

# THE FREE CLINIC TIMES

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT....

On May 15<sup>th</sup> the Ohio Association of Free Clinics hosted a seminar for people interested in starting new free clinics. Thirteen people attended, representing 8 different counties. We were thrilled to see such enthusiastic interest in serving people without access to health care! We know that starting a free clinic is not an easy task. The paperwork, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and coalition building are time consuming. Most of the time, the people starting a free clinic are volunteers who are already committed to serving the poor on a daily basis.

So why do we do it? Cover the Uninsured Week recently highlighted statistics regarding those living without health insurance:

- More than 44 million people do not have health insurance.
- Eight out of ten of these live in working families.
- Americans with incomes below the federal poverty level are most likely to lack coverage.
- The Hispanic community encounters difficulties in securing coverage in part because so many members are recent immigrants who earn modest incomes.

*(Add a concluding paragraph with the rewards of working/volunteering in a free clinic. Maybe an example or 2 about people helped.)*

**ART.2**



### O AFC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*Deb Miller*      (Health Partners of Miami County)

*Dr. Sherri Morgan*      (Ohio Academy of Family Physicians Foundation)

**ART.3 –CURRENT LEGISLATION**

**Senate Bill 124** (Senator Amstutz)— Senator Amstutz sponsored this bill at the request of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics and the Viola Startzman Free Clinic. Senate Bill 124 **changes the charitable immunity act to allow minor surgical procedures.** The bill was amended in the House to require the State Dental Board to issue a certificate to retired dentists who wish to volunteer in free clinics.

Status: Voted out of the Senate on 4/20/2003 and the House on 5/12/2004. Thanks to Katie Clark of the Physicians Free Clinics in Columbus for testifying in both the House and the Senate. At the last minute, an asbestos-related amendment was added to the bill. (You may ask how our bill is related to asbestos litigation and for that explanation I would refer you to the attorneys and lobbyists that orchestrated this complicated and frustrating maneuver.) This amendment has now halted the progress of SB 124 because the House and the Senate must agree on the changes and the asbestos-related amendment is very controversial. Either an agreement will be reached after summer break or our bill will “die”. Stay tuned.

**House Bill 434** (Representative Cal-

vert)—This bill provides for the distribution of money received by the state through the **Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.** This includes **funding for free clinic services.**

Status: The House and Senate concurred on the bill on 5/12/2004, with the free clinic funding intact. Thanks to Katie Clark of the Physicians Free Clinic in Columbus and Gail Bromley of the Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland for testifying on this legislation! Information regarding allocation of these funds will be provided in July or August.

**House Bill 454/Senate Bill 220**— Representative White and Senator Schuler recently sponsored these pieces of legislation at the request of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Cincinnati. The bills would **allow the distribution of sample drugs by and to charitable pharmacies.**

As passed by the House, House Bill 454 would allow charitable pharmacies (which are defined in the legislation) to receive donated drug samples from pharmaceutical companies, wholesale distributors and health professional authorized to prescribe drugs as long as the sample drug:

Clearly is marked as a sample

Has been stored properly

Is marked with a date that has not expired

Is provided free of charge is not a controlled substance

The Board of Pharmacy would be required to adopt rules governing how manufacturers, wholesalers, and health care professionals would furnish the samples to charitable pharmacies.

Status: House Bill 454 was voted out of the House on 5/12/2004. Senate Bill 220 received sponsor testimony in the Senate. With no opposition, the bill will most likely be voted out of the Senate before the end of the year. The OAFCA is monitoring this legislation.

(Please note the portions of the article on House Bill 454 were adapted from an article by Claudia Herrold of the Ohio Grantmaker’s Forum.)

**ART.4**



**ART.5- DISEASE PROFILE**

**ART.6.**

**Thanks to the members of the Ohio Association of Free Clinics for your dedication in serving the poor and uninsured in our state:**

- Asian Health Initiative
- Clinic at Faith Mission
- Columbus Free Clinic
- Free Clinic of Greater Cleveland
- Free Medical Clinic of Marion
- Good Neighbor House
- Health Partners of Miami County
- Lake County Free Clinic
- Lorain County Free Clinic
- Physicians Free Clinic
- Reach Out of Montgomery County
- North Coast Health Ministry
- OPEN M's Summit County Free Clinic
- Short North Health & Wellness
- Townhall II Medical Clinic
- Viola Startzman Free Clinic
- Wheeling Health Right
- Western Stark Medical Clinic



**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE CLINICS**

61 Jefferson Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Dates to Remember:**

**October 10-12, 2004**

Fifth Annual Ohio Free Clinic Conference

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**ACTING AS AN ADVOCATE FOR FREE  
CLINICS AND THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE.**

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