



Joint Announcement

Ibn Sina Foundation — OakBend Medical Center— Sam Houston State University
College of Osteopathic Medicine

Press Release

Richmond, Texas — March 12, 2024

Regional Medical Education Expansion Partnership to Train More Doctors in Fort Bend County and Texas Gulf Coast Region

The Ibn Sina Foundation, OakBend Medical Center, and Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (SHSU-COM) are pleased to announce a new clinical partnership to train medical students and residents in Fort Bend County.

Beginning in August 2024, the Ibn Sina Foundation and OakBend Medical Center will partner with SHSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine to train 3rd and 4th year medical students in Fort Bend County. The partnership will also develop new graduate medical education programs in primary care medicine.

For the past 24 years, Ibn Sina Foundation clinics have provided preventative and primary health services to more than 1.2 million low-income, uninsured, and medically underserved families in Greater Houston. Named after the eleventh-century Persian physician and philosopher widely regarded as the father of early modern medicine, the non-profit foundation has provided integrated preventive and primary care at affordable prices to all who seek it, treating every individual with dignity and respect. To continue growing to meet our community's healthcare needs, Mr. Nasruddin Rupani, Founder and Chairman of the Ibn Sina

Foundation stated, “The region needs to establish a pipeline of local students who want to remain in Fort Bend County and the larger region to practice medicine. Without more doctors, we will not meet our mission of providing care to every person who needs care, regardless of their ability to pay.”

OakBend Medical Center was founded in 1950 as Polly Ryon Memorial Hospital. The name was changed to OakBend Medical Center in 2004 and has expanded to three campuses. OakBend Medical Center has continued its 75-year commitment to the health and wellness of Fort Bend County residents as the only remaining independent non-profit hospital in the Greater Houston area. OakBend Medical Center CEO Joe Freudenberg stated, “Our mission to provide exceptional, compassionate health care for our community, regardless of ability to pay, hinges on having the medical staff to provide care for our growing community. This partnership to train students and residents at our facilities is part of our long-term commitment to Fort Bend County.”

“SHSU-COM trains students in clinical sites in rural, urban underserved, and community-based settings where there is a need for primary care physicians. Clinical partnerships are integral to osteopathic medical education,” said Thomas J. Mohr, DO, Dean of SHSU-COM. “The Ibn Sina/OakBend clinical training region of Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is a collaboration that will leverage the strengths of each partner aligned with their shared missions to expand access to high-quality healthcare for those in need. “

Initially, the Ibn Sina Foundation explored the creation of a new osteopathic medical school to train physicians who would serve these populations in Greater Houston, according to Chairman Nasruddin Rupani. Following a year-long investigation, the decision was made to partner with Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine to place 3rd and 4th year medical students in Fort Bend County. SHSU-COM opened in 2020 and will graduate its inaugural cohort of future physicians in May 2024. The Foundation’s focus in the partnership is to establish a clinical training region where student doctors are educated while simultaneously serving an area in critical need of healthcare workers.

“It’s a win-win scenario for each of our organizations,” Mohr explained. “OakBend Medical Center and Ibn Sina Clinics provide a range of excellent healthcare services including primary care, emergency medicine, women’s health, mental

health services and others and will provide medical education opportunities under the guidance of clinical preceptors. Our student doctors assigned to the Ibn Sina/OakBend clinical training region will move to Fort Bend County for their final two years of medical school and become embedded in the community. We hope they will set down roots and decide to stay when their training is complete, thus providing a pipeline for future healthcare providers.”

*VIDEO LINK FROM PRESS CONFERENCE

[031224_FBCJO_OakBend_Ibn_Sina_Press](#)