



**Children's Health Fund**

# National Programs

26 programs in 16 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico



## SOUTHERN ARIZONA Children's Health Project

## PROGRAM FACTS

The Southern Arizona Children's Health Project (SACHP) provides an enhanced medical and dental home to the underserved children and families of the rural US/Mexico borderlands of Cochise County, Arizona (an area equivalent to the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island together). Many children with special health care needs are served in the project, whose diagnoses include cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism spectrum disorder, genetic syndromes, seizure disorders, traumatic injuries and speech/developmental disorders. The region experiences a myriad of challenges, including poverty, access to pediatric specialty care, absence of public transportation, early school failure, teen pregnancy, a high percentage of fractured families, and severely strained educational and other public resources.

Services are provided through the infrastructure of Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CCHCI) community health center model, which includes fixed clinical sites, mobile medical/dental services, community outreach and innovative prevention programs. The methodology of the Pediatric Medical Home provides the backbone of all services.



### Serving Communities in Need

The children in families seen at the SACHP live in very rural areas with little access to health care services. Many of them are undocumented and are hesitant to seek treatment due to their residency status. The SACHP provides a safe, welcoming space for children and families to receive the essential health care services they would otherwise forego. Patients are 43% Hispanic, 41% white, 3% Black, and 13% other or unknown race/ethnicity.

### Available Services

- Well-child care, including comprehensive primary care, mental/behavioral health, and dental care
- Robust care coordination for children with special health care needs
- Space for ancillary pediatric services, such as physical and speech therapy
- Quality fixed site facilities for visiting pediatric specialist
- Community outreach and meeting spaces
- Supportive environment for prevention program development, research and advocacy
- Rigorous environment for medical education and mentorship

### Program Sites

Fixed sites are located in the rural communities of Douglas, Bisbee, Elfrida and Sierra Vista. Mobile and outreach services span all of Cochise County, including the Willcox area (3 days/week).

A state-of-the-art facility popularly called the "15th Street Pediatric Center of Excellence (PCE)"--renovated from a historic school building--opened in June, 2011. The PCE acts as the home base for all pediatric services. In 2018, the Early Childhood Center of Excellence opened to serve children ages 0-11 and specializes in serving pediatric patients with special health care needs.

### Home Institution/Affiliation:

Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.

### Year Established:

2008

### Electronic Health Records Implemented:

2007

### STAFF

#### Medical Director:

Darlene-Melk, MD, FAAP

#### Community Pediatricians

Jonathan Melk, MD  
Mila Rosen, MD  
Peter Rice, MD  
Dayaljbhai Patel, MD  
Zachary Patterson, MD  
Eduardo Marrero, MD  
Claudia Pleitez, MD  
Mai El Gasim, MD  
Stella Raposas, MD  
Jeffrey Holzberg, MD  
Nori Rufo, MD  
Rita Kilgore, MD  
Daniel Driscoll, MD  
Joselita Abeleda, MD  
Steven Dalhke, MD

#### Nurse Practitioners:

Dia Madden, FNP-C  
Tammy Posey, PNP-BC  
Jane Williamson-Davenport, FNP-C  
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#### Clinical Care Coordinators:

Margaret Harnett  
Mabel Byrd

#### Chief Executive Officer, Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.:

Jonathan Melk, MD, FAAP

#### Chief Administrative Officer, SACHP Program Administrator:

Jessica King, MBA

#### Director of Children's Programs, SACHP Program Administrator:

Heidi Dove