

Inside this Issue

p. 1 SAHNC Gains Strength in Numbers

p. 2 Myths about Single-Payer Healthcare

p. 2 Community Events Calendar

Directors:

Founder: Frank Valdez
Co-chairs: Frank Valdez & Rachel Hollander
Secretary: Stephen Chao

Steering Committee:

Vibeke Mendonca
Jane Cantu
Arthur Valdez
Mark Camann
Kassie Allbright
Diane Kilby
Melanie Awtry
Diana Pirzada

Webmaster:

Jim Evans

www.healthcarenowsa.org



SAN ANTONIO

HEALTHCARE NOW COALITION

SAHNC Gains Strength in Numbers

By Rachel Hollander

San Antonio Healthcare Now Coalition (SAHNC) is gaining greater strength in the community through its growing member base and civic involvement.

A once small group of concerned citizens telling their healthcare stories at the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the grassroots organization now known as San Antonio Healthcare Now Coalition has become increasingly organized and motivated to produce change in the way our healthcare is funded. SAHNC promotes single-payer healthcare so that no American is ignored from needed preventive, acute, or chronic medical care. The legislative bill currently in committee at the federal level, HR 676, is a viable answer to our health care crisis and is supported by over 80 legislators. (See details of HR 676 at www.healthcarenowsa.org)

Most recently, SAHNC has made its case at the Northeast Bexar County Democrat meeting in early November in order to get support for a resolution regarding single-payer healthcare. After gaining unanimous approval there, SAHNC hopes to receive the same support from the Northwest Democrats in mid November. With help from other single-payer supporters around the state, SAHNC hopes to get the resolution on the Democrat Primary ballot in March 2008.

SAHNC members agree that linking up with other groups is the best plan for gaining strength for the cause. Healthcare for All Texas (HCFAT), led by Dr. Ana Malinow a pediatrician from Houston, is a single-payer promoting organization with chapters in Dallas-Fort Worth, Lubbock, Austin, and El Paso. HCFAT has just debuted and expanded an updated website (www.hcfat.org) complete with educational information and commonly asked questions about HR 676 and the Texas Insurance Plan (TIP). On their website, one can also very easily donate as little as \$10. Working with HCFAT, SAHNC can only get stronger.



Members of SAHNC attend the Healthcare for All Texas (HCFAT) state organizational meeting held in Austin on Sept 29, 2007.

Additionally, SAHNC is networking with Healthcare-Now, a national organization promoting HR 676. Healthcare-Now is planning a "Sicko-Cure National Road Show" beginning in early November and continuing all the

way through mid December. Healthcare now members will begin in their home city of Chicago, Illinois and travel through Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and West Virginia. Along the way, they plan to stop to march in rallies and educate community members on single-payer healthcare and HR 676. For a total of 12 states on its healthcare tour, Healthcare-Now is sure to gain attention. You may find out more about the tour at www.healthcare-now.org.

In addition to networking with other groups, SAHNC independently works for change by meeting with local and state legislators and community, university, medical, and religious groups. With its current drive and momentum, SAHNC demands change in American healthcare funding to assert

that healthcare should not be a privilege, but a civil right for all. Join SAHNC's momentum and get involved; speak to friends, family, and coworkers about our health system and reform. Be vocal; join the movement! ■



Healthcare Now's Sicko Cure Road Show van is ready for traveling the country and spreading the word on single-payer healthcare.

Community Events Calendar

SAHNC Meetings

1st Thursday of Every Month
6:30 pm at Unity Church
1723 Lawndale, San Antonio
All are invited to become more involved or simply find out more about our group!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights March

Monday, Jan. 21, 2008
10 am; From the MLK Freedom Bridge to Pittman-Sullivan Park in San Antonio

Injustice in health care is a civil rights issue. Join us as we rally with signs and chants in the largest MLK march in the country! See website (Events) for details.

SiCKO Showing

Wed. Nov. 28; 2:00-3:30 pm
Northwest Vista College
Huisache Hall Banquet Room
Project Dem, a student Democrat group at Northwest Vista, along with SAHNC, will be putting on a free showing of Michael Moore's "SiCKO" followed by a discussion and explanation of HR 676.



Unnatural Causes, PBS Documentary

March 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 2008
Tune in to PBS for the series on our nation's inequality in healthcare and health outcomes. Assured to be provocative and enlightening.

Myths About Single-Payer Healthcare

Myth #1: Single payer healthcare is socialized medicine.

Single-payer healthcare means that through taxes, the government funds our care. However, it is not socialized medicine because everyone has their choice of doctor and hospital whether it is in the private sector or not. Similarly existing is Medicare for those over 65 year old and Medicaid for those with low income or disability. You can see the huge gap in coverage among individuals and families that make too much for Medicaid but cannot afford the skyrocketing costs of private insurance provided by for-profit corporations.

Myth #2: Medicare and Medicaid are failing in the services they provide to patients and in the reimbursement they provide to doctors, so single-payer can never work.

The idea that Medicare funding by our current administration is failing has some merit. That is why single-payer demands improved and expanded coverage and reimbursement. The government exists to help its people and claiming that it does not do a good job at this cannot be an excuse!

Myth #3: Only a minority of people in the U.S. want single-payer healthcare.

In fact, polls continually show that when you explain the details of how single-payer works, over 50% of the American public want single-payer healthcare. Realistically and ethically, why wouldn't we want everyone to have access to care, especially when it is less expensive and more comprehensive?