

Texas Nonprofit Hospitals *
Part II
Summary of Current Hospital Charity Care Policy and Community Benefits
for Inclusion in DSHS Charity Care Manual as Required

by Texas Health and Safety Code, § 311.0461**

Facility Identification (FID):	150310	(Enter 7-digit FID# from attached hospital listing)***
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Name of Hospital: Bellville St. Joseph Health Center **County:** Austin

Mailing Address: P O Box 977, Bellville, TX 77418

Physical Address if different from above: 44 N Cummings St, Bellville, TX 77418

Effective Date of the current policy: 04/01/2013

Date of Scheduled Revision of this policy: 05/30/2014

How often do you revise your charity care policy? Annually

Provide the following information on the office and contact person(s) processing requests for charity care.

Name of the office/department: Patient Financial Services

Mailing Address: P O Box 977, Bellville, TX 77418

Contact Person: Nicole Torres Title: PFS Team Leader

Phone: (979) 413-7157 Fax: (979) 413-7190 E-Mail ntorres@st-joseph.org

Person completing this form if different from above:

Name : Jan Walker Phone : (979) 413-7138

* This summary form is to be completed by each **nonprofit** hospital. Hospitals in a system must report on an individual hospital basis. Public hospitals, for-profit hospitals participating in the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program and exempt hospitals are not required to complete this form. This form is only available in PDF format at DSHS web site: www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp under 2013 Annual Statement of Community Benefits Standard.

** The information in the manual will be made available for public use. Please report most current information on the charity care policy and community benefits provided by the hospital.

*** The list is also available on DSHS web site: www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hosp/.

I. Charity Care Policy:

1. Include your hospital's Charity Care Mission statement in the space below.

Hospital shall contribute appropriate resources, advocacy, and community support to promote the health status of the community, which it serves, within its economic ability to do so.

2. Provide the following information regarding your hospital's current charity care policy.

a. Provide definition of the term **charity care** for your hospital.

Charity care will be provided to patients with a demonstrated inability to pay.

b. What percentage of the federal poverty guidelines is financial eligibility based upon?

Check one.

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <100% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4. <200% |
| 2. <133% | | 5. Other, specify _____ |
| 3. <150% | | |

c. Is eligibility based upon net or gross income? Check one.

d. Does your hospital have a charity care policy for the Medically Indigent?

YES NO IF yes, provide the definition of the term **Medically Indigent**.

A medically indigent patient is a person whose medical or hospital bills after payment by third-party payers exceed a specific percentage of the person's annual gross income as set forth in this policy and who is unable to pay the remaining bill. The Hospital may consider other financial assets and liabilities of the person when determining ability to pay.

e. Does your hospital use an Assets test to determine eligibility for charity care?

YES NO If yes, please briefly summarize method.

f. Whose income and resources are considered for income and/or assets eligibility determination.



1. Single parent and children
 2. Mother, Father and Children
 3. All family members
 4. All household members
 5. Other, please explain
-

g. What is included in your definition of income from the list below? Check all that apply.

- 1. Wages and salaries before deductions
- 2. Self-employment income
- 3. Social security benefits
- 4. Pensions and retirement benefits
- 5. Unemployment compensation
- 6. Strike benefits from union funds
- 7. Worker's compensation
- 8. Veteran's payments
- 9. Public assistance payments
- 10. Training stipends
- 11. Alimony
- 12. Child support
- 13. Military family allotments
- 14. Income from dividends, interest, rents, royalties
- 15. Regular insurance or annuity payments
- 16. Income from estates and trusts
- 17. Support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household
- 18. Lottery winnings
- 19. Other, specify _____

3. Does application for charity care require completion of a form? YES NO

If YES,

a. **Please attach a copy of the charity care application form.**

b. How does a patient request an application form? Check all that apply.

- 1. By telephone
 - 2. In person
 - 3. Other, please specify
-

c. Are charity care application forms available in places other than the hospital?
YES NO If, YES, please provide name and address of the place.

d. Is the application form available in language(s) other than English?

YES NO

If yes, please check

Spanish Other, please specify

4. When evaluating a charity care application,

a. How is the information verified by the hospital?

- 1. The hospital independently verifies information with third party evidence (W2, pay stubs)
- 2. The hospital uses patient self-declaration
- 3. The hospital uses independent verification and patient self-declaration

b. What documents does your hospital use/require to verify income, expenses, and assets? Check all that apply.

- 1. W2-form
- 2. Wage and earning statement
- 3. Pay check remittance
- 4. Worker's compensation
- 5. Unemployment compensation determination letters
- 6. Income tax returns
- 7. Statement from employer
- 8. Social security statement of earnings
- 9. Bank statements

- 10. Copy of checks
- 11. Living expenses
- 12. Long term notes
- 13. Copy of bills
- 14. Mortgage statements
- 15. Document of assets
- 16. Documents of sources of income
- 17. Telephone verification of gross income with the employer
- 18. Proof of participation in govt assistance programs such as Medicaid
- 19. Signed affidavit or attestation by patient
- 20. Veterans benefit statement
- 21. Other, please specify _____

5. When is a patient determined to be a charity care patient? Check all that apply.

- a. At the time of admission
- b. During hospital stay
- c. At discharge
- d. After discharge
- e. Other, please specify _____

6. How much of the bill will your hospital cover under the charity care policy?

- a. 100%
- b. A specified amount/percentage based on the patient's financial situation
- c. A minimum or maximum dollar or percentage amount established by the hospital
- d. Other, please specify _____

7. Is there a charge for processing an application/request for charity care assistance?

YES NO

8. How many days does it take for your hospital to complete the eligibility determination process? 30

9. How long does the eligibility last before the patient will need to reapply? Check one.

- a. Per admission
- b. Less than six months
- c. One year
- d. Other, specify 6 months

10. How does the hospital notify the patient about their eligibility for charity care? _____

Check all that apply?

- a. In person
- b. By telephone
- c. By correspondence
- d. Other, specify

11. Are all services provided by your hospital available to charity care patients? _____

YES NO

If NO, please list services not covered for charity care patients (e.g. transplant services, ER services, other outpatient services, physician's fees).

Physician fees, medically necessity

12. Does your hospital pay for charity care services provided at hospitals owned by others?

YES NO

II. Community Benefits Projects/Activities:

Provide information on name, brief description (3 lines), target population or purpose (3 lines) for each of the community benefits projects/activities CURRENTLY being undertaken by your hospital (example: diabetes awareness).

Health fairs and flu clinics in Bellville and Industry communities. Health fairs check cholesterol, blood sugar, and hemoglobin. Flu clinics are provided throughout the area during October and November for all ages as a convenience to families and individuals. Education through the Safe Sitter Programs offered to those age 11-13 years which provides instructions on what to do in an emergency situation while babysitting. A child safety seat checkup event is held annually which partners with Texas AgriLife Extension Service Austin County, the Child Fatality Review Board of Colorado, Austin and Waller counties, the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Passenger Safety Project in cooperation with Texas Dept. of Transportation. The proper use of child safety seats for the reduction in the risk of injury and death for children ages 0 to 7, new seats are distributed and seat misuse is corrected. Safety Day for 3rd graders covers a variety of topics; water safety, gun safety, snake safety, electrical safety. Just Drive - high school students in a community wide participation by EMS, Fire, Police, State Police, CERT, and Hospital in program to discourage texting and driving. SETRAC emergency drill annually.

Additional Information:

Use this space if more space is required for comments or to elaborate on any of the information supplied on this form. Please refer to the response by question and item number.

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NOTE: This is the twelfth year the charity care and community benefits form is being used for collecting the information required under Texas Health and Safety Code, § 311.0461. If you have any suggestions or questions, please include them in the space below or contact Dwayne Collins, Center for Health Statistics, Texas Department of State Health Services at (512) 776-7261 or fax: (512) 776-7344 or E-mail: dwayne.collins@dshs.state.tx.us.

Name of Hospital: _____ City: _____
Phone _____
Contact Name: _____ : _____

Suggestions/questions: