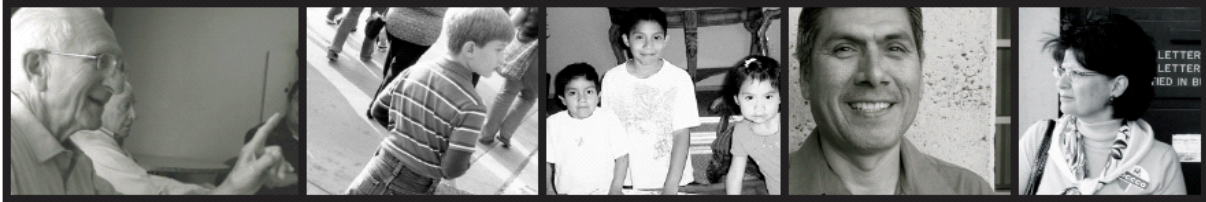


HEALTHCARE PRAYER VIGIL



County: Protect community clinics & health centers

The 19 community clinics across Orange County are seeing increases as high as 50% in uninsured patients due to the collapse of the financial and real estate sectors. Because the county does not have a publicly-owned hospital, these 19 clinics make up the local healthcare safety net.

On July 1st, California eliminated Medical coverage for adult dental, vision and mental health services for over 9,160 Orange County residents (or approximately 24,000 patient visits), leading to the lay-off of providers and reductions in services.

On July 28th, California eliminated Traditional Clinic Programs in Orange County and severely cutting Expanded Access for Primary Care by 65%, which will send over 59,000 Orange County residents to be without health coverage and lead to the lay-off of providers, longer wait lists and reductions in services.

On July 28th, California severely cut the Healthy Families Program by 60%, which will send over 30,000 Orange County children to be without health coverage and lead to the lay-off of providers, longer wait lists and reductions in services.

Contrary to popular belief Federal Stimulus funding is not available to backfill cuts to community clinic funding made by the state. In the face of the biggest budgetary crisis we have ever faced, Orange County's community clinics and health centers are all that stand in the way of millions of dollars worth of preventable spending on costly emergency room visits.

The Governor needs to reverse the irresponsible, catastrophic, and illegal cuts he has made, and find a balanced solution that he earlier promised.