



Cowlitz County Health Department

County Health Department
1952 9th Avenue
Longview, WA 98632-4045
TEL (360) 414-5599
FAX (360)425-7531
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health

News Release

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Contacts:

Press Inquiries:
Jerusha Kasch
Public Information Officer, LERC
(360) 501-1219

Health Department Change in Service Focus

Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Department will be focusing limited funds on non-insured and under-insured individuals and work to provide resources and information for those individuals who have health care insurance.

At a time when government budgets are being cut and then cut again, the “Health and Human Services Department has had to examine its programs and seek to provide services that offer the greatest good for the largest need” states Carlos Carreon, Director.

Research has shown that the non-insured/underinsured population is considered a high risk population group because they are less likely to receive prompt care due to lack of money to pay for services. As a result, diseases and illness can spread among the community at a higher rate than individuals who are insured and have ready access to care.

While the Health Department will be focusing prevention efforts on the non-insured/under insured high risk groups, there will be an ongoing emphasis on community partnerships to strengthen disease prevention programs county-wide and to direct individuals in need to available resources. The Health Department has an access to care specialist who works diligently with members to attempt to meet their health care needs.

Carlos Carreon adds that “This concentrated focus will provide empowerment to community partnerships to provide access to services for those who need it the most as well as providing assistance and direction as needed”.

For more information about services provided and access to care, please contact the Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Department at (360) 414-5599 or visit our website at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health .

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