Mobile Medical Unit Implementation

6 Month Retrospective

Gregory H. Busch, D.O., M.S., M.B.A. | Hidalgo Medical Services

Why a Mobile Medical Unit?

ACCESS BARRIERS

- Distance from clinics
- Provider shortages

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Students and families
- Older adults
- Rural and underserved communities
- Local workforce and employer groups

STRATEGIC VALUE

- Bring care closer to patients
- Increase preventive-service reach
- Strengthen community partnerships
- Improve continuity and access

Service Model & Care Settings



School-Based Services

1. Well visits
2. Sick visits
3. Immunizations
4. Screenings
5. Sports Physicals
6. Sporting Events

Regulatory Requirements

1. TIN - Organizational TIN
2. NPI - Organizational OR separate depending on Medicaid regulations
3. HRSA - Each MMU must be individually approved
4. Billing - Configured as physical (not telehealth) service

Immunizations

1. VFC - Enrollment in good standing and approval of off-site vaccination procedures
2. Cold Chain Requirements - Approved transport storage equipment and digital data loggers (DDL) hourly
3. Transport limitations - CDC recommends 8 hours total off-site
4. VFC eligible
5. Inventory accountability
6. Financial liability

Behavioral Health Services

1. Why a Mobile Unit?
    1. Privacy
    2. Security
    3. Accessibility
    4. Safety
    5. Furnishings
    6. Connectivity
    7. Clinical Emergencies
    8. Clinical Staffing
    9. Consent

Operational Challenges

1. Staffing
2. Scheduling
3. Transportation (travel time)
4. Equipment
5. Maintenance

Real Life Issues That Shouldn't be Issues

1. Permission slips
2. Parents fail to show
3. Lack of insurance coverage documentation (when there is insurance)
4. Incorrect demographic information
5. Address of site
6. No connectivity

Set-up

1. Training
2. Emergency supplies
3. Operation of unit
4. Features, Amenities, Operations
5. EMR
6. Starlink***

Wrap-Up

1. Why have a Mobile Medical Unit?
2. Why bring it to schools?
3. What are the challenges?
4. Do children benefit?
5. Are gaps closed?
6. What are the most important gaps to close?
7. Are you ready to say goodbye to me? 😉