

Free Specialty Care for the Uninsured and Medically Underserved.

Changes to Malpractice Insurance Benefits Free Clinics

By Tom Hirsch, MD - Medical Director, BSP Free Clinic



The State of Wisconsin provides free malpractice insurance to physicians and advanced practitioners (e.g. Optometrists, Podiatrists, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants, etc.) for health care they provide to treat the uninsured. Most retired physicians and advanced practitioners do not carry malpractice insurance and rely on this free state coverage.

We recently became aware that the scope of services the State would cover for volunteer providers was very limited and as a result, the BSP Free Clinic lost two highly valued providers. We felt it was likely that all free clinics in Wisconsin would lose state-covered volunteer providers if the scope of covered services was not expanded and clarified.

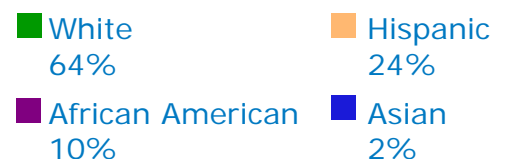
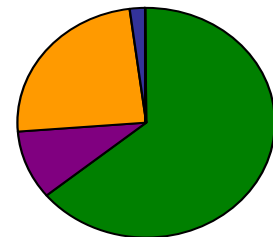
With the pro bono help of Tony Driessen, an attorney with DeWitt, Ross and Stevens, the BSP Free Clinic worked closely with other free clinics in key legislative districts to change the language governing State-provided free malpractice coverage for volunteer providers. The language was successfully changed to include "... any outpatient surgery that is permitted under the volunteer health care provider's license would be covered as long as the provider has the necessary training, experience, equipment, and facilities to provide such care."

The BSP Free Clinic provides more than \$600,000 a year in vital medical services to Dane County and the surrounding communities. By the end of 2011, the clinic will have helped over 1,500 patients. Without the volunteer support of area medical professionals, along with financial support from the community, this clinic would not be able to make such an impact on those who depend on these crucial services.

Areas of Specialty Care:

- Allergy
- Cardiology
- Dental
- Dermatology
- ENT
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- General Surgery
- Hematology/Oncology
- Internal Medicine
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Optometry
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Podiatry
- Psychiatry
- Rheumatology
- Social Work
- Urology

BSP Free Clinic Patient Ethnicity Profile:



The BSP Free Clinic is a program of the Dean Foundation. It is made possible by the generous support of Dean Clinic, St. Mary's Hospital, UW Health, Meriter Health System, Turville Bay & the greater Madison medical community.

Thank you for your service

Each of our volunteers give time to the BSP Free Clinic despite busy schedules. They bring great talents and enrich the lives of many patients. The Dean Foundation would like to express our appreciation to all our volunteers for sharing their time and expertise with those who have few resources and healthcare options.

Dr. David Mann, Dr. Jack Heiden, Dr. Ernie Pellegrino and Dr. David Zeman (Orthopedics) have been coming into the clinic, sometimes twice a month, to see orthopedic referrals.

*"Dr. Mann & BSP Free Clinic volunteers, Just a quick note to say how much I appreciate the support and guidance given to me to get my ailing arm healed. Thank you, Dr. Mann and the kind and compassionate staff for the wonderful service given to me."
-Ann, BSP Free Clinic patient*

Hank Bothfeld (Social Work) has provided more than 200 counseling and support visits. Hank, along with **Dr. Taylor and Dr. Dowell (Psychiatry)** have made a remarkable impact on mental health needs of our patients.

*"Hank has been wonderful! He listens and helped me think about things in a different light."
-Linda, BSP Free Clinic patient*

Lastly, we would like to recognize the generous efforts of **Dr. Dan Smith and Dr. Abigail Christiansen (Gastroenterology)**, for the services they have provided to BSP Free Clinic patients.

How you can help:

Because of the volunteer efforts of our physicians and medical support staff, your donation to the clinic funds direct expenses incurred to run our operations.

A \$2,500 donation supports the work of one physician for a year.

A \$125 donation provides five hours of interpretive services for patients.

A \$50 donation provides transportation for two clinic visits.

Your donation to the clinic will make a difference in the health and well-being of hundreds of uninsured residents in Dane County and our surrounding communities.

We appreciate your support.



"My work at the BSP Clinic has been the strongest contributing factor that has led my decision to pursue a career in medicine. I very much enjoy interpreting, thanks in large part to the comfortable, professional environment at the BSP Free Clinic.

*-Andrew, Interpreter
Pre-Med Applicant*

"I really enjoy helping out at the clinic with everything that needs to be done. One day I would like to give back as a PA. That day will soon be approaching so thank you for all your efforts and willingness to guide me in the right direction."

-Ryan, Office Volunteer

A Patient's Story - Guy Ganta

Why were you referred to BSP Free Clinic? *I was referred by Our Lady Hope, because my illness was out of their hands. I had congestive heart failure, massive fluid retention and weeping edema. They could only do as much as they could and I needed specialty care.*

How was your experience at the BSP? *Outstanding. Everyone that worked with me treated me like family. Dr. Hendricks went above and beyond. He realized I had congestive heart failure and wanted to find out the root cause. I took a formatted questionnaire and he narrowed it down to my sleeping habits. Dr. Hendricks recommended that I participate in a sleep study. Through the study they found out that I had an extremely bad case of sleep apnea. The doctor conducting the study told me that I needed to get on a BiPAP machine immediately or I was going to die.*

After the sleep study Dr. Hendricks laid out a plan of recovery for me. My body has responded well to the BiPaP machine and the medications that were prescribed to me. Dr. Hendricks really educated me on what I needed to do to get healthy and it has worked. Because of him, and all of the other volunteers at BSP I am on a path of better health.

How did the treatment affect your life? *I was in a downward spiral so long, I didn't remember what feeling good felt like. I have responded well to my treatments and I feel like I have a second chance on life. I notice myself appreciating little things like the sound of wind in the trees or the smell of freshly baked bread. I feel blessed.*

If there was one thing you could let people know about the clinic, what would it be? *This is a place for people who are really in desperate need and have no where else to go. That's what this clinic is all about, helping people who really, really need help.*

Important Facts:

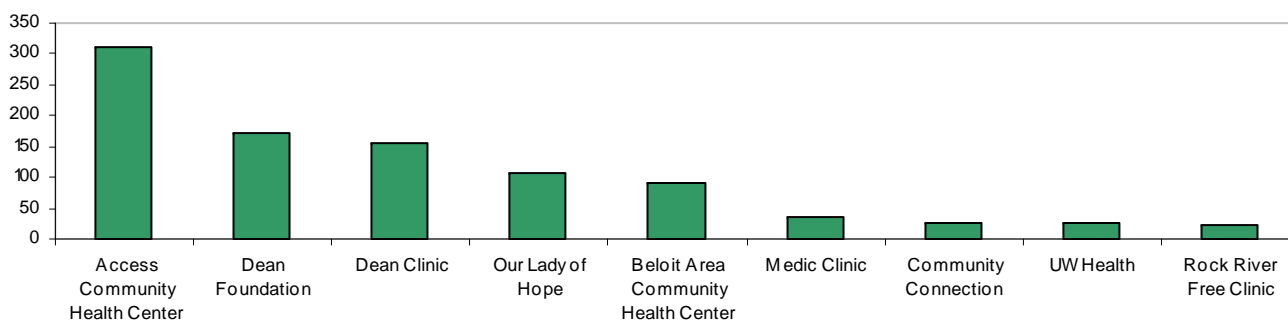
- The average lifespan of a person without health insurance is 10 years less than that of someone with coverage.
- There are approximately 49,100 people in Dane and Rock Counties without health insurance. The uninsured rarely seek early treatment because they do not have affordable access to physicians or clinics.
- Lack of preventative health care typically leads to more serious complications. Often these complications require the care of a physician specialist.
- The BSP Free Clinic is the only clinic in Wisconsin that offers free multi-specialty care.
- 80% of patients cared for at the BSP Free Clinic live in Dane or Rock County.



Volunteer Providers Pictured:
Dr. Reg Bruskewitz, Urology
Dr. Mark Kornaus, Optometry

Where Do Our Patients Come From?

We receive referrals from primary care clinics all over Southern Wisconsin. The chart below represents all clinics who have referred more than 20 patients to the BSP Free Clinic since January of 2011.



Thank you to our Volunteers!

Dr. Louis Bernhardt, Surgery
Dr. Bob Brooks, Dentistry
Dr. Tom Browning, Gastroenterology
Dr. Reg Bruskewitz, Urology
Dr. Robert Christmann, GYN
Dr. Marcus Cohen, Pediatric Allergy
Dr. Daniel Danahy, Cardiology
Dr. Terry Donnelly, Dentistry
Dr. David Dowell, Psychiatry
Dr. Ed Ehrlich, Endocrinology
Dr. Michael Feifarek, Ophthalmology
Dr. Natasha Frost, Neurology
Dr. Wayne Grogan, Cardiology
Dr. Jack Heiden, Orthopedics
Dr. Richard Hendricks, Internal Medicine
Dr. Tom Hirsch, Rheumatology
Dr. Petar Igic, Cardiology
Dr. Jerome Kadell, Ophthalmology
Dr. Alan Kalker, Podiatry
Dr. Linh Khuu, Hematology/Oncology
Dr. Barbara Klein, Ophthalmology
Dr. Mark Kornaus, OD Optometry
Dr. Robert Kriz, Allergy
Dr. John Lindholm, Podiatry
Dr. Dave Mann, Orthopedics
Dr. Robert McDonald, Dermatology
Dr. Charles Miley, Neurology
Dr. John Murphy, Neurology
Dr. Ernest Pellegrino, Orthopedic Surgery
Dr. Kartik Reddy, Cardiology
Dr. John Rogerson, Orthopedics
Dr. Donald Schalch, Endocrinology
Dr. W.D. Shelp, Nephrology

"Thank you so much for providing such a wonderful service to the community!"

I recently saw Dr. Murphy about my migraine auras and your clinic was able to refer me for an MRI at no charge. I am a young person without health coverage and I feel very fortunate to have been provided with care and support. My deepest thanks."

-Jamie, BSP Free Clinic patient

Dr. Paul Simenstad, Internal Medicine
Dr. Daniel Smith, Gastroenterology
Dr. Eric Streicher, Internal Medicine
Dr. Leslie Taylor, Psychiatry
Dr. Gary Waters, GYN
Dr. Raul Waters, Urology
Dr. David Zeman, Orthopedics
Katharine Pease, NP, Dermatology
Nancy Didion, PA-C, GYN
Krista Dopf, PA-C, ENT/Orthopedics
Paula Washow, MS, LPC Psychology
Carole Bendtsen, RN
Jean Breheny, RN
Pat Casad, RN
Mary Hanson, RN
Barbara Komoroske, RN
Linda Kriz, RN
Kathy Kruger, RN
Linda Kubly, LPN
Karole Leadholm, RN
Mary Lynch, RN
Paul Patenaude, RN
Wilma Rohweder, RN

Guy Somers, RN
Linda Stankewicz, RN
Joe Strangfeld, RN
Carol Viviani, RN
Kathy Wehrle, RN
Kathy Wojtkiowiak, LPN
Kathryn Burke, Ophthalmology Tech.
Sharon Olle
Heather Sylvia
Ryan Young
Jorge Benavides, RN
Andrew Brunk, Interpreter
Yameteth Lothe, Interpreter
Eduardo Monroy, Interpreter
Elisa Park, Interpreter
Caleb Payne, Interpreter
Bill Shaffer, RN, Interpreter
Raquel Tomasini, Interpreter

Office Staff:

Kathy Williams, Manager
Sue DeClute, Office Assistant

DocStar 2012 - See our Docs Rock!

Join us Saturday, April 21 at the Madison Marriott West for the Annual BSP Free Clinic Fund Raiser starring physicians from all over Madison!

Tickets will be available in January online at www.dean.org.

Sponsorships are available!

Contact Kenda Schwarz for more information at 608.827.2351 or kenda.schwarz@deancare.com



Who we are: The BSP Free Clinic is the only free specialty care clinic in WI. Our volunteer physicians are both in active practice and retired from Dean Clinic, St. Mary's Hospital, UW Health and Meriter Health System.

Our Mission: To provide quality specialty care to the uninsured in our community.