

Talking Points

Commissioner Sergio “Chico” Rodriguez

San Antonio Food Bank Cover the Uninsured Week

March 23, 2009

- Thank you and good morning.
- I am extremely pleased to see the turn out this morning to launch an awareness initiative for such an important community issue.
- As a County elected representative, Commissioner Rodriguez has taken on strategies to combat the epidemic known as the uninsured.
- One year ago, Bexar County Commissioners Court, under the leadership of Commissioner Rodriguez, committed to a \$1 million dollar funding agreement with CentroMed to develop a new state of the art medical facility geared to focus on treating the uninsured.
- Roughly, 24.5 percent of Bexar County residents do not have health insurance.
- Texas takes the lead in numbers of uninsured residents.
- An estimated 2500 Texans die annually as a result of not receiving medical care because of lack of insurance.
- Over the past 6 years, the business community, the medical community, and local leaders have come together to educate the public about the uninsured, its affects on the entire community, and offer assistance on how to enroll the uninsured in programs that are available to help them receive the necessary medical care to improve their quality of life.
- When members of our community do not have health insurance, all of us are affected by it.
- Our court systems get overwhelmed with people filing bankruptcy because they can not afford to pay medical bills that have accumulated because of no insurance; families live without vital medications because they can not afford to pay for them; and in most cases, untreated and minor ailments turn into catastrophic conditions.

- The Bexar County community is extremely fortunate to have such wonderful leadership through the University Health System, Care Link, and the Methodist Healthcare to take the lead with the San Antonio Food Bank to serve as the connecting link between available resources and our community.
- Thank you to all of you who have decided to participate in this week long effort to give back to the community.