

Mercy Fort Smith Community Benefit Report

Paris Community Health Council Hosts a Foster Care Awareness Event

The Paris Community Health Council was formed in July 2017. This 20-member group is comprised of community leaders and not-for-profit organizations who meet monthly to address health care concerns throughout Logan County. The council's current focuses are foster care and access to care for the elderly.

In November 2017 the council hosted a foster care awareness event, which was attended by community leaders as well as concerned citizens. They had several guest speakers including: Cheri Garcez, executive director, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the Tri-Peaks; Laquita Wellborn, foster care parent of four; Carol Geels, Department of Human Services; and Phyllis Bell, senior advisor, Governor Asa Hutchison's office.

The Paris Community Health Council is continuing to support ongoing efforts to spread awareness of the foster care crisis in Logan County.

The Paris Community Health Council, the Arkansas Department of Health, CASA, DHS and Mercy are currently looking for a space to aid DHS social workers with short-term care of the foster children in the area once they are removed from the home.

The Paris Community Health Council, in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Health, will be hosting an event in the spring of 2018 to assist caregivers of the elderly. This event will educate caregivers in decreasing senior falls and encourage caregivers to take care of themselves.

Total Community Benefit \$13,722,000

Charity Care

Includes the actual cost of providing free or discounted care to persons who cannot afford to pay and who are not eligible for public programs. Charity care does not include bad debt.

Benefit: \$2,233,000

Community Outreach Services

Includes activities carried out to improve community health and services that are subsidized because they are needed in the community. Examples: education, support groups, health screenings, and immunizations.

Benefit: \$127,000

Health Professionals

Education and Research

Includes the cost of providing clinical placement for physicians, nurses and other health professionals plus the costs of the nursing anesthesia, EMS and radiology schools.

Benefit: \$0

Cash, In-Kind Donations, Workforce Enhancement and Fundraising

Includes cash, in-kind donations, fundraising costs, food & supplies to shelters, use of Mercy rooms and facilities, donated office space and recruitment of health professionals in medically underserved areas.

Benefit: \$41,000

Medicaid Subsidies

Includes the actual unpaid cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and represents the shortfall between cost of care and the payments received by the government.

Benefit: \$11,332,000