



Central Valley Health Network

MEDIA STATEMENT

July 29, 2009

Elimination of Clinic Programs Threatens Access to Care in the Central Valley

Sacramento, CA - David Quackenbush, CEO of the Central Valley Health Network (CVHN), released the following statement regarding the total elimination of State General Funds for Traditional Clinic Programs, which include Expanded Access to Primary Care (EAPC), Seasonal Agricultural Migratory Workers (SAMW), Rural Health Services Development, and Indian Health Programs:

“Community health centers in the Central Valley received a tremendous blow and huge set back, as the state budget package that was signed completely eliminated all General Funds for Traditional Clinic Programs.”

“In total, the funding from these programs would have been used to provide more than 500,000 patients visits by our member health centers that operate 128 Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) sites.”

“These programs serve as critical components to community health centers in the Valley, particularly at a time when health centers are seeing up to a 50 percent increase in uninsured patients seeking services. Moreover, these programs served as an effective means to help combat the growing health care needs of underserved communities, keeping people out of emergency rooms and avoiding costly hospital stays.”

“We want to make it clear that despite these crippling cuts, health centers remain committed to serving their communities. Health centers are the backbone of healthcare delivery in the Central Valley—where there are 31% fewer primary care physicians than the rest of the state. In some rural areas of the Valley, they are the only health provider available to residents.”

“Health centers will fight hard to weather this economic storm and to provide a healthcare safety net that Valley residents can depend upon for quality care.”

CVHN represents 128 FQHC sites, operating in 21 counties, which provide quality preventive and primary care services in the Central Valley and Inland Empire regions. For more information on CVHN, visit www.cvhnclinics.org.

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