



health sciences & services authority of spokane county

News Release

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Contacts:

Nancy Isserlis, HSSA Board Chair
Winston & Cashatt Lawyers
509.838.6131

Susan Ashe, HSSA Acting
Executive Director
509.358-2113; 509.995.8356

HSSA Awards over \$200,000 to Five Local Organizations to Increase Access to Health Care

SPOKANE, WA – The Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County has **awarded \$206,150 to five local organizations** to increase access to health care in Spokane County through innovative and collaborative health services delivery.

“We were very interested to see the increase in the number of exceptional proposals in this round of health care access funding,” said **Nancy Isserlis, HSSA Board Chair**. “Whether it is primary care in a volunteer physician’s office or even surgery; prescriptions for those who cannot afford them; counseling for sexually, physically or mentally abused children; dental care or a new multidisciplinary teaching and services-providing health care clinic on the expanding Riverpoint campus, we know, unfortunately, that the demand for this care continues to increase here,” she said.

The five recipients are as follows:

- **Partners with Families & Children** will receive **\$29,000** for one year. This organization provides pediatric care and consultation for physically and sexually abused children, and this proposal is for the Partner’s Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) pediatric team. Both children with high risk for psychological and medical abuse are diagnosed and treated, as are some family members.
- **Project Access** will receive **\$100,000** for one year. The HSSA funded Project Access \$225,000 for two years, which concluded at the end of 2010. Project Access has

requested operating funds and proposes to increase both the number of people its volunteer network serves, and the number of volunteer providers.

- **Spokane District Dental Society Foundation** (SDDSF) will receive **\$18,750** on the condition that the Foundation develops a plan modeled after Project Access to provide service in existing dental offices by volunteer providers.
- **Spokane Prescription Assistance** will receive **\$30,000** for one year to develop a Spokane-based regional network to build on its success. Currently, for every \$1 invested in Spokane, there is a \$29 return on that investment. This foundation was established by the Governor and its board members are appointed by the Governor. All drugs are free; the cost of this program is for administration.
- **WSU-led Multidisciplinary Health Clinic** on the Riverpoint Campus. This proposal will receive one year of funding in the amount of **\$28,400** to develop a business plan for a unique multidisciplinary health clinic on or near the Riverpoint Campus. The Clinic will bring together undergraduate, graduate and professional and postdoctoral students from medical, dental, pharmacy and other disciplines to provide care for underserved populations, education and training for students, and some research. Clinical faculty have earned national recognition in managing behavioral health problems and the clinic will develop specialty tracks in these, as well as other areas (e.g. metabolic disorders, co-morbid psychiatric disorders, and substance abuse). The inter-professional, team-based approach proposed by WSU has been endorsed by the Institute of Medicine and other national organizations as a model to improve the quality of health care.

Since it began operations in 2009, the HSSA has granted a total of \$611,150 to Spokane County organizations who provide innovative and collaborative access to health services for the under-an uninsured County residents.

The HSSA's primary focus is to promote bioscience-based economic development that advances new therapies and procedures to combat disease. In 2009, HSSA granted \$675,000 to the Institute for Systems Medicine (ISM) to assist it to develop a clinical data repository for use by public and private health sciences researchers, as well as a bio-specimen tissue repository. The HSSA is collaborating with the Empire Health Foundation (EHF) on a strategic research funding plan and expects this plan, which will guide health sciences research funding for the two organizations, to be completed in mid-July.

The HSSA raised over \$10 million in a 2010 bond issuance by Spokane County to allow it to more effectively meet its mission to promote bioscience-based economic development locally.

In addition to Board Chair Isserlis, HSSA Board members are **Patricia Butterfield**, Dean, WSU School of Nursing; **Dr. Jeff Collins**, Medical Director, Providence Sacred Heart & Holy Family Hospitals; **Kelsey Gray**, Spectrum Group; **Earl F. "Marty" Martin**, Executive Vice President, Gonzaga University; **Kevin Oldenburg**, President, MatriCal Bioscience, Inc.; **Jason Thackston**, Vice President, Finance, AvistaCorp; **David J. Vachon**, CEO/Founder, Iasis

Molecular Sciences, and **Mike Wilson**, Consultant and Interim CEO, Providence Eastern Washington.

More information about the HSSA and its mission may be found at www.hssaspokane.org or by contacting Susan Ashe, Acting Executive Director at info@hssaspokane.org or 509.385.2113.

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