

OFF AND RUNNING!

We're well on our way into 2024 as St. Mary's Health Clinics move forward. The staff are settling in after the activities and breaks over the holidays and settling into their routines. We are off to a busy start with many irons in the fire that we want to be sure you're aware of. Please note some of the following updates.

New Employees

- Victoria Yang is our new office coordinator who began her role in November. Her responsibilities focus on office and administrative support, fulfilling many of the tasks previously done by Chris Hanson who retired December 1. Victoria is in the office Monday through Thursdays, and occasional Fridays. The office number is 651-287-7701 and her email is vyang@stmarysclinics.org.
- Mary Doyle also started as our Volunteer Coordinator in November and Mary is in the office Monday mornings, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. She is available by cell phone also and can be reached at 651-373-2370 or by email at mdoyle@stmarysclinics.org. You are likely to see Mary as she visits the clinics and gets acquainted with our volunteers and clinic teams.
- Molly Ortega, one of our on-call RN's, will be working more hours to help with our patients at St. Matt's, as Carol dedicates more time developing our St. Kate's clinic and working to implement the electronic record for all clinic sites. Thus far the electronic record is used exclusively at our St. Kate's clinic and is a highly successful addition. We will be hearing more planning details from Carol as we move forward to implement this at all the clinics.

Covid Vaccine

- We continue to hold Covid and flu vaccine clinics on Mondays from 9 am-1 pm and Wednesdays from 2-6 pm at the Mexican Consulate. There is no charge for the vaccines and with the recent uptick in Covid cases, please get the latest vaccine if you've not already done so. The Mexican Consulate is located at **797 East 7th Street in St. Paul**, with parking behind the building. You'll see some of our all-star community health workers there also, an added bonus!

FIT Tests

- You're likely to see Macy or Maggie from St. Mary's staff at the clinics as we implement a pilot project in screening for colon cancer with for women. This is a grant funded initiative that supports cancer screening using a home FIT test for eligible women. The test is taken at home (much like a Covid home test) and results are reported to staff for further follow up and tracking. The community health workers support this effort as well and guidelines and information about this pilot project are available at the clinic sites, or you can visit with a staff member. We hope to include 200+ women in this pilot, funded by the National Association of Free Clinics through June 2024.

Substance Use Screens

- We anticipated rolling out this annual screening for patients early in 2024, though after our pilot work at St. Matt's, we are going to do a bit more 'behind the scenes' work and will roll this out to all the clinics during the second quarter of 2024. The pilot project provided valuable information

after screening sixty patients at the St. Matt's clinic site. More information and results from the pilot will be coming soon.

Volunteer Needs

- We continue to welcome new interpreter volunteers, so if you know of talented persons who have a few hours to support SMHC patients, please send them our way to learn more. In addition, our volunteer roster could use additional RN's as well, especially at our Apple Valley site. Your recruiting efforts are most welcome. Please contact Mary Doyle to learn more.

Board of Directors

- The SMHC Board of Directors is meeting later this month for a planning retreat. As the CSJ Province looks at restructuring, the Board will be exploring structure and planning needs over the next 3-5 years. The year starts off as a busy one for our board, led by Dr. Monte Johnson, the Vice President of Medical Affairs at St. Francis Medical Center in Shakopee. Special thanks to Steve Lokensgard and to Sr. Margaret Belanger for completing many years of Board service!

Did you Know?

- During 2023, our outreach services hosted 158 community events for vaccine clinics and health screenings in the Twin Cities?
- The most frequent specialty referrals for patients are made to Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Gynecology and Radiology?
- That within our employed staff of thirty, that twenty-one are bilingual, speaking Spanish and English?
- Amidst our talented staff members, we can boast a seamstress, artists, teacher, students, world traveler, missionary, interpreter, gardeners, and more? Talent abounds!