

Integrating and Coordinating Services for Brazos Valley Residents (HCAP)

Project Summary & Goals

Characteristics of the rural county residents of the Brazos Valley are consistent with profiles of residents of other rural areas – a significantly older population, less education, lower socio-economic status, higher rates of chronic disease and mortality, less insurance coverage and less access to healthcare services. This project targeted all low-income residents in the six rural counties of the region, most of whom are uninsured or underinsured. This population demonstrates extensive need for a variety of services related to the social determinants of health (i.e. education, employment, housing, transportation, literacy), as well as direct health care.

Our project focuses on centralized coordination of services and case management for the uninsured and underinsured living in the six rural counties, including those with chronic conditions. Centralized service coordination and case management, combined with increased access points and transportation, will increase cost-effectiveness of health service providers, decrease poor utilization of resources, and leverage the resources available in each county instead of forcing Brazos County to attempt to bear the burden of health needs for the entire community. The ultimate purpose of these activities was to improve access to quality care, overall health status, and quality of life for low-income residents in the rural counties of the Brazos Valley community.

Project goals were:

- Implement a health resource center model to decrease fragmentation of services through service coordination.
- Improve effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of care delivered to uninsured and underinsured residents.
- Decrease duplication of services.
- Improve health status.
- Improve access to services for rural county residents by expanding transportation options.

Principal Investigators

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Project Dates

2003-2006

Communities Involved

Burleson County

Grimes County

Leon County

Madison County

Funders

Health Resources and Services Administration

Partners

Brazos Valley Health Partnership

Brazos Valley Council of Governments

Brazos Valley Community Action Agency
Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse
Brazos County Health Department
Burleson St. Joseph Health Center
Grimes St. Joseph Health Center
Health For All
Madison St. Joseph Health Center
Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of the Brazos Valley
Project Unity
Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Brazos Valley Area Agency on Aging
Ronnie Baker, Audiologist
Texas Department of State Health Services

Outcomes

- Five sustainable health resource centers in four rural counties.
- Four functioning health resource commissions in rural counties.
- A sustainable volunteer-based transportation system.
- A service coordination model that integrates services for clients with multiple needs.
- A sustainable medication assistance program.
- FQHC expansion sites in three rural communities.
- Unprecedented financial collaboration to support local activities.