



TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS

A HRSA Initiative to Train Physicians in Community-Based Settings



Neil Calman MD

**President and CEO
The Institute for Family Health**

**Professor and Chair
Family Medicine and Community Health
Mount Sinai School of Medicine**

**CHCANYS Annual Meeting
October 2012**





WHAT IS AN EDUCATIONAL HEALTH CENTER ?

An Educational Health Center (EHC):

A community health center which serves as a training site for health professions students and residents.



WHAT IS A TEACHING HEALTH CENTER ?

A Teaching Health Center is a health center that is responsible for the academic and financial administration of the residency program, including –

- The health center sets the mission of the residency program
- The health center has a shared mission of service and education
- The health center is the sponsoring institution for accreditation purposes and receives direct funding from HRSA**
- The residency director is staff at the health center
- The health center contracts with the hospital to provide required inpatient training**

WE NEED LESS OF THESE



... AND MORE OF THESE



Family physicians

Internists

Pediatricians

Ob-gyns

Psychiatrists

Geriatricians

General dentists

Pediatric dentists



DEVELOPING A THC

Developing a Teaching Health Center demands leadership, collaboration, time and money. There are four main areas to consider:

- Mission and Governance
- Administration and Operations
- Finance
- Legal



BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

- Physicians trained in CHCs 3x more likely to work in underserved areas (Morris et al; Fam Med; 2008)
- Enhanced job satisfaction for CHC providers and staff who are given a teaching role
- Access to additional services for patients (e.g., specialty clinics, residency inpatient care teams, etc)
- Enhanced reputation as a teaching site
- Access to resources from a hospital or medical school (e.g. information technology, library access, research support, etc)
- Strengthening of clinical affiliations with hospitals and medical schools
- Specific services to CHC clients may be enhanced because of educational needs. e.g. behavioral health, specialty care



BENEFITS TO THE HOSPITAL

- THC residents do not count as part of the hospitals' resident cap
- FTCA malpractice insurance for CHC- employed faculty members and residents
- Interdisciplinary experience working with social workers, case managers, etc.
- Enhanced recruitment and retention of both faculty and residents
- Access to state and federal student loan repayment and forgiveness programs
- The National Health Service Corps benefits to both residents and faculty working at CHC



POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS

- Scheduling of faculty and residents is significantly more complex since faculty and residents are in the outpatient setting on a part-time basis
- Residents “turn over” every three years necessitating periodic re-assignment of patients
- Some patients and/or CHC board members may perceive residents as inferior providers compared to fully-trained providers
- Residents, especially early in their training, are slow and inefficient compared to non-resident providers. They also use more exam rooms per patient seen.
- Increased administrative complexity for billing, supervision, etc.
- Potentially complex and changing relationships with hospitals



GETTING STARTED ...

- **Find a residency director – someone with experience with residency training AND preferably, with CHC experience as well**
- **Talk with potential hospital partners**
- **Secure start-up capital funds, develop an operating budget for the first three years, secure operating funds. Since the THC payments are capitated, the first few years will require additional support.**
- **Find a “niche”. What will be special about your program that will allow you to stand out among other programs?**
- **Start developing a pipeline of applicants – offer clinical rotations for 3rd and 4th year medical student in the CHC now**



RESOURCES . . .



EHCI (Education Health Center Initiative)

<http://teachinghealthcenter.org>

Me

ncalman@institute2000.org