

Welcome to
Better Health

A Weekly Update
for Asante Employees

Every patient,
every day, every time.

ASANTE® News

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Asante Commits to Community Benefits

Asante has recommitted itself to charitable care and other “community benefits,” by signing on with other nonprofit hospitals in Oregon to provide free care to the neediest patients and maintain or increase its current level of giving. Asante’s hospitals spent \$73.7 million on community benefits during the 2014 fiscal year.



In its latest resolution to serve the public good, Asante has backed a voluntary community benefit policy package that was proposed this month by the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems’ Board of Trustees. The two policies that will be implemented this year are:

- Asante will focus its community benefit efforts on low-income community members by providing free care to those who don’t have insurance and whose income levels are less than or equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty level – that’s \$48,500 for a family of

four.

- Asante will seek to maintain or increase its current community benefit levels, as determined by a three-year rolling average. That may be a challenge – charity care has dropped because the Affordable Care Act has resulted in more people being insured.

Community benefits are defined by state law as the activities and funding a hospital undertakes that provide tangible health benefits to its community at no cost, and without the hospital being compensated. Asante’s investments and spending are based on a “[Community Health Needs Assessment](#),” which is required to be conducted every three years under the Affordable Care Act and helps the organization identify the top health concerns in its nine-county service area.

Asante’s \$73.7 million in community benefits during the 2014 fiscal year included:

- \$12.37 million in charity care services for people unable to pay for the cost of their health-care services
- \$70,000 donated to La Clinica to support medical and dental care, behavioral health, maternal-child health and other services for low-income families
- \$41.68 million above and beyond actual reimbursement by the government, for patient care provided for Medicaid beneficiaries in Asante hospitals

OAHHS is initiating a public awareness campaign this year to raise Oregonians’ knowledge of their hospitals’ community benefit activities. The campaign is intended to educate Oregon residents about what hospitals do beyond charity or unsponsored care, and that hospitals will continue to fund and engage in activities that make Oregonians healthier based on findings from their community health needs assessments.

