

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

County Approves Medical Society Plan to Offer Project Access

The Collin County Health Care Foundation has approved an Agreement with the Collin County Medical Society to offer services to qualified indigents and uninsured patients who seek medical care. The approval by the Foundation was granted at their meeting on Monday evening, March 21, 2011.

“We are indebted to Commissioner Matt Shaheen who has been working diligently with us to make this a reality in Collin County,” said Medical Society President Octavio De La Pena, MD, a gastroenterologist in Frisco. He went on to say, “We appreciate the support of the entire Collin County Commissioners Court and the County Administrator Bill Bilyeu throughout this process.”

“Project Access-Collin County (PACC) will help relieve the financial strain on the Collin County Health Care Foundation who pays the bill for indigent health care services,” said PACC Medical Director, Joshua C. James MD, an otolaryngologist from McKinney. “Qualified patients will be gradually phased into the program during this year of building the project,” said Dr. James. We envision that intake points will be at the health department, clinics, and hospitals throughout the county. Physicians will volunteer to see about one patient per month so that those enrolled in the program who comply with the services offered will have a medical home, Dr. James explained.

Christopher Crow, MD, MBA, a family physician in Plano, has been the director of a pilot project for the Medical Society where qualified patients have been referred to him from the Collin County Adult Clinic under the direction of Executive Director John Ernst. “We have been excited to demonstrate that this program works very successfully and our efforts have been the impetus for launching this project county-wide as Project Access-Collin County, said Dr. Crow.”

Development has been carefully coordinated using the very successful model of Project Access Dallas that has been operated by the Dallas County Medical Society for the past ten years. The same process and software will support Project Access-Collin County.

The Medical Society represents over 600 physicians in Collin County and Fannin County and is a partner with the Texas Medical Association that represents over 45,000 physicians throughout Texas.

(Monday, March 21, 2011, 6:30 pm)