

## **2008 Award Recipients**

### **2008 Marion Zetzman**

#### **Ciro V. Sumaya, MD, MPHTM**

Ciro V. Sumaya, MD, MPHTM, a native of Brownsville, TX is the founding Dean of the School of Rural Public Health, the first in the nation and the holder of the John and Maureen Cox Endowed Chair in Medicine at Texas A&M Health Science Center in College Station. Since 1998 the SRPH has experienced growth in student enrollment, degree programs, faculty members, research grants and contracts. David Pearson, president and CEO of TORCH states, "In our estimation, Dr. Sumaya has helped grow both the prominence and credibility of the SRPH, and in doing so has significantly improved the health of rural Texans."

Previous to the School of Rural Public Health, Dr. Sumaya was a Presidential appointee at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration, a federal focal point for innovation in health care delivery and health professions education; subsequently Dr. Sumaya served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health – spearheading the federal initiative on the future of academic health centers.

Before federal service, Dr. Sumaya was Associate Medical Dean at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. As Associate Dean Dr. Sumaya established the South Texas Health Research Center, Area Health Education Center of South Texas and a Medical Treatment Effectiveness Research Center. He serves a Board Chairman for the National Hispanic Medical Association.

Currently, Dr. Sumaya is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the School of Rural Public Health, Texas A&M Health Science Center in College Station.

### **Communities that Care**

#### **Jack County Health Coalition**

The Jack County Health Coalition was formed to address and promote the health of citizens, and to enhance the quality of life; the Coalition includes concerned citizens, local officials, health care professionals and representatives from schools, faith-based organizations and social services.

Efforts include:

**Health education regarding substance abuse** especially methamphetamine: The Coalition participated in training and subsequently educated retailers about the manufacture and use of methamphetamine.

**Health Careers Job Fair** for the students attending the three county high schools with participating organizations Big Country AHEC, State Health Department, Knox County Hospitals, local nursing homes and pharmacies.

A **Parenting Fair** to encourage healthy family relationships and growth including a drunk driving simulation to area high school students.

**Youth Engagement Days** with workshops for high school students focusing on career exploration and navigating higher education.

**Health Matters Summer Camp** in which students toured health sciences programs at colleges and universities in Abilene, including respiratory therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, social work, nursing programs and pre-health professions program.

Coordinating **certified nurses aide and emergency medical technician trainings** for residents interested in these entry level health professions.

The **removal of 35 environmental hazard locations** thus making these respective areas cleaner and safer for all citizens.

Through the Big Country AHEC – Kevin Finley, MD, family medicine has provided **preceptorships for 7 medical students** with the purpose of exposing these students to the joys and unique challenges of rural practice.

Facilitating **trauma nursing, continuing education and professional development** for local nurses.

### **The HOPE Project**

In 2003 Shelby County had a population of 26,000 in far East Texas with a per capita personal annual income of \$22,948 (which compares to \$30,664 Texas average); the county did not have a hospital district or an indigent healthcare program. That was the state of county healthcare until family nurse practitioner Jean Diebolt and best friend Melba Gillis stepped in and opened The HOPE Project, a clinic for persons with no health insurance. In its infancy the Project was a three-room clinic in the heart of Center, TX. This site was quickly outgrown and moved to Tenaha's clinic.

Like most start ups the HOPE Project had serious money constraints but this started to turn in a positive direction when St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities awarded \$50,000 (and have funded this amount each subsequent year). As Diebolt and Gillis managed the clinic and delivered healthcare services M-F, they

wrote grant proposals over the weekend which brought in additional monies to clinic operations. At the conclusion of the first year 1,000 community members utilized the clinic. The third year the Project managed a \$310,914 budget and served 3,374 patients with 5,019 visits.

#### *The future looks brighter*

Architectural plans have been drawn for a dental clinic which will be staffed by students from the University of Texas Dental Branch, Houston and an optometry clinic also staffed by students. The Holley family from Tenaha has donated 4 acres of land for this new health center. With the financial support of St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities, the County Commissioners Court awarded the HOPE Project \$1,000 each month – indefinitely.

Four years since humble beginnings the HOPE Project has eight employees and two healthcare providers with an additional nurse practitioner and support staff slated to join the clinic. In addition to vision and dental services the clinic offers prenatal care, mental health services, patient assistance with prescriptions and health education. For long term sustainability the clinic's Board has directed staff to pursue federally qualified health center designation to strengthen and stabilize funding for current and future services.

#### **Good Healthcare = Healthy Business** **Giddings Economic Development Corporation**

Founded in 1998 the Giddings Economic Development Corporation has been a driving force of the quality healthcare that Lee County residents receive today. The Corporation's mission is to facilitate, lead and promote organized economic growth to improve the quality of life and to protect and create jobs through innovative and conventional community programs.

#### *Grow your own health workforce*

GEDC is very involved in identifying resources and subsequent programs that improve health and safety in their community. Along with providing matching grant funds for medical purposes and purchasing equipment for clinics and first responders, Giddings Economic Development Corporation has taken an important step to enhance the workforce by facilitating the Giddings Area Workforce Development and Education Council.

The Healthcare Steering Committee of Lee County initiated a *Grow Your Own Health Workforce* concept in local schools; partnerships have been formed with the Capital Area Health Education Center, the Licensed Vocational Nurses Association, the Texas Nurses Association, the local Chamber of Commerce and agencies to promote health care careers to local students. Examples of these partnerships include:

- A week-long **health professions camp** for middle school students to observe and experience a variety of health professions.
- Third grade interactive **classroom presentations** introducing health professions; these modules continue throughout the grade levels.
- **Health education classroom presentations** to all seventh graders focusing on skin protection in the out-of-doors.
- Initiating a **health science technology program** at the local high school.

The Giddings Economic Development Corporation's Healthcare Steering Committee has taken the attitude of good healthcare = healthy business, and the results are a thriving, growing and sustainable rural community that also enjoys the cutting edge of healthcare now and for the years to come.

### **Seton Care-A-Van**

Burnet and Llano Counties reflect statewide figures for accessing rural healthcare. In these counties poverty is one of the biggest barriers to receiving healthcare. Uninsured families cannot afford preventative healthcare, often seeking treatment in the emergency room when illnesses reach crisis. Access to local physicians who accept Medicaid and CHIP is already slim in these medically underserved counties, and those who treat uninsured are non-existent.

Seton's Pediatric Rural Mobile Health Program provides a medical home for more than 3,000 low-income children each year in Burnet and Llano Counties. The Care-A-Van provides well-child exams, immunizations, minor acute care, prescription medications, health education, referrals for other needs, and assistance enrolling in government aid programs such as Medicaid and CHIP. The van is staffed by a pediatric nurse practitioner, a bilingual registered nurse and a person who serves as driver/admissions coordinator and medical records assistant.

For the 06-07 school year (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007) the van:

- Served 3,991 clients
- Administrated 2,098 immunizations
- Enrolled 1,462 clients in financial assistance programs
- Participated in 18 community outreach events
- Held 21 asthma clinics
- Began nutrition education classes - 4 during the 06-07 school year.

The van is funded through philanthropic donations. An annual golf classic each August plus donations from churches and individuals support most operating costs of this program. Seton Highland Lakes underwrites the gap between donations and negative net revenue.

## **The Partnership of Lillian Hudspeth Memorial Hospital and Sonora Independent School District**

Sonora is located on I-10 in the central-southwestern part of the state; the area's principle industries include livestock, agribusiness, hunting, outdoor recreation, and the oil and gas industry.

Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital in Sonora, TX is a critical access hospital licensed for twelve beds to serve Sutton County. Their website states that they are proud to be a regional leader in technology. The hospital offers a high nurse-to-patient ratio providing quality care for all patients with a small town atmosphere. The hospital provides general medical care for inpatient, outpatient, and emergency room patients, and participates in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Services include cardiac rehabilitation, imaging, laboratory, physical therapy, pulmonary rehabilitation and 24/7 emergency room services.

Sonora Independent School District is a public school district based in Sonora, TX. The district's boundaries parallel that of Sutton County and includes three campuses - Sonora High (Grades 9-12), Sonora Middle (Grades 5-8), and Sonora Elementary (Grades PK-4).

Sonora ISD and Lillian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital have formed a successful partnership focusing on community wellness. Activities include:

- **Wellness Warrior Fitness Camp** in which campers 5-12 years old participate in physical activities while learning about nutrition.
- **High school students earning their CNA** while simultaneously becoming certified in CPR and first aid; these students also work with senior citizens.
- **Senora Cares** – a program to assist patients with no health insurance.
- Other activities include **Shape-up Sonora Weight Loss Program, Spring Safety Fair, Water and Sun Safety Fair, Bicycle Rodeo** and a **smoking cessation program**.