

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## ***Black Men's Health Clinic Expands Services in CommUnityCare Collaboration!***

AUSTIN (Austin Metropolitan Area)

**Beginning October 2024, the Black Men's Health Clinic<sup>®</sup> (BMHC) will expand its onsite presence at Downtown Austin Community Court, Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center, and the David Powell Health Center. Additionally, BMHC will collaborate with the Opioid Prevention Program launched by the City of Austin and Travis County.**

**Since its creation, BMHC has focused on lowering barriers for successful physical, behavioral, and social determinant care by removing burdens men of color commonly experience, such as scheduling, finances, and coordination between providers (at no additional cost to clients), and elevating them to a priority by providing resources designed best to aid them.**

**The following are remarks from leaders of the mentioned organizations about BMHC's collaborative expansion:**

**Chief Executive Officer of CommUnityCare Health Centers, Jaeson Fournier, stated that** “Partnering together with Black Men's Health Clinic expands our reach that has historically been challenged and puts a face on outreach that builds trust and fosters meaningful connections within the communities we serve. This collaboration allows us to better address the unique needs of underserved populations and men of color while ensuring that critical resources and care are accessible to those who need them most. By working together, we can make a more significant impact in improving overall health outcomes in Travis County and the City of Austin.”

**Dr. Michael Stefanowicz, CommUnityCare's Director of Intensive Outpatient Clinics at the David Powell Clinic, which specializes in HIV, healthcare for the homeless, complex care, and addictions medicine said,** “The flourishing partnership between CommUnityCare Health Centers and Black Men's Health Clinic has yielded innumerable benefits to our communities, thanks in part to a shared framework for health equity and a focus on the real and present challenges facing our communities - whether its disparities related to HIV, housing instability, addiction or pathways to whole person primary care. At its core, is an emphasis on inclusion health—bringing people into the fold. We look forward to building on this partnership with BMHC and other community-based advocates in the years to come.”

**Robert Kingham, Court Administrator of the Downtown Austin Community Court, stated,** “We strive to create meaningful connections with community-based services that will help the people we serve in their journey to achieve stability and end their experience with homelessness,” said Robert Kingham, Court Administrator for Downtown Austin Community Court. “We're excited and grateful for the expansion of Black Men's Health Clinic's collaboration here at DACC, alongside CommUnityCare, and are optimistic about the invaluable impact they'll be able to have with our clients.”

"Sunrise is excited to partner with Black Men's Health Clinic as they work to connect people to housing resources, said **Mark Hilbelink, MDIV, Executive Director of Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center.** Their expertise and Sunrise's extensive presence throughout the community make a great team!"

"Austin Public Health is committed to improving health outcomes by ensuring services are accessible to everyone in our community,” said **Austin Public Health Director Adrienne Sturrup about the Opioid Program.** “This collaboration will improve access to essential, equitable care across Austin and Travis County, addressing the opioid crisis and supporting historically underserved residents.”

**Black Men’s Health Clinic Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Larry Wallace Sr., concluded by saying,** “I am elated about the expansion of services through our collaboration with CommUnityCare and new partnerships with Downtown Austin Community Court, the Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center, the David Powell Health Center, and the opportunity to be a part of a community collective to help prevent opioid-related overdoses and fatalities. This collaboration helps us further develop our joint commitment to reverse long-standing, traditional practices and systems that perpetuate physical, emotional, and psychological distress and negatively impact the life expectancy and quality of life for Black men, men of color, their immediate families, and those with extenuating circumstances. It also reinforces BMHC’s message of “Care You Can Trust.”

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**CommUnityCare Health Centers (CUC)** is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) that serves uninsured and underinsured patients, with a mission to strengthen the health and well-being of communities. Central Health is an important CommUnityCare partner and jointly holds the federal public center status for Central Texas Community Health Centers. Many of the clinics operated by CommUnityCare are owned by Central Health. Additionally, Central Health provides taxpayer financed medical assistance to many patients through the Medical Access Program (MAP).

**Website:** <https://communitycaretx.org/all-locations/black-mens-health-clinic/>

**David Powell Health Center** provides HIV care and treatment to Central Texans living with HIV since the beginning of the HIV epidemic. As medical advancements have progressed in the fight against HIV through the years, so has our center. David Powell Health Center is part of CommUnityCare, a nonprofit health system for 27 health centers, primarily located in Austin and Travis County. HIV treatment can also be accessed at CommUnityCare’s North Central and Care Connections Health Centers.

**Website:** <https://www.davidpowellhealthcenter.org/>

**Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC)** is a rehabilitative court established in 1999. It was the eighth community court in the United States, and the first in Texas. The mission of DACC is to administer justice equitably and compassionately to foster trust and accountability, and to utilize a person-centered and housing-focused intensive case management model to help individuals experiencing homelessness achieve long-term stability.

**Website:** <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/community-court>

**Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center** is an organization that offers pathways to housing for people experiencing homelessness through low-barrier access to wraparound services by providing innovative, trauma-informed, and person-centered programming that engages our communities and leads system-wide transformation.

**Website:** <https://sunrisenavigationcenter.org/>

**Travis County and City of Austin Opioid Prevention Program** is dedicated to preventing the incidence of opioid-related overdoses and deaths, especially for populations at higher risk.

**Website:** <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/preventing-opioid-overdose>

**Black Men’s Health Clinic® (BMHC)** exists to lower barriers to successful healthcare by removing burdens men of color, their immediate family, and those with extenuating circumstances commonly experience, such as scheduling, finances, and coordination between providers—at no additional cost to clients. BMHC has been servicing clients in the Austin-Metropolitan area for over two years, and it is the first-of-its-kind holistic health that is available to all regardless of insurance status.

**Website:** <https://blackmenshealthclinic.org/>

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**The Black Men's Health Clinic ~ Care You Can Trust**  
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