Letter to the Editor

Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls Project

The Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls is a community-based immigrant health services which was initiated by the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) on April 17, 1997. The President of PMAH was Dr. Charlie Sonido. This was designed to provide free medical services to newly-arrived immigrants to the State. These immigrants are: 1) Those who arrived after August 22, 1996, who were excluded from MedQuest Services, 2) Those without medical insurance and 3). Those who are financially indigent (fall under the Medicaid guidelines). The project makes use of a single health needs/evaluation and referral system, an activity of the Lanakila Easy Access Project (LEAP) under the Office of Bilingual Health Services. State Department of Health. This program is located at Lanakila Health Center with bilingual /bicultural staffs. The immigrants, who need health services which are not provided by the State Department of Health are referred to the volunteer physicians at their private offices. The majority of the immigrants to Hawaii are from the Asian countries and the Pacific Islands.

In March 1997, flyers were sent to physicians requesting their assistance to volunteer their services. The initial response was very positive. There were 30 physicians representing eight specialties and various ethnicities, such as, Chinese, Filipino and Caucasian. The project was featured in an article of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle on March 16, 1997 issue.

On April 17, 1997, PMAH initiated the project. In October 1997, the project included two volunteer dentists to assist immigrants with dental problems. From April 17 to December 1997, the volunteer physicians and dentists provided needed health services to 319 recently-arrived immigrants.

In 1998, the volunteer physicians and dentists increased to 49 representing 13 specialties and additional ethnicities, such as, Vietnamese, Egyptian and Samoan. On October 30, 1998, Dr. Ruben Guerrero, President, PMAH, and Dr. Lawrence Miike, Director, Stute Department of Health acknowledged the valuable humanitarian volunteer services of the physicians and dentists at a recognition dinner held at Hale Koa Hotel. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded. Following is our current roster.

During the 1998 calendar year, there were 438 immigrants who were referred to the volunteer physicians and dentists. The Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls is now a non-profit corporation. We are looking forward for the participation of more volunteer physicians. This project is a demonstration of one of the models that show how medicine and public health collaboration can respond to the health needs of a vulnerable segment of our population in need.

Your readers may call me at 832-5685, for further information.

Herita A. Yulo, MD, MPH, CHES, MS
Program Manager/Director

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BAYANIHAN CLINIC WITHOUT WALLS VOLUNTEER PHYSICIANS

GENERAL/FAMILY PRACTICE
Ben Galindo, M.D.
William Fruean, M.D.
Ramon Pajarillo, M.D.
Russell Tacata, M.D.
Hilarion Dayoan, M.D.
Kiliem Nguyen, M.D.
Benjamin Gozon, III, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Danilo Ablan, M.D.
Erilda Cachola, M.D.
Fortunato Elizaga, M.D.
Corazon Hobbs, M.D.
Danilo Canete, M.D.
Aurora Mariani, M.D.
Sorbera Guillermo, M.D.
Reuben Guerrero, M.D. (Oncology)
Nicanor Joaquin, M.D.
Ricardo Ridao, M.D.
Leon Garcia, M.D.

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
Salvador Cecilio, M.D.
Gerard Derricks, M.D.

OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY
Redentor Rojales, M.D.
Emma B. Avilla, M.D.

OPHTHALMOLOGY
George Camara, M.D.

UROLOGY
Antonio Tan, M.D.

EAR, NOSE & THROAT
Ramon Sy, M.D.

RADIOLOGY
Romeo Pineda, M.D.

PSYCHIATRY
Danilo Ponce, M.D.

Glorifin Belmonte, M.D.
Efren Baria, M.D.

PHYSICAL MEDICINE (PAIN MANAGEMENT)
Robert Hyman, M.D.

DENTAL
Neal Timon, D.D.S (Peds)
Rosemarie Mauricio-Molina, D.D.S (Adult)