



# Open Arms

Jackson, MS



## Snapshot

TARGET POPULATION

Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities

SETTING

Community Health Center

FOUNDED

2013

DESIGN/THEORY

Clinical-Community Care Model,  
**SAMHSA-HRSA Standard Framework for Levels of Integrated Healthcare**

HIV CARE CONTINUUM

Prevention  
Diagnosis  
Linkage to Care  
Retention in Care  
HAART Therapy  
Viral Suppression

## Innovations

The mission of the Open Arms Healthcare Center (OAHCC) is to provide innovative holistic healthcare to underserved, underinsured, and underrepresented populations, with a special focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities in Mississippi.

## Services

OAHCC is designed to provide LGBT persons of color with culturally and linguistically competent care in a welcoming, comfortable and safe environment. The center provides specialized and comprehensive primary care services with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS and cardiovascular disease.

Services include:

- Gay Men’s Health
- High Impact HIV Prevention Interventions including s PrEP and PEP
- HIV Care
- Mental Health
- Preventive Screenings
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Health
- Women’s Health

OAHCC’s community health initiative emphasizes coordinated service delivery as prevention. Additionally, OAHCC’s location along the Jackson Healthcare Corridor facilitates integrative services with swift referrals to nearby healthcare providers.

STAKEHOLDERS

Jackson State University

Mississippi State Department of Health

My Brother’s Keepers, Inc.

Tougaloo College

University of Mississippi Medical Center

OAHCC’s service model is based on the SAMHSA-HRSA Standard Framework for Levels of Integrated Healthcare, and is an adaptation of standard Level 5 (Close Collaboration Approaching and Integrated Practice). Healthcare professionals collaborate directly with local community-based organizations and community members to achieve optimal patient well-being. One such partnership is with My Brother’s Keeper, a private, nonprofit parent organization dedicated to reducing health disparities among African – American patient communities.



# 1,800 PATIENTS since opening

African-American **85%**

Men **60%**

**75%** of men have sex with other man

**258** PLWHA engaged in HIV primary care

Transgender patients: **90** (61% MTF, 50% FTM)

“All transgender people want is to be treated for who they are. When the doctor does not treat the whole person they are negating who that person is,” says Dr. Mena. “If I can provide the hormones and support the person through this transition they are more likely to come to me for other healthcare needs.”

DR. LEANDRO MENA, MEDICAL DIRECTOR



### Contact

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### Downloads

[none]



### Links

[Open Arms Health Center Website](#)

[My Brothers Keeper Website](#)

