

The House of Amos

“Let Justice Surge Like Water.” Amos: 5: 24

National Association of Insurance Commissioners

% Mr. Lou Felice, Chair, Health Care Reform Solvency Impact Subgroup

Mr. Steven Ostlund, Chair, Accident & Health Working Group

2301 McGee Street Suite 800

Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2662

June 14, 2010

Dear Mr. Felice and Mr. Ostlund,

I am writing this letter regarding the calculation of Medical Loss Ratio Recommendations. Since 2004, the House of Amos and the Caring for Children Foundation of Texas have collaborated to provide immunization clinics and immunized several hundred southwest Houston area uninsured children utilizing one of the Foundation's CARE VANS. During this entire time, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, the statewide sponsor of the Foundation, has provided 100% of the Foundation's administrative expenses as an in-kind donation.

I am writing to urge the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to consider and to recommend to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) a definition of medical loss ratio (MLR) that will encourage health plans to continue their tremendous support of community-based public health initiatives and programs.

The membership of NAIC is state-based and so should understand well the important contributions that local organizations make to the overall health of communities and populations. I want to make sure that health insurers will continue their critical participation in these efforts. (Attached is the CARE VAN 2010 report for the Alief community of west Houston. Alief ISD has an enrollment of 45,000 students of which 80.4% qualify for the Federal Free/Reduced breakfast & lunch Program! Poverty in the Alief area is critical!)

It is my understanding that if the definitions around MLR are too narrow, health insurer will not be encouraged to support community-based health initiatives and

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Phone: (281) 495-9061

could, in fact, be penalized for such support if their contributions are counted as administrative expenses. Penalizing support of the House of Amos' CARE VAN program and similar community-based programs across the nation would not be wise public policy. The House of Amos' CARE VAN program is keeping children in school because their shots are up-to-date!

I strongly urge the NAIC to recommend to HHS that for the purpose of calculating, MLR, quality initiatives include health insurers' involvement and investments in public health initiatives.

Thank you for consideration on this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Beryl Hogshead, retired Director

Beryl Hogshead

House of Amos, Board of Directors

Cc: Harris Miller, Chair of the Aubrey & Sylvia Farb Community Service Fund
Dr. Franklin Olsen, Chair of The Metropolitan Organization
Rev. David Patermuehl, Minister of Grace United Church of Christ

CARE VAN 2010

Free immunizations for childhood preventable diseases are available for infant to 18 years.

- A parent/guardian must accompany the child
- Must bring the child's shot record
(An Alief school nurse's letter is accepted.)

(Generous gifts from Amerigroup, Spindletop International Charities, The Methodist Hospital for medical supplies, and from Jane Fieldcamp for the summer month costs of the Alief CARE VAN at the House of Amos are received in sincere gratitude.

Thanks, Spindletop, Jane, Amerigroup and The Methodist Hospital!)

Hours for immunizations: **4PM to 7 PM**

Where? **House of Amos 8030 Boone Road**

Marilyn Hulett, HOA coordinator

	Children seen / shots given
When? Wednesday, January 20	95 / 175
Wednesday, February 17	96 / 162
Wednesday, March 17	134 / 286
Wednesday, April 21	129 / 272
Wednesday, May 19	109 / 207
Wednesday, June 16 th	
Wednesday, July 21 st	
Wednesday, August 18	
Wednesday, September 15	
Wednesday, October 20	
Wednesday, November 17	

CARE VAN 2010

...2nd Alief CARE VAN site:

Free immunizations for childhood preventable diseases are available for infants to 18 years.

- A parent/guardian must accompany the child
- Must bring the child's shot record
(An Alief school nurse's letter is accepted.)

Where? **Grace United Church of Christ 8515 Brookwulf Drive**

Jane Eixmann, coordinator / Lee Brown, assistant

When? **4 PM to 7 PM**

children seen / shots given

Wednesday, February 3	61 / 83
Wednesday, March 3	74 / 125
Wednesday, April 7	32 / 75
Wednesday, May 5	31 / 66

(No CARE VAN at Grace UCC during the summer months.)

Wednesday, August 4
Wednesday, September 1
Wednesday, October 6
Wednesday, November 3

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CARE VAN 2010 in Alief ISD schools

Free immunizations for childhood preventable diseases are available for infant to 18 years.

- A parent/guardian must accompany the child
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(An Alief school nurse's letter is accepted.)

Children seen/ shots given

1-19-10	Alief Taylor High School	163 / 283
2-16-10	Alief Elsik High School	96 / 255
3-23-10	Alief Taylor High School	74 / 132
3-30-10	Alief Albright Middle School	53 / 165
4-1-10	Alief O'Donnell Middle School	49 / 133
4-20-10	Alief Hastings High School	231 / 593

The House of Amos
Service Trends YTD December 31st 2009

Food Pantry - Individuals Served and Food Bank Costs:

2009 – 6,189 Households served - 25,272 Individuals served = \$36,825
2008 – 3,655 Households served - 15,098 Individuals served = \$20,733
2007 – 3,989 Households served - 14,477 Individuals served = \$20,672
2006 – 2,733 Households served - 10,086 Individuals served = \$10,671

HFB Food Fair:

2009 - 2,306 Households served – 10,518 Individuals fed
2008 – 1,625 Households served – 7,320 Individuals fed
2007 – 1,480 Households served – 6,583 Individuals fed

ESL/Civics Students:

2009 – 177 students
2008 – 143 students
2007 - 75 students
2006 - 17 students

Care Van Vaccines:

2009 Children – 2,530 – vaccines 6,119
2008 Children – 2,363 – vaccines 5,723
2007 Children – 2,337 – vaccines 6,303
2006 Children – 1,764 – vaccines 3,902

Summer Weekday Lunch Program:

2009 - 1,993 box lunches served to children
2008 - 2,095 box lunches served to children
2007 - 1,616 box lunches served to children
2006 - 1,438 box lunches served to children

MDUMC – Saturday Soup Mobile:

2009 - 5,000 sack lunches served to children
2008 – 5,000 sack lunches served to children
2007 – 2,550 sack lunches served to children
2006 – 2,500 sack lunches served to children

Children's Holiday party with Santa:

2009- Total gifts needed 491 – number of children receiving gifts- 413
2008 – Total gifts needed 437 - number of children receiving gifts - 437
2007 – Total gifts needed 508 - number of children receiving gifts - 449
2006 – Total gifts needed 465 - number of children receiving gifts - 449
2005 – Total gifts needed 496 - number of children receiving gifts – 390

2009 – 685 Volunteers gave...6,509 hours of service

2008 - 569 Volunteers gave...5,813 hours of service