



MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 17179
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-7179
(919) 933-8494
FAX (919) 933-9201

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Aug. 23, 2013

CONTACT: Debra Markley, MPH
1-919-933-8494 ext 1468

Prominent officials laud contributions of community health centers

CORPORATE OFFICE
299 Lloyd Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
(919) 933-8494
FAX (919) 933-9201

CARRBORO COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER
301 Lloyd Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
(919) 942-8741
FAX (919) 942-1473

CHARLES DREW COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER
221 N. Graham Hopedale Road
Burlington, NC 27217-2971
(336) 570-3739
FAX (336) 570-1215

MONCURE COMMUNITY HEALTH
CENTER
PO Box 319
7228 Pittsboro-Moncure Road
Moncure, NC 27559
(919) 542-4991
FAX (919) 542-3726

PROSPECT HILL COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER
PO Box 4
140 Main Street
Prospect Hill, NC 27314
(336) 562-3311
FAX (336) 562-4444
TOLL FREE (800) 898-9577

SCOTT CLINIC
5270 Union Ridge Road
Burlington, NC 27217
(336) 421-3247
FAX (336) 421-3275

SILER CITY COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER
PO Box 831
224 South 10th Avenue
Siler City NC 27344
(919) 663-1744
FAX (919) 663-1635

BURLINGTON – Congressman Howard Coble, State Sen. Rick Gunn, State Rep. Steve Ross and State Rep. Dennis Riddell were among the guests at the Scott Community Health Center as Piedmont Health celebrated National Health Center Week recently .

Field Representative Mike Fenley from U.S. Senator Richard Burr's office also attended.

Each year in August, Piedmont Health and other community health centers across the country celebrate National Health Center Week, which highlights the importance and impact of community health centers in helping ensure access to health care for all individuals. Community health centers (CHCs) aim to provide high quality, affordable and comprehensive health care. This year's event was underwritten by Amerigroup RealSolutions, a division of Wellpoint, Inc.

In kicking off the event, Piedmont Health CEO Brian Toomey said Piedmont Health was "honored to have some great public servants here with us" to recognize the importance of community health centers. Piedmont selected Scott Community Health Center for this event to showcase the center's longevity in providing comprehensive health care to the community.

The health center was established as the Scott Clinic in 1919 by Dr. Floyd Scott, who worked out of his home until the current building — which was recently renovated — was built in 1949 by community-donated labor. Dr. Scott's sons, Peter and Sam, eventually joined him in the clinic practice, in 1949 and 1967 respectively. After the last of the Scott trio retired in 2002, Piedmont Health eventually took over and carries on the long tradition of providing primary care services to the community.

Congressman Coble, who has represented North Carolina in the House of Representatives for some 29 years, praised Piedmont Health for doing a great job in serving a community need. Congressman Coble discussed the importance of Scott Community Health Center in helping rural residents receive comprehensive health care.

Before State Senator Gunn spoke, Piedmont Health CEO Brian Toomey introduced him as the individual who "got us a road sign for our Prospect Hill site so that people could find us." Gunn, who has family roots in the Burlington area (an uncle grew up on a farm near Burlington), noted that the Scott Community Health Center "has been a part of our family history for decades."

Gunn said that he and his legislative colleagues "all are working together to find a solution to the rising cost of health care," adding that "Piedmont Health is solution." He

said that Medicaid programs need to be more efficient and that he hopes Piedmont Health does not become collateral damage as tough decisions on Medicaid are made.

“The smiles you put on faces of clients walking through the door are healing in itself,” said Gunn.

Rep. Ross, who is also a former Burlington mayor, said that his grandmother came to the Scott Clinic because of the high level of care she received.

“Dr. Scott — back in the 1950s — probably never envisioned that his clinic would still be providing the level of care it does today,” he said.

Ross said that he is committed to finding the right solutions for health care and that he and his colleagues are looking at different models. He said he likes the Piedmont Health model as it brings health care to the community, where it’s needed. He also complimented Piedmont for the programs it offers for seniors, such as Piedmont Health SeniorCare.

“What I like about what you do here — you’ve done the building inside and out — but it’s about the people that you touch,” said Rep. Riddell. He noted that the Medicaid system is in need of repair and he and his colleagues in the North Carolina General Assembly are going to tackle it by looking at solutions from a lot of perspectives.

“We do have constraints and we need to look for efficiencies,” Riddell cautioned, but he noted that Piedmont Health operates and saves the state money; allowing more North Carolinians to get the health care they need. “We are advocates for you,” he said.

Darren Morgan, vice president, Network Development, for Amerigroup RealSolutions, the sponsor of this celebratory event recognizing community health centers, congratulated Piedmont Health for having served the community for decades.

“We believe that partnering with community health centers like Piedmont Health would be important to improving outcomes, increasing access to services and providing coordinated health care for the Medicaid population,” said Morgan.

Rounding out the speakers was E. Benjamin Money, Jr., MPH, president and CEO of the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA), which represents 31 health center grantees and three look-alike organizations that operate some 175 clinical sites in North Carolina.

“We credit [Piedmont Health CEO] Brian Toomey’s leadership in North Carolina in bringing community health centers together,” said Money. He noted that the NCCHCA can take things that work well and create best practices around the state — including “infusing best practices at the clinical and provider level.”

Money also discussed the need to conserve limited resources and he discussed how CHCs operate by sharing an analogy: a restaurant is open every day to provide hot, healthy food; while 10 patrons may eat, only two are able to pay, yet the patrons continue to come each and every day and seek to have all of their nutritional needs met. Money noted that CHCs “work to help patients with all of their needs: health, dental, pharmacy and behavioral health.”

For more information about Piedmont Health, call 919-933-8494 or visit www.piedmonthealth.org.