

I am Mike Schneider and a member of the Board of Directors of the Access to Care program. I am here to thank you for your support of the Access to Care program.

Access to Care is an efficient program that gives value for the County's money. Ninety-two cents of every dollar goes to direct program services. Access to Care has a staff of eleven people, but manages a network of nearly 600 private physicians and 27 private lab and radiology and pharmacy vendors. It is an incredibly efficient system whereby increased dollars go to add more people to the Access to Care program rather than to pay for any infrastructure.

Access to Care patients contribute toward their health care expenses. They pay their physicians \$5 for an office visits and \$5 for a specimen collection for lab tests, they pay the hospitals \$5 for a routine x-ray, and they pay the pharmacy \$15, \$30, or \$40 for medication. In 2016 it costs \$786 for one person to have a whole year of health care services including prescription drugs. This is a very cost-effective method of caring for the uninsured working poor.

The Access to Care patients are linked to private physicians, diagnostic services, and pharmacies in their own neighborhoods. They don't need to travel long distances with poor public transportation services to get to the doctor, to get an x-ray, or to go to Walgreens to fill a prescription. They can schedule their visits to these providers around their work, so that they do not lose work time. Their employers, who are mostly small businesses, do not lose their productivity. This is a savings to the mom and pop businesses who will suffer if their employees have to take days off work to go to the public system for care, to wait in long lines, or make the choice not to go and to work sick.

Public dollars from the county, the state, and from townships and municipalities leverage an estimated \$5,000,000 in in-kind donations from the private sector. What other program can you think of that is largely publicly funded but operates completely in the private sector? Access to Care represents the best kind of public-private partnership, where public dollars go farther because they are used by a charity that can get discounts that a public facility cannot.

Thank you again for supporting Access to Care and for the opportunity to speak here today.