



# coming clean

## **Health Equity Impact Convenings Impact Story Working with New Mexico Health Care Systems**

Several staff of Health Care Without Harm's (HCWH) Healthy Food in Health Care program attended the workshop lead by Coming Clean and including presenters from Los Jardines Institute and First Choice Community Health Centers, both located in the South Valley of Albuquerque, NM. Two of these staff members were in the process of planning a scoping trip to Arizona and New Mexico to assess opportunities for providing programming in the SW region. As a result of meeting and talking with the presenters, they added a visit to the South Valley, Albuquerque to their itinerary as well as integrated what they learned about these organizations into their conversations at other meetings in Albuquerque. Two main threads of activity came out of the visit:

First, Los Jardines Institute (LJI) and the Agri-Cultura Network (ACN) – In addition to addressing food insecurity in their community through backyard and community agriculture, Los Jardines Institute also works with the ACN to market food grown in the community and beyond from small growers and processors in NM to restaurants and institutional food purchasers. They are particularly interested in establishing a purchasing relationship with Presbyterian Health, the largest health care system in the state with a large flagship hospital in Albuquerque. Last year this system became a signer of HCWH's [Healthy Food in Health Care Pledge](#) and staff met with representatives from the headquarters while in Albuquerque to learn about their plans and progress. They discussed at this meeting the ACN and the potential for local food purchasing. Presbyterian is currently working with ACN to make a mobile farmers market available at clinics around the city. As part of HCWH program support to SW hospitals we will continue to encourage this connection and provide examples of local purchasing strategies and tools proven successful in other regions to support the health systems goals to increase their locally and sustainably produced foods.

Second, Los Jardines Institute and First Choice Community Health Centers – LJI is also involved with a community health project lead by First Choice Community Health Centers and supported by Presbyterian and other funding sources including The Build Health Initiative of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to create a campus of community health in the neighborhood. The campus will ultimately include a clinic, county health office, a school, agriculture space and a new facility for the coop with a commercial kitchen, a café and more. HCWH staff visited the new site, and plan to do further follow-up with the physician, Dr. Will Kaufman who presented with Coming Clean at CleanMed and who is leading this effort and coordinating with LJI, to learn more about the project and what strategies they are using and impact they are having on community health (for more information also see the *Healing New Mexico Food Deserts* Impact Story. This project is of particular relevance to HCWH's new project to

assess opportunities and strategies for non-profit hospitals to use their community benefit programs to support upstream health interventions through food systems work. We will consider this project for one of the case studies we will be developing, as well as consider those involved in the project for key informant interviews that are part of the research component of the project.

Additionally, following CleanMed, the Healthy Food in Health Care program developed an article for our blog and newsletter that highlighted key themes and presentations. One of the sessions highlighted was this session. Read [here](#) to learn more about takeaways from that session that have been shared with our mailing list of over 5000 hospital representatives, clinicians and advocacy organizations across the country.