



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

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Contact: Althea Milechman, Multnomah County, 503-988-6805 or 503-969-7239
Sylvia McDaniel, Legacy Health System, 503-415-5457

**Multnomah County Health Department receives \$20,000
from Legacy Health System**
Funds will support Homeless Program's electronic health records

Legacy Health System has awarded \$20,000 to support implementation of electronic health records (EHR) for Multnomah County Health Department's Homeless Program. The Homeless Program includes the Mobile Medical Van and two satellite clinics.

The Mobile Medical Van presented unique technical challenges during implementation, including the need to introduce wireless technology to connect the van to the county IT home. According to Vanetta Abdellatif, Integrated Clinical Services Director, Multnomah County Health Department, "This generous contribution from Legacy helped to underwrite the increased technical support and expertise that was required to make the implementation successful."

Kari Stanley, Director of Community Relations at Legacy Health System says, "Legacy was pleased to offer support to a county program that would help improve quality of care and enhance patient safety among the area's homeless population."

Multnomah County Health Department began implementing electronic health records in October 2005. Since then, six Health Centers, two Homeless Outreach Clinics, the Mobile Medical Outreach Van and 12 School Based Health Centers have implemented EHR. Benefits of EHR include increased efficiency, improved quality, the ability to report on health improvements, and enhanced patient safety.

"Electronic Health Records continue to yield tremendous benefits. In addition to saving time for both clients and employees, it helps us improve the quality of care delivered and that improves the health of our patients," said Abdellatif. "And with a medically needy and highly mobile population, EHR allow us to ensure that care is consistent, even providing useful information to providers outside of our system through printed medical summaries."

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