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CENTRAL TEXAS DIGEST

AUSTIN

Milestone for health care group

The Indigent Care Collaboration reached a milestone in its goal to improve access to affordable health care for residents of the region when it added its 1 millionth health care visit into its communitywide patient information system, its leader announced Friday.

"These medical encounter numbers mean that we have created shared health records for over 300,000 low-income, uninsured patients in Central Texas," said Paul Gionfriddo, executive director of the collaboration.

Individual patients often had several visits each to some of the 34 participating clinics, hospitals and mental health providers in Central Texas.

Gionfriddo said that neither public programs such as Medicaid nor private insurance plans paid for the care in nearly nine in 10 cases.

"This care has been donated by medical providers and represents perhaps a quarter of a billion dollars of donated care by health care providers, including hospitals, clinics and private physicians," he said.