

AltaMed Health Services Expands Services to Underserved in Southern California

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As the demand for health care services for the underserved continues to grow, not-for-profit AltaMed Health Services, Southern California's largest network of Federally Qualified Community Health Centers, has announced a major expansion program that includes the construction of new medical clinics, extended hours of existing facilities and hiring more physicians and support staff. AltaMed plans to add 12 new health care providers and 69 support

staffers for its Los Angeles and Orange County medical centers.

Today, AltaMed is Southern California's largest safety net provider for underserved communities, delivering more than 930,000 annual patient visits in Los Angeles and Orange Counties through its award-winning medical home concept. The organization serves the entire family with primary medical care, dental clinics and complete senior long-term care services, including senior case management, and the Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). AltaMed also delivers disease management programs, health education, youth services, specialty HIV/AIDS care and substance abuse treatment.

Since 2006, AltaMed has grown from 398,000 to more than 930,000 patient visits per year. Under our President/CEO Cástulo de la Rocha's direction in the past 30 years, AltaMed has grown from two employees to a fully-accredited Federally Qualified Health Center

(FQHC) with more than 1,900 employees. Our vision was to become the leading community-based provider of quality health care and human services and with a strong dedication to serve the underserved, we've achieved our vision and continue our growth.

In the last three years, we've seen patient visits grow collectively by 34 percent in Orange County. The Santa Ana clinics have experienced the most significant uptick in patient visits: in the last three years the Santa Ana clinic located on 1400 North Main St. experienced a 98 percent increase; the clinic located at 1515 Broadway St. saw an 84 percent increase, and the clinic located on 1155 West Central Ave saw an 83 percent increase, according to AltaMed data.

Many changes will be implemented over the course of this year; the health care clinic located in Santa Ana on Central and Bristol will relocate to larger space nearby to meet the growing demand for health care services. The new

facility will more than double the number of exam rooms, hire four additional physicians, and add new services such as internal medicine, women's health services, radiology and a pharmacy. The Garden Grove clinic, which offers urgent care on the weekdays, will soon be adding Saturday and Sunday hours. The Huntington Beach clinic will soon be hiring additional staff to provide extended walk-in hours for patients. This year AltaMed opened a new pharmacy in Anaheim to provide better access to prescription medication for underinsured and uninsured patients.

In Los Angeles County, the West Covina location will complete the second phase of its construction this November. The clinic will have 40 exam rooms for medical services and six spaces for the new dental services. To meet the rising influx of patients, AltaMed also plans to add a primary care doctor in September and a dentist in November. Other services to be available at the West

Covina location are behavioral health, medication management, radiology, lab, internal medicine, pediatrics and family practice.

Starting this fall, AltaMed also plans to offer mobile medical and dental services to schools and other community-based organizations.

AltaMed plans to open a new Adult Medicine Medical Group (AltaMed Medical Group) at its Pico Rivera location at the end of the year. The site will focus on primary care services for adults and seniors and those with chronic illnesses, in addition to other health services. El Monte Dental also will be expanding this fall, adding a second dentist to meet the growing demand.

Two years ago, AltaMed received the first-ever Primary Care Medical Home Designation from The Joint Commission and also holds the highest level Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition from the National Committee for

Quality Assurance (NCQA) for 20 of its locations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

To learn more about AltaMed, visit www.AltaMed.org.

Dr. Martin Serota, Chief Medical Officer of AltaMed Health Services, has a long history of building and managing sizeable primary group practices with a surrounding IPA network and achieving distinctive market presence. He is committed to quality clinical practice and has implemented leading-edge, metrics-based quality programs. He also has experience with medical home model of care, with disease management programs, and with leveraging data for improved clinical outcomes and enhanced enterprise-wide decision making. Dr. Serota received his MD from the University of California, San Francisco, is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a Diplomat of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

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