



## Advocates for Responsible Care

We will be their voice until their voices are heard.

April 10, 2011

Hello ARxC Volunteers,

I realized recently that I have done a poor job of keeping all the volunteers updated on the latest developments of ARxC. From now on I will be emailing out a newsletter to inform all ARxC volunteers about what we as a group have accomplished and what we have yet to do.

I know this document is a little long, but please take the time to read through it so you're all caught up.

The past two weeks have been particularly busy for ARxC.

- **March 25** - ARxC Health Plan Survey receives Emory IRB approval
- **March 26** - We drive down to Buena Vista, Georgia to participate in the opening of the Buena Vista Healing Hands Community Clinic. We were joined by Councilman Jerry Barnes of District #1 Columbus and House Representative Mike Cheokas of District #134. We distributed our ARxC materials folder with hard copies of the survey to pitch to the coordinator of the Buena Vista community clinic and other surrounding clinics in the Columbus area.
- **March 26 - March 31** - ARxC receives continued support from both Fulton County Commissioner Emma Darnell and DeKalb County Commissioner Larry Johnson to advance plans to protest the closing of Grady's Otis Smith and South DeKalb primary care clinics on April 6.
- **March 30** - ARxC Health Plan Survey is accessible online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NQ88GSM>
- **March 30** - Dialysis patients are unable to renew their Grady cards which causes problems with them receiving their medications.
- **March 31** - Michael Young (CEO of Grady and the man behind the closing of the Grady Dialysis Clinic and the proposed plans to close the primary care clinics and cut services to the indigent) publically resigns.
- **March 31** - Suma Ikeuchi, a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at Emory University and an ARxC volunteer, completes her paper "Who's Playing God? - Analysis of the Grady Dialysis Crisis." Suma's paper takes an anthropological perspective to depict the historical, ethical, political, and sociological forces that have led to the development of the Grady Dialysis Crisis. To view Suma's paper please go to: [http://www.advocatesforresponsiblecare.org/Dialysis\\_Crisis.html](http://www.advocatesforresponsiblecare.org/Dialysis_Crisis.html)

- **April 1** - ARxC sets up exhibit table for the Global Health and Humanitarian Summit at Emory University; Dorothy interviews new student grant writer, Leslie, and potential Social Communications Director, Megan.
- **April 2 and 3** - ARxC exhibits at the Global Health and Humanitarian Summit (Thank you to the volunteers that manned the exhibit table!)
  - Attendees are able to complete survey on hard copy. Others were provided with the ARxC brochure with the survey link on back, to take the survey online.
  - Attendees are encouraged to join us for the April 6 protest and the May 14 Arthritis Walk.
  - ARxC informs the attendees about the latest developments with respect to the dialysis crisis and highlights the need to generate funds to continue efforts.
- **April 3** - ARxC holds a meeting with dialysis patients at the Global Health and Humanitarian Summit
  - Highlighted the need for ARxC to have accurate contact information for each patient.
  - Stress the importance of each patient making a payment to Grady ( as was agreed by the August 2010 negotiations) for their dialysis, obtaining a receipt upon payment, and getting the receipt to Dorothy.
  - Collect medicine information to connect patients with free or low cost access to medicines.
  - Encourage patients to seek their primary care at the Oakhurst Medical Center.
  - Address obtaining Grady cards problems.
  - Attorney Lindsay Jones announces that the second highest court in Georgia finds the dialysis patients deserving of care, but claims Grady will not be held accountable unless the dialysis treatments are stopped. He also strongly recommends that each patient meet with the immigration attorney to discuss what steps they may take to obtain emergent citizenship status.
  - Discuss future fundraiser of a “pot luck” dinner and bazaar with emphasis on the fact that the patients must help to organize and execute.
  - Group picture of ARxC volunteers, patients, and staff is taken for website.
- **April 6** - ARxC leads protest in opposition of Grady closing their primary care clinic at the Otis W. Smith Clinic; Associate Dean Dr. Blumenthal of Morehouse School of Medicine, the Grady Coalition, and local residents who depend on the Otis W. Smith clinic for their care join in protest; Channel 2 news covers the protest and broadcasts it on the 5:00PM and 6:00PM news and 12 noon on Thursday.

Our next big step is to disseminate the link to the survey and encourage Georgia residents to take the survey. We will be disseminating the online survey to our organization dissemination list along with the newsletter insert by the end of next week. If you know of any other organizations or individuals who may be interested in taking the survey or disseminating the survey to their members and/or staff please email their name and email address to Dorothy. Our goal is to obtain at least 200 respondents.

Also we have the Arthritis Walk coming up on May 14th. If you will be in Atlanta on this date please go to [Wisdom Walkers ARxC homepage](#) then proceed to “join our team” link.

Finally please send me an email with your availability over summer break (beginning May 9 and ending when school starts up again on August 24). This summer we will be:

- Participating in the Arthritis Walk on May 14.
- Analyzing the results of the survey and the focus groups.
- Compiling a comprehensive report on the WELLCARxE© model.
- Finalizing the ARxC Advocacy Guide and taking steps to getting it published.
- Increasing awareness of the dialysis crisis through community outreach efforts.
- Working with the patients to fundraise to develop funds for future court fees, etc.
- Continuously monitoring the Grady Health System and keeping them accountable to their mission to serve Georgia’s poor and underserved. Possibly continuing our protest at clinics Grady has threatened to close.
- Attending Commissioners Board meetings to encourage their opposition to Grady closing these vital clinics.
- Advocating in partnership with Fulton and DeKalb county commissioners to get other Georgia counties whose residents depend on Grady for their care to financially support the Grady Health System.
- Partnering with legal firms to serve as the whistle blower on abuses of the health care industry.

Please continue to check our organizational facebook page, Advocates for Responsible Care, and our website ([www.advocatesforresponsiblecare.org](http://www.advocatesforresponsiblecare.org) ) for the latest developments and documents. Also please join our conversation on our [Advocates for Responsible Care facebook page](#).

Thank you again for being an ARxC volunteer and contributing to our cause of “effectively reducing cultural incompetency and health care delivery disparity.” We need your help with these efforts so please consider becoming more involved with ARxC.

Sincerely,  
Haley

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