

LOS GATOS

Meeting held by advocates of universal health coverage

Health care advocates gathered at a Los Gatos synagogue Monday evening to promote universal health care and talk about covering the estimated 200,000 Santa Clara County residents who have no health insurance.

Santa Clara County supervisor Liz Kniss, expected to attend the meeting, told the Mercury News beforehand that the county's goal of ensuring health care for every resident parallels the advocates' goal. The county already is working on a plan to ensure that coverage, she said.

“We have every intention of having some kind of coverage for everyone as soon as we can do three things: put the plan in place, put the funding in place and have the staff to execute it,” she said. The stumbling block is the funding: The county is waiting for state and federal money to help improve health care for the uninsured.

“We're facing a huge shortfall for next year,” Kniss said. “Should the federal or state government come through, we will be ready to go.”

The meeting was sponsored by People Acting in Community Together and Peninsula Interfaith Action, federations of churches and other religious institutions that engage in social justice work.

-- Barbara Feder Ostrov