Moving at the Speed of Need
When I joined Minnesota Community Care, I led with a message about the spirit of our mission, a spirit that is carried by each of us, a spirit that keeps us resilient, compassionate, and committed to our promise of health for all; the mission. In 2022, we reaffirmed our values of championing equity, uplifting people, and putting the patient first at the core of all our services. This year was a defining moment that was met with our definitive resolve to disrupt health care inequities in every facet of primary care.

We pride ourselves on moving at both the speed of need and opportunity. We expanded rapidly in 2022 to ensure we continued to live our mission – addressing the health needs of the traditionally underserved. When presented with opportunities and requests, we chose to say yes. We said yes to partnering with Fairview on a new approach to community-based health. We said yes to opening a Gender Care Clinic to provide mental and physical healthcare in a safe and inclusive environment. We said yes to continuing to expand our impact outside of the core of the Twin Cities metro, providing care to individuals from across the state. How could we have said no?

The way we pivoted and sped to meet our community’s needs throughout 2022 reminded us of another small but mighty being – a hummingbird. Not only are these tiny creatures fast, nimble, and adaptable, they are also considered a harbinger of joy in many indigenous cultures, as well as a symbol of intelligence, beauty, devotion, and love – traits our providers and employees display every day.

We’re proud to continue to use our talents and resources to create positive change in the health of our community.

Together, we are Minnesota Community Care.

Reuben Moore
President and Executive Officer
36,480 Total Patients

Race / Ethnicity of Patients Served

- Hispanic / Latino: 54%
- White: 11%
- Black / African American: 14%
- Asian: 14%
- Other: 7%

Insurance Status of Patients Served

- Public Insurance (Medicare / Medicaid): 49% (18,020)
- Private Insurance: 12% (4,205)
- Uninsured: 39% (14,255)

Additional Statistics

- Healthcare for the Homeless Patients: 2,529
- School-Based Health Patients: 3,198
- Veterans Served: 255
- Babies Delivered: 625
- Clinic Visits: 117,572
- Virtual Visits: 9,854
- Patient Interactions: 127,426
PATIENTS AT OR BELOW 100% OF THE POVERTY LINE
46% | 16,863

PATIENTS BEST SERVED IN THE LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH
59% | 21,561

PATIENT AGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>9,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 — 65</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>24,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 65</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2,580</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SERVICES RECEIVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Patients/Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>1,531 patients for 1,577 visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>5,919 patients for 16,446 visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use Disorder</td>
<td>1,954 patients for 3,122 visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Visits</td>
<td>31,515 patients for 82,499 visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Health</td>
<td>2,205 patients for 9,074 visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8,502 visits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hummingbirds are adaptable, thriving in a variety of environments from deserts to rainforest, and even at the top of mountain ranges like the Andes.
In a survey taken in early 2022, more than half of St. Paul residents expressed that existing healthcare services in the downtown area did not meet the needs of the community. The situation was even worse for individuals with a low-income, communities of color, and recent immigrants. 57 percent of respondents who identified as non-European said they face a barrier to staying healthy, even when they aren’t actively managing a medical event.

At Minnesota Community Care, we believe that every person deserves accessible, affordable healthcare. That’s why we knew we needed to step in to support the health needs of our community. We jumped at the opportunity to partner with M Health Fairview, opening our newest clinic within the Health and Wellness Hub in downtown St. Paul.

The site contains almost 10,000 sq. ft. of no- to low-cost primary care, other supportive health and wellness services, and education. It aligns with a commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the community. Our portion of the Hub facilitates our ability to expand services to individuals with reduced access to care. Services include wellness exams, preventative medicine, and access to the full array of offerings including family medicine, pediatrics, midwifery, and chiropractic care. However, the best part about the Hub is that it will elevate the way the medical community approaches healthcare by putting the patient first, being proactive, and looking at healthcare for a holistic standpoint.

We’re excited to see the broader medical community embracing an ideal we’ve been extolling for more than 50 years – health care is more than just treating someone when they’re sick. Food is medicine. Housing is medicine. Education is medicine. Access to transportation is medicine. All these factors play a role in a person’s future health outcomes, their life expectancy, and their quality of life. If we want to truly support our patients, we need to focus on keeping people healthy and breaking down barriers to care.

Which brings us back to the Hub. Led by Fairview, the Hub brings together community partners to offer a one stop shop for healthcare that supports a person’s total health and wellbeing. Fairview and Minnesota Community Care share a commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve by tackling health disparities and addressing the many barriers to health equity present in our community. We’re honored to participate in the future of healthcare.
Minnesota Community Care opened its first clinical location outside of the Twin Cities metro core at the end of 2021. Throughout 2022, that clinic has grown and found its niche, providing affordable and accessible care to all people - those with or without insurance; those making minimum wage or earning six figures; newly-arrived immigrants or those whose families have been in the area for generations.

Up to 700 patients now visit the Farmington Clinic each month. Most come from Farmington or other nearby communities, but some travel from as far as Iowa to receive care. All find both the care and compassion they need. For example, one patient was treated for a serious infection, and was doing so well during their follow up visit that within a week, their entire family had also scheduled appointments.

Even more patients turn to Minnesota Community Care for their health needs as part of the Department of Health’s Refugee Health Assessment. The state partners with Minnesota Community Care’s Farmington Clinic to provide healthcare to recently settled refugees who are often in desperate need of physical and mental health care.

Partnerships have become a reoccurring theme for the clinic. In addition to working with the Department of Health, Minnesota Community Care’s Farmington Clinic also works closely with the Dakota County School District, providing health care for students.

“We offer sports physicals, checkups, health education, mental health support, and all things teen,” says Amber Hurtado, Farmington Clinic’s first clinic manager. “The goal is to eventually launch a program similar to our Health Start program in St. Paul. Through that program, we provide primary care, nutrition services, mental health care, and more to students directly in the schools.”

The community has embraced the Farmington Clinic in return.

“We’re so lucky to have great community support,” says Hurtado. “We’ve received donations of clothes and food to provide to patients in need, and recently, Verizon even donated backpacks to support back-to-school efforts for students.”
Creating the Gender Care Clinic

Minnesota Community Care has always been dedicated to providing health services to all Minnesotans, particularly members of traditionally marginalized communities. In the wake of a tumultuous political climate and harmful rhetoric aimed at members of the trans community, it became clear that we needed to start providing health services tailored to their unique needs. As a result, we proudly launched the Gender Care Clinic at the end of 2022. Uniquely, both the clinic leads, Dr. Kelsey Leonardsmith and Mogan Weinert, are members of the LGBTQ+ community themselves.

The Gender Care Clinic at Minnesota Community Care allows trans and gender non-conforming people to have a safe space to access not only gender-affirming care, but also basic physical and mental healthcare in a setting that is respectful and honors the patient’s identity.

“Gender-affirming care is medical and mental health care that supports a person in living in and expressing the gender that they feel most comfortable in,” explains Morgan Weinert, Nurse Practitioner for Minnesota Community Care. “Examples of gender affirming care include hormone therapy, surgical interventions, and cosmetic procedures to allow people to present their gender in a way that feels best to them. It also includes gender-affirming mental health care that allows people to have a safe space to discuss their feelings and experiences, and gain insight and tools on coping, coming out, and more.”

Access to gender-affirming care is a critical need for members of this community, and improving access will save lives. Around 40 percent of trans individuals attempt suicide in their lifetimes. Gender-affirming care drastically reduces the rate of suicide attempts as well as the risk of depression. Providing care in a clinical setting also allows providers to focus on harm reduction.

“We with harm reduction in gender-affirming care, we recognize that when people don’t have access to this care, they’re more likely to engage in riskier ways of gender affirmation,” Weinert says. “People who are unable to access a hormone prescription due to lack of insurance may ‘share’ hormones with a friend or buy it off the street without a prescription. This puts people at risk since they may not be getting high quality safe hormones from a pharmacy, and because they’re not accessing the important laboratory monitoring that comes with getting care from a clinic.”

We’re proud to be able to support our trans community and provide much-needed services. Everyone has the right to express their gender in a way that feels best to them, and we’re here to support them.