

Re: Support for Casa Ruben Mobile Pediatric Vehicle

A growing body of research supports the fact that pediatric mobile medical care is a successful and cost-effective way to deliver necessary healthcare to underserved youth. A staggering number of children in Montgomery County do not receive routine check-ups and as such, are not vaccinated. These children are at risk. Further, they put others around them at risk of contracting preventable illnesses. Ultimately, this overwhelms emergency rooms as there is nowhere else to go when they fall ill.

Without the necessary vaccines, these children are unable to enroll in school and begin their journeys to becoming educated and productive students. This is a particular issue for newcomer children and children in certain under-resourced zip codes. Casa Ruben, a non-profit foundation, has provided upward of 7,000 immunizations to Montgomery County children during the pandemic. They, along with Montgomery County would create a public-private initiative to fund a mobile medical clinic.

Mobile medical care has been shown to be cost effective and an effective way to reach under- served and disenfranchised communities that do not access mainstream healthcare.

Through the act of driving into communities, mobile clinics can engage the population and gain the trust of vulnerable populations. It would be a stepping-stone between the communities and brick and mortar healthcare facilities. Eliminating health care barriers should continue to be a goal for Montgomery County.