The Access Partnership at Johns Hopkins Medicine

The Access Partnership at Johns Hopkins Medicine is a program designed to improve access to effective, compassionate, evidence-based health care for uninsured and underinsured patients with demonstrated financial need who reside in the community surrounding The Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center (JHBMC). Desiree de la Torre, Assistant Director, Health Policy Planning states “We believe that improved integration of the health system can better engage patients and clinicians and will ultimately result in improved health outcomes and decreased health care costs.”

In TAP, primary care clinicians who identify a need for outpatient specialty or diagnostic services for uninsured or underinsured patients can write referrals for the services needed, and refer the patients to TAP. A TAP Navigator determines if patients are eligible for the program and the TAP Medical Reviewer evaluates all referrals to determine whether the medical issue can be managed in the primary care setting rather than through specialty consultation. Eligible patients meet the following criteria:

- Uninsured or Underinsured;
- Reside in zip code area 21202, 21205, 21213, 21219, 21222, 21224, or 21231; and
- Demonstrate financial need.

Once the referral is approved, patients must show a personal commitment to receiving care by paying a one-time $20 participation fee before the appointment is scheduled. Once this fee is paid, the TAP Navigator helps patients schedule their appointments, helps arrange transportation if needed, calls patients to remind them of upcoming appointments and calls patients after their appointments to make sure things went smoothly.

Between May 2009 and April 2011, TAP enrolled 767 patients. Of these patients, 391 patients were scheduled for and attended at least one appointment. Both referring patients and clinicians were highly satisfied with the program. Findings of a 10 minute telephone survey of 56 patients conducted between March and April 2010 showed that participating TAP patients reported they were able to obtain much needed specialty health care, and were satisfied with the health care received.

For additional information about TAP, please visit www.hopkinsmedicine.org/diversity/whats_du_for_community.html or call 443-997-0728.

Science Exploration in East Baltimore

For ten years, the Johns Hopkins Office of Community Services, Institute of Basic Biomedical Sciences, and the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center have worked together to introduce Basic Science and Oncology Science Day activities to East Baltimore elementary schools. In the spring of each year, fourth and fifth grade students are invited to Johns Hopkins medical facilities to learn about various career paths in science and to enjoy hands-on participation in science-related activities.

The positive impact on schools and students has been so overwhelming that the Office of Community Services expanded activities to include the annual Community Science Fair and Fun with Science Summer Camp, whose combined activities comprise the Community Science Education Program (CSEP). To date, approximately three thousand students from eighteen East Baltimore schools have participated in CSEP through these activities.

Basic Science and Oncology Science Days include activities that provide students with a firm foundation on the path of learning what science is all about. Using relatable concepts, students are introduced to liquids, solids and gases. James Letherman, Research Specialist and Lab Manager in Immunology, says, “I’ve been involved with the Community Science Day for four or five years now. Each and every year we do this, I am still amazed at how the students respond to making flubber”. “...being able to see...”
Building Communities with Conflict Resolution

The Community Conferencing Center (CCC) is a widely recognized community justice program that is making a difference in Baltimore by using participatory conflict management strategies in criminal justice, education, community development, and business as an alternative to courts. Community Conferencing provides students and families with an effective way to safely and collectively prevent and resolve conflicts and crime.

Baltimore’s CCC is the only broad-based conferencing program operated in a large inner-city region. The CCC provides direct services at no cost to participants. The CCC also provides training, technical assistance, program development and program evaluation services—in Maryland, nationally and internationally.

The CCC was formed in 1998 by Dr. Lauren Abramson, who learned about the community justice process from Australian colleagues (who had adapted the process from the Maori people of New Zealand). Dr. Abramson believes that Americans can be emotionally healthier and be able to do so collectively. Community Conferencing fits the bill. It is also helping to reform the criminal justice and education systems in the process, by shifting the focus from blame and punishment, to accountability and healing.

Much of the work of the CCC is focused on providing an alternative to court for young offenders, and for students who get into trouble. However, at the heart of all Community Conferences—whether they’re in schools, juvenile justice, neighborhoods or workplaces—is building communities where people feel connected to one another.

And it is working. Over 9,000 Baltimore residents have participated in a successful Community Conference. Re-offending is reduced by 60 percent in juvenile offenders, and all at one-tenth the cost of court.

Communities have also been strengthened through Community Conferencing. View the video at www.communityconferencing.org to see how one neighborhood stopped calling the police about disruptive kids in the street, and used Community Conferencing to begin a successful football league that is now entering its tenth season.

The CCC, which receives support from the Maryland Judiciary and private foundations, can offer individuals and business taxes credits for certain donations. For more information, visit www.communityconferencing.org. 