

CHARACTERIZING THE UNMET SPECIALTY CARE NEED IN AURORA, CO. EB Ng (BS, MD Candidate, SOM), K Mader (MD, MPH, Department of Family Medicine), D de la Cerda (MPA, Department of Family Medicine), TL Hall (MPH, Department of Family Medicine)

Across the country, there exists a large unmet specialty care need for patients on Medicaid or who are uninsured. Previous studies have identified multiple barriers to care unique to this patient population which include providers and health systems that do not accept Medicaid, poverty, complex referral process, incomplete referrals, lack of clinic-hospital affiliations, transport and clinic location factors, and poor communication across primary and specialty care providers. The Colorado Health Institute has identified a major specialty care gap that exists within Colorado's residents with Medicaid and who are uninsured. However, the extent of this gap in access has not been defined within the Aurora, CO community. Here, we seek to characterize the unmet specialty care need for individuals covered by Medicaid and who are uninsured, identify key barriers to specialty care access, and identify key strategies to mitigate barriers these patients encounter. We utilized provider surveys and subsequent key informant interviews from primary care physicians accepting Medicaid and uninsured patients to quantify and characterize the unmet specialty care in Aurora, CO. This approach will allow us to identify key barriers to specialty care access and elucidate strategies to mitigate such barriers through in depth descriptive analysis. We have completed a physician database to include all providers in Aurora, CO who accept Medicaid or uninsured patients, and are completing a survey to be distributed to these providers and key interview follow ups.