CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

FROM: CHW Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Community Benefit

ADOPTED: TBD

EFFECTIVE: TBD

REPLACES: CHW 3.45 Special Needs Planning, April 4, 1988;
CHW 3.45 Community Benefit, July 16, 2002; March 21, 2006

I. BACKGROUND

A visible presence for over 140 years, Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) hospitals have a proud history of service to communities in California, Arizona and Nevada. People's needs prompted the origins of our hospitals and remain our chief concern today. Benefiting the communities we serve is an essential expression of our mission to further the healing ministry of Jesus. We dedicate our resources to:

- Delivering compassionate, high-quality affordable health services;
- Serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor and disenfranchised; and
- Partnering with others in the community to improve the quality of life.

II. POLICY

CHW promotes effective, sustainable community benefit programming in support of CHW’s mission and tax-exempt status. CHW integrates community benefit into ongoing processes of planning, budgeting and reporting. At both system-wide and local levels, CHW explicitly uses its resources to benefit our brothers and sisters who are poor and to promote health and healing in the community.

CHW Administrative Policy 40.4.001 Community Benefit provides the administrative requirements for the implementation of this governance policy, defining staff competencies and responsibilities and sets forth the core principles and accountabilities of Community Benefit programming.

September 2009
III. DEFINITIONS

A community benefit is a program or activity that provides treatment or promotes health and healing that is:

- Responsive to identified health priorities determined in collaboration with community stakeholders;
- Focused on persons who are poor, disenfranchised or located in an area with disproportionate unmet health-related needs;
- Integrated into the facility’s strategic planning and budgeting process; and
- Planned and implemented with program objectives and measurable outcomes that are beneficial to community stakeholders.
- Effective in reducing the burden of government or other community efforts.

Community benefits also include charity care and the un-reimbursed costs of Medicaid and other means-tested government-funded insurance programs for the indigent, as well as health professions education, research, efforts to build upon the community’s capacity and the costs associated with community benefit operations.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Organizational Infrastructure

1. Board of Directors: The CHW Board of Directors establishes key measures of system-wide community benefit performance and receives regular reports on progress toward established goals.

2. Senior Executive Leadership: The CHW Senior Vice President of Sponsorship and Mission Integration leads system-wide community benefit initiatives, aligns system-wide strategic objectives with community benefit and ensures that adequate resources are allocated to community benefit planning and programming system-wide.

3. Staff: The CHW Vice President of Community Health directs and oversees system-wide community benefit initiatives. The CHW Director of Community Benefit is responsible for planning, developing, coordinating and overseeing community benefit initiatives, standards, programming and reporting.

B. Programming

CHW community benefit programs are developed in response to the health issues identified in the community health assessments and prioritized by a representative group of hospital/service area and community stakeholders.
CHW integrates the following core principles into Community Benefit programming to ensure a strategic approach to program planning, implementation and evaluation: *Focus on Disproportionate Unmet Health-related Needs, Emphasize Prevention, Contribute to a Seamless Continuum of Care, Build Community Capacity and Demonstrate Collaborative Governance.*

C. **Reporting**

CHW complies with federal and state mandates in the reporting of community benefit expenses and provides an annual report on system-wide Community Benefit performance to the CHW Board of Directors. CHW issues and disseminates to diverse community stakeholders an annual web-based system-wide report on its community benefit initiatives and performance.