

CHDI celebrates 30 years of medical service

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Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, chief executive officer of Community Health Development Inc., recently gave a presentation to the Uvalde Rotary Club about CHDI and what it does for the community.

The presentation was part of CHDI's 30th anniversary celebration.

"CHDI and other health centers provide a local solution to the national problem of providing affordable health care by forming partnerships between people on the federal level and people on the community level," said Gonzales-Hanson. "CHDI is a non-profit agency that provides primary health care with an integrated approach."

According to Gonzales-Hanson, health centers like CHDI are important because they serve people and communities not served by others. The services offered are open to everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

CHDI has two locations in Uvalde, one in Leakey and one in Camp Wood.

In 1984, CHDI operated out of an 800 square foot trailer with four employees. The organization was contracted with the hospital for physician coverage.

In 1986, the first full-time physician was hired and in 1991 the organization began operating an in-house pharmacy. In 2000, CHDI moved to South



Rachel

Gonzales-Hanson

improved a capital investment project was carried out to make possible a new site that now houses three buildings that cost \$7.2 million to erect.

Gonzales-Hanson said that she hopes the final payment for that project will be made next month.

In addition to routine medical care, CHDI makes

available many services to the community, including dental care services, specialty case referrals, diagnostic lab and x-ray

services, on-site pharmacy, disease screening, teaching kitchen, fitness center, and insurance exchange eligibility and registration.

"Yes, we provide a service to the community and we are very honored to be able to do that, but what's also important and something that people don't always understand, is that we are an economic impact in the communities where we are located," said Gonzales-Hanson.

According to information from the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the total budget for CHDI was \$6.1 million, and that includes salary for 93 jobs.

"That is a great investment in our community," said Gonzales-Hanson.

In 2012, CHDI provided 24,709 medical and 9,115 dental visits to 11,521 patients.

"This is not a duplicate

count. These are actual people that we see," said Gonzales-Hanson. "If you take into consideration our service area is about 30,000 in population, we are the medical and dental home for over one-third of the entire population of this area."

Of the 11,521 patients, 70 percent are insured and 76 percent are at or below 150 percent above poverty line.

"We are actually seeing an increase in the working poor," said Gonzales-Hanson. "So we have people who have jobs but have lost their insurance or people who have recently lost their jobs and insurance."

Today, CHDI operates on a \$7 million operating budget provided by various sources.

"The biggest amount is not from the federal government, or even from the state," said Gonzales-Hanson. "The biggest amount is what people pay and

what we get from third-party contracts."

Nearly 41 percent of budget costs are paid from federal funds, 43 percent from program income, four percent by Uvalde County and the City of Uvalde, five percent from other income, and seven percent from in-kind.

"So if you want to talk about how much of your money as tax payers is being spent... our total

cost per patient per year is \$530.23," said Gonzales-Hanson.

"I hope that you feel your money is well invested," said Gonzales-Hanson.

Gonzales-Hanson ended her presentation by thanking the Rotary Club and the city of Uvalde for supporting CHDI and all it does for the community.

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