

Universal Healthcare Is Not Here Yet, Or is it?

PITTSBURGH PA: “I don’t know what I would have done if you hadn’t seen me...” mused one Balanced Heart™ Healing Center client struggling with the stress of caring for her grandchildren and her own health challenges. Her “Adult Basic” insurance has no mental health benefits, and she couldn’t afford to pay out-of-pocket. In Western Pennsylvania alone, the “Adult Basic” health insurance program for uninsured Pennsylvanians has a two to three year waiting list for admission. Currently, for every person in the program, more than 6 people are on the waiting list.

Balanced Heart™ Healing Center, an emerging 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Warrendale, PA (near Cranberry Twp.), is demonstrating that a sustainable healthcare solution for all people is indeed possible, helping to fill this growing gap in coverage. “Our work is our love made visible” states psychologist and Balanced Heart™ Healing Center Founder, “Dr. Katie” McCorkle, Ph.D. “At Balanced Heart™ Healing Center, we are committed to serving equally all who want to take responsibility for improving their health and well-being, regardless of their insurance status, ability to pay, or current health status. Pittsburgh is known for the excellence of its healthcare, and we want it also to be known for its commitment to caring for ALL of its citizens. We believe that with sufficient organizational and technological resources to connect open-hearted healers and people with unmet needs, all people can have access to the healthcare they need right now,” says Dr. McCorkle, Balanced Heart™ CEO.

Studies show that between 70-90% of all visits to primary care physicians are for stress-related symptoms. In this ailing economy, as people are losing their jobs and health insurance, and many feel insecure about how health care reform will affect them, Pittsburghers are looking for new ways to support their health.

Balanced Heart™ Healing Center is a unique, multi-faceted, integrative healing community providing access for the insured and uninsured alike to a range of traditional and complementary/alternative healthcare providers collaborating through the Balanced Heart™ network. “We emphasize wellness, illness prevention, personal responsibility, and a holistic (mind, body, spirit) approach to creating health and well-being, as we build a healthy and sustainable community.

Currently, Balanced Heart™ Healing Center is functioning as a “virtual clinic” providing services in the offices of their Healing-Donors and Healing-Partners while they raise funds for a shared clinic facility. Dr. McCorkle hopes that the Pittsburgh community will vote with their wallets for this kind of public/private, for-profit/non-profit collaboration in healthcare delivery. “We value all donations as an expression of your loving support and desire for this service to be available more widely” says Dr. McCorkle. “Thank you! This could be the boost we need to launch our clinic, and expand our services throughout the Pittsburgh region and beyond.”