

SIYAKHANA REVS UP OUTREACH WITH CITY'S FIRST WORKPLACE MOBILE CLINIC

East London-based public benefit organisation, the Siyakhana Health Trust, believes that its R600,000 state-of-the-art mobile clinic investment will help employers to better manage their employees' health and so reap the benefits of a productive workforce.

The introduction of its first mobile workplace clinic in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality heralds a new era for the PBO which was established seven years ago.

To date, the trust has tested over 14,000 workers for HIV and put over 750 of them on treatment through a private network of doctors. This highly successful HIV management programme boasts an HIV viral suppression rate of 85% and has been expanded to include medical fitness examination of employees



including lung function, vision and hearing tests.

The mobile clinic, which became operational during the early part of 2013, has already visited five companies, a number which it expects to extend to 20 by the end of year. All the services are provided on company premises hence obviating the difficulties and costs associated with the relevant off-site health services.

The cost of the mobile clinic visits to companies is highly subsidised, due the support of sponsor companies such as Mercedes-Benz South Africa and Hemingways Casino.

Project Director Dr Simeon Odugwu says the benefits for companies include higher productivity in short to long term because of improvements in the health of a company's employees as well as ensuring that companies are compliant with the law.

Dr Odugwu says that the investment, which companies make, is very affordable. Importantly, the approach keeps employees at work and optimally productive.

FURTHER DETAILS ON HOW SIYAKHANA can help you remain compliant with the latest safety and health regulations and keep your employees healthy, contact Mrs Ruth Summerton or Mrs Ayanda Tetyana on (telephone) 043 722 9620 or (email) info@siyakhana.com.

MORE HELP FOR EMPLOYEES

The Siyakhana Health Trust is extending its services to include the management of ailments commonly found in the workplace such as being overweight, substance abuse, HIV and TB, high blood pressure and poor vision.

In addition, Siyakhana provides mobile medical surveillance services to small and medium sized companies.

Project Director Dr Simeon Odugwu says these services will particularly be helpful to companies working in the smaller

service, manufacturing, construction and agriculture sectors as well as informal traders.

However, these services are also helpful to larger businesses which need to comply with government regulations.

Siyakhana, which recently introduced its mobile clinic, can easily test up to 120 employees per week. Comprehensive testing takes no longer than one hour per person and begins with

a group information session.

Project Director Dr Simeon Odugwu says the service is largely about simplifying the process of measuring employees' health and reducing the logistics of the process and thereby making the process cheaper.

Once a diagnosis has been made, Siyakhana helps provide access to a range of experts who help employees with nutrition advice, further testing of their eyes, hearing, or general health.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In some cases, additional services such as the provision of spectacles would need to be funded by the patient, for example.

In the case of HIV treatment, Siyakhana already treats 750 patients with a viral suppression rate of 85%, one of the

most successful in the country.

The HIV treatment includes consultations with private doctors who are able to treat patients at convenient times, and provide free blood tests and medication.

Already 60 companies enjoyed the benefit of these Siyakhana services.

Costs are dependent on the size and nature of the employee population.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Mrs Ruth Summerton or Mrs Ayanda Tetyana on (telephone) 043 722 9620 or (email) info@siyakhana.com for an affordable quotation.

SIYAKHANA TO HELP GOVERNMENT WITH ITS HIV/AIDS TREATMENT PROGRAMME

The Siyakhana Health Trust will soon join a handful of health organisations which help the Eastern Cape government provide HIV/Aids treatment support to those living with the disease.

The agreement is part of Eastern Cape government's fight to help reduce the high number of deaths that occur each year due to HIV/Aids.

This follows the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MoA) in July 2012 which will span two years.

The MoA comes after the five-year programme, funded by the United States of America Government, is to soon fall away.

The agreement, which also includes the Border-Kei Chamber of Business, will provide much-needed flexibility to patients who are able to consult with the 11 contracted private doctors at their own convenience. The agreement also covers the cost of anti-retro viral treatment and blood tests which are estimated at R6,000 per patient per year. Close family members who require treatment are also covered by the agreement.

Siyakhana has successfully proved that its approach keeps patients on the programme with an impressive patient retention rate of 85%, one of the highest in the country," says Dr Odugwu.

The MoA is expected to become operational in May 2013.

Other organisations which have similar agreements with the Eastern Cape's Department of Health include Mercedes-Benz South Africa and Corridor Empowerment Project (Trucking Wellness). The department also has similar agreements with organisations in the Port Elizabeth area.

HEALTH NEWS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Walter Sisulu University's HIV research unit is to conduct a large-scale project which will take groundbreaking look at whether it can find a vaccine from the ANTI-TAT protein. The research project is underway and is being funded by the Italian government. Approximately 50 participants will be voluntarily tested.

[Source: www.wsu.ac.za]

WHICH IS MORE DEADLY?

According to the World Health Organisation, more people (12.5%) in sub-Saharan Africa die from cardiovascular diseases compared to HIV/Aids (12.3%) or malaria (7.3%).

[www.AllAfrica.com]

BLOW FOR ARV STUDY

The much anticipated pill-a-day HIV prevention tool has been dealt a blow after a large scale study – mostly conducted in South Africa – found that most women did not adhere and take the one antiretroviral drug daily. The study is commonly known as the VOICE (Vaginal and Oral Interventions to Control the Epidemic) trial.

[www.health-e.org.za]

CONTACT DETAILS

Siyakhana Health Trust is a South African public benefit organisation, providing health management support to small and medium sized businesses through public-private partnerships. Our goal is to provide holistic workplace health management to partners or member SMEs in the Border-Kei Region.

Telephone +27 (0)43 722 9620 | Email info@siyakhana.com | 21 St Georges Road, Southernwood, East London