



News Release

For Immediate Release

May 22, 2006

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Hospital District, City Collaborate to Meet Community's Health Care Needs

City-county cooperation improves access to health care for near Northside residents

The Harris County Hospital District (HCHD) and the Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) are working together to optimize health care services offered in the near Northside community as part of a plan to eliminate the duplication of services, where possible, and improve access to primary and preventative health care for patients.

The initiative, called the Casa-Casa Project, granted HCHD the use of 5,600 square feet of space in the city's 43,000-square foot La Nueva Casa Health Clinic, located at 1809 North Main, for its Woman & Infant Services. This space is used for prenatal and pediatric health care, including newborn screenings, well child exams and immunizations — services previously offered by HDHHS. Expectant mothers seen through the prenatal program are expected to deliver their babies at HCHD's Ben Taub or LBJ general hospitals.

The consolidation of prenatal and pediatric services is expected to enhance birth outcomes, facilitate continuity of care, and promote the concept of a medical home for children.

The relocation of Woman & Infant Services has also allowed HCHD to add new services at its Casa de Amigos Health Center, 1615 North Main, including expanded ultrasound services, physical and occupational therapy, and ophthalmology.

This collaboration is expected to reduce patient overcrowding at Ben Taub and LBJ general hospitals for services now offered at Casa de Amigos.

"Our goal in working with the city is to improve the health status of the near Northside community," said David S. Lopez, HCHD president and CEO. "The additional space at La Nueva Casa de Amigos has allowed us to expand services and create a more efficient and comfortable clinical environment for our patients. Together, we can better serve residents in this area.

"With more than 30 percent of Harris County's residents uninsured, we know there is great need throughout the county for access to public health care," Lopez said. "We will continue to look at and consider other opportunities to enhance services for our community."

(more)

The Harris County Hospital District is the public healthcare system for the nation's third most-populous county. It provides more than 1.1 million health care visits each year to uninsured, underinsured and medically needy residents of Harris County. The Hospital District operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, seven school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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