Small business owners from throughout southwest Michigan came to Borgess Medical Center on July 28 to discuss details of reforms included in the Affordable Health Care Act. The half-day session was led by Ascension Health administrators who were instrumental in shaping the new legislation in Washington, D.C. Borgess was the first stop of many such meetings scheduled to take place in the coming months at Ascension Health facilities throughout the United States.

“Ninety percent of America’s six million businesses have fewer than 50 employees and health insurance will have a dramatic affect on small employers,” said Susan Nestor Levy, Chief Advocacy Officer, Ascension Health, and Executive Director of Ascension Health’s international ministry, Seton Institute. “Because small businesses are such an important group, we want to inform, seek their candid feedback and possibly engage them in the health reform process.

**Health providers should communicate**

“Most people currently get their health reform information from the media,” Nestor said. “However, we feel institutions that offer care are the experts on this subject and they should play a role in communicating messages about one of the most important health care acts in history. The many details of the reform legislation are not easy to communicate in short sound bites, which means many Americans may be missing key pieces of information.”

Participants did learn and react at the meeting.

“I had not heard that small businesses and nonprofit organizations are

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now eligible for new tax credits to help insure their employees,” said Tom Carlson, Hannapel Home Center, Inc., and a member of the Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital Foundation. “It was a valuable event.”

“Small businesses are often the least able to afford health insurance,” said Beth Fuchs, PhD, Health Policy Alternatives, Inc. “Fifty percent of the 46.3 million Americans who do not have health insurance coverage are employed by small businesses.

“The Affordable Health Care Act helps to even the field between small employers and large employers,” Beth said. “Tax incentives to small employers who offer health insurance to their employees are just one example.

“In 2014, states will establish ‘Exchanges,’ which are basically shopping markets and insurance clearinghouses from which small businesses and individuals can buy private health insurance,” Fuchs said. “States may elect to operate an Exchange dedicated to small businesses called a SHOP exchange. They may also elect to operate a separate Exchange for individuals, or they can combine the two.”

Every 34 seconds, an uninsured patient is treated within an Ascension Health hospital or health facility, according to Paul Spaude, President and CEO, Borgess Health.

“As part of our commitment to 100 percent access to healthcare and 100 percent coverage, Borgess Health and Ascension Health are working together in efforts like this recent meeting to share information and also listen to health care consumers.”

Paul Spaude
President & CEO
Borgess Health

“A key web site for small employers is healthcare.gov/foryou/small/index.html.

Dr. Bruce Dall and Borgess Brain & Spine Institute receive more national recognition

Patients from around the U.S. come for the specialized back treatment offered by Bruce Dall, MD, an orthopedic spinal surgeon with Neurosurgery of Kalamazoo, and the Borgess Brain & Spine Institute. Dr. Dall was recently recognized as one of the 10 spine surgeons performing minimally invasive sacroiliac joint surgery in a national news release from Becker’s Orthopedic & Spine. Throughout his career, Dr. Dall has been interested in intervention for lower back pain and sacroiliac procedures. He recently published an article in The Journal of Spinal Disorders about the less-invasive procedure he performs. Dr. Dall inserts small cages combined with bone fusion material into the sacroiliac joint through a mini-incision. This serves to stabilize the joint and create a solid fusion with healing.
Borgess Bone & Joint Institute begins program to enhance care for osteoporosis-related fragility fractures

The Borgess Bone & Joint Institute has implemented the American Orthopaedic Association’s Own the Bone™ Program. The program is aimed to better identify, evaluate, and treat patients who suffer from an osteoporosis or low bone density-related fragility fracture (a broken bone that results from a fall from standing height or less). The program brings focus to the severe health implications of fragility fractures and the multi-faceted approach hospitals or clinics can employ to ensure these patients receive the most comprehensive care.

Statistics surrounding this health issue are alarming. According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF), up to 50 percent of all women and 25 percent of men over the age of 50 years will sustain fragility fractures in their remaining lifetime. The American Bone Health Prevalence Report states that more people in the United States suffer a fragility fracture every year than are diagnosed with a heart attack, stroke or breast cancer combined. This number is projected to significantly increase as the population ages. Studies show that patients who have had a fragility fracture are two to four times more likely to experience another fracture than those who have never had a fracture. That is, once a patient experiences a fracture, they are very likely to get another one.

According to the National Committee for Quality Assurance, only one in five Medicare patients has received the osteoporosis care needed after a fracture. Benchmarking our institution against other institutions, the Own the Bone Program is a national Web-based quality improvement registry that incorporates 10 measures for reducing future fractures and provides immediate feedback on program performance to evaluate the Borgess Bone & Joint Institute’s continued success. With Own the Bone, The Borgess Bone & Joint Institute reduces this huge treatment gap, and ensures that our patients with fragility fractures are screened and appropriately treated for low bone density or osteoporosis.

“By following recommendations on patient education, testing and treatment of osteoporosis, and entering information into the Web-based data registry, health care providers can begin to see how their actions are positively affecting patient care,” said Mary Vajgrt, MD, Primary Care Sports Medicine Specialist with the Borgess Bone & Joint Institute. “The program is able to produce internal and external benchmarking results that reflect how Borgess Bone & Joint Institute patients with fragility fractures are being positively affected by Own the Bone.”

The 20th-annual Borgess Golf for Health in July surpassed its goal by raising nearly $31,000 to help fund acquisition of new equipment and technology for Borgess Medical Center’s surgical services department.

“We sincerely appreciate the generosity of sponsors, special contributors, golfers, and everyone at Borgess and within the community who supported our efforts,” said Tony McDonnell, Executive Director, Borgess Foundation.”


Dr. Gupta speaks on heat & heart

Vishal Gupta, MD, Borgess Cardiology Group, recently appeared on “Doc Talk,” a weekly news feature that appears on WWMT. Dr. Gupta explained how to take heart-health precautions during hot and humid weather. Heat has been a topic of repeated media interest during this year’s unseasonably warm summer months. Borgess physicians are regular guests on Doc Talk. To view Dr. Gupta’s comments, please visit heart.borgess.com.
The Borgess Mixed Bowling League begins at 4 pm, Thursday, September 8 at Eastland Lanes. The league is composed of three-person teams and team members do not need to be Borgess employees. Individuals and teams are urged to contact Judd Doolittle at 226.7353 or judddoolittle@borgess.com.


Clinical staff members are needed at a limited heart screening for area high school student athletes Saturday, September 10, Suite 124 of the North Professional Building, Borgess Medical Center. Assistance is needed from 7:30 am to noon with: registration, ECHO, EKG and blood pressure monitoring. For addition information, contact Cyndi Kochevar, Borgess Heart Attack & Stroke Prevention Program, at 226.4808 or cyndikochevar@borgess.com.

Borgess Family Medicine–Plainwell and ProMed Pediatrics–Portage and Richland are among the top 25 Michigan healthcare provider groups for their outstanding quality and service, based on Health Plan of Michigan’s 2010 Quality Incentive Plan. Health Plan is Michigan’s largest Medicaid HMO, providing health care services to over 285,000 Medicaid enrollees through a contract with the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Yahya Bakdalieh, MD, a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation, has joined Borgess Spine, part of the Borgess Brain & Spine Institute. Dr. Bakdalieh provides intensive, non-surgical treatments for conditions of the back and neck. For more information, call 552.2225.

A number of Borgess physicians have been recognized by Humana’s new provider quality rewards program. They are among 2,800 physician practices honored for improving quality in nine National Committee for Quality Assurance preventive and chronic-condition management areas.

Please keep any valuables within your vehicle—including GPS units—out of sight. Car thieves target ‘easy victims’ when stealing from cars, it’s the the ultimate crime of opportunity. Reducing that opportunity means placing valuables out of sight. Also, Borgess Medical Center associates are asked to report any suspicious activity on the BMC campus to the the Security Operation Center, 226.8361.

Borgess Trauma Services and the Community Health Center of Branch County are joining together to promote safety by providing helmets to those participating in a bike safety program during the 2011 Coldwater Community Fest, Family Health and Safety Fair on August 20. The helmets are provided through an outreach grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration (#DO4RH12760) that focuses on rural community health education.

Terri Hamood, RN, BSN, has accepted the position of Department Director for the Emergency & Trauma Center. Hamood has many years of ED Staff RN and Nursing Management experience, and is passionate about emergency nursing. She is currently the Director for CSS/CVL at Borgess. Terri will transition into her new role in the ETC on September 6, 2011. Please welcome Terri to her new role.

Upcoming Seasons Gift Shop sales:
- A Leather Sale will be held from noon–5 pm, August 31 and 7 am–4 pm, September 1 in classrooms 123 and 124.
- A Book Sale will be held from 9 am to 5 pm, September 21 and 7 am to 2 pm, September 22 in classrooms 123 and 124.
- A Shoe Sale will be held from 7 am to 7 pm, October 17 and 7 am to 4 pm, October 18 in classrooms 123 and 124.

For more information on these sales or other Seasons Gift Shop activities, please call 226.7380. Proceeds help purchase medical equipment and support Borgess Health programs.

Community members in need are receiving tomatoes from the Borgess Medical Center Courtyard Garden. Squash will also be distributed in the future. Borgess Mission Integration thanks everyone who is helping with this effort.

Borgess Visiting Nurse & Hospice continues to provide excellent rehabilitation and skilled nursing care in the home, along with Medicare/Medicaid certified home health aid services, but will no longer provide private-pay home health aide care. For more information, please call (269) 343-1396 or visit homehealth.borgess.com.

A farewell reception for Shahin Motakef, EVP & COO, Borgess Health, will be held on Thursday, August 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in room 191, 1-Center. Shahin will be leaving Borgess to begin serving as Chief Executive Officer of Scott and White Memorial Hospital, and Chief Operating Officer of Scott and White Central Region Clinics in Temple, Texas. All Borgess associates are welcome to attend the open-house reception.

Seasons Gift Shop opens at 6:30 am, the fourth Wednesday of each month. This early time is designed to be more convenient for night-shift associates. Normal hours are 9 am-7:30 pm, Monday through Friday, 11 am-3 pm, Saturday, and noon-4 pm, Sunday.

A bus trip to the Sunday, December 11 Detroit Lions vs. Minnesota Vikings football game is offered by the Borgess Recreation Committee. The cost is $100 per person and includes all you can eat. For more information, contact Judd Doolittle, 226.7353 or judddoolittle@borgess.com.

Visit teamwork.borgess.com for feature stories and current/past issues of Teamwork.