women, and children served by the Mission over the years; and many Mission graduates have enrolled and earned degrees from MDC. As part of this partnership, the MDC School of Nursing and the leaders of the MRM created “The Mission Project” in 2000 with the goals of improving student achievement and clinical skills, cultivating civic responsibility, expanding awareness of health needs, and most especially, improving the health of the community's homeless. A long-term goal of the Mission Project has been to establish an on-site clinic at the Miami Rescue Mission, staffed partly by MDC Nursing and Health Sciences students and faculty, to serve the primary needs of those at the Mission and in the surrounding Overtown neighborhoods. This clinic is scheduled to open on May 14, 2009.

MAIN PARTNERS: Miami Rescue Mission, Miami Dade College Medical Center Campus, Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center (AHEC), MDC Center for Community Involvement.

RATIONALE: The MRM serves approximately 1,000 men, women and children a month. Many of these people have little or no access to health care. The new clinic will serve the clients of the MRM and eventually residents of the Overtown community. The area of the MRM is designated as a “Medically Underserved Area/Population” and as a “Health Professional Shortage Area” by the Department of Health and Human Services.

STAFFING: MRM is the host agency and site of the clinic. Dr. Peter Gutierrez, MD, MMS, PA-C, is Director of MDC’s Physician Assistant program and will coordinate clinical education for Physician Assistant students, while providing medical direction for the clinic. Annette Gibson MSN, MEd, RN, Professor, School of Nursing, will coordinate education and outreach service-learning programs involving MDC Nursing and Health Sciences students and faculty. The clinic will serve as a main clinical site for Physician Assistant students. MDC students and faculty from Nursing and Health Sciences will help staff the clinic, as will students from additional health profession programs from other colleges in South Florida.

CURRENT STATUS: Initial funding was provided by the Boston Scientific Foundation and the Michael Capponi Group for the development and construction of the on-site clinic. The clinic consists of a waiting room, two offices and two patient examination rooms with room for expansion. In February 2009, MRM and MDC personnel received the “Certificate of Need to Practice in an Area of Critical Need” from the Florida State Department of Health in order to open the clinic. Future grant proposals will focus on meeting long-term needs of the Mission Project health clinic including materials and additional staff necessary for operation, as well as outreach screening and education projects.

CLINIC KICK-OFF EVENT: The MRM and MDC are organizing a grand-opening ceremony of the on-site MRM Clinic. This event will include a health fair with education and screening, and treatment of the clinic’s first patients.

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