



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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

GENERAL MAILING
PO Box 17179
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-7179

WEBSITE
www.piedmonthhealth.org



BURLINGTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

1214 Vaughn Road, 1st floor
Burlington, NC 27217
(336) 506-5840

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Debra Markley, MPH
1-919-619-2159

CARRBORO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

301 Lloyd Street
Carrboro, NC 27510
(919) 942-8741

CHARLES DREW COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

221 N. Graham Hopedale Road
Burlington, NC 27217-2971
(336) 570-3739

MONCURE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

PO Box 319
7228 Pittsboro-Moncure Road
Moncure, NC 27559
(919) 542-4991

PROSPECT HILL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

PO Box 4
322 Main Street
Prospect Hill, NC 27314
(336) 562-3311

SCOTT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

5270 Union Ridge Road
Burlington, NC 27217
(336) 421-3247

SILER CITY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

PO Box 831
224 South 10th Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344
(919) 663-1744

SYLVAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

PO Box 578
7718 Sylvan Road
Snow Camp, NC 27349
(336) 506-0631

PIEDMONT HEALTH SENIORCARE AT BURLINGTON

1214 Vaughn Road
Burlington, NC 27217
(336) 532-0000

PIEDMONT HEALTH SENIORCARE AT PITTSBORO

163 Chatham Business Drive
Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 545-7337

New dental clinic saw a need and is meeting it

Burlington — Growth is built into the plans of the dental clinic at the Burlington Community Health Center. The clinic opened in October of 2016 with only two chairs and operating only two days a week. By the following month, the clinic was operating three days a week and, by the spring of 2017, it should be open four days a week.

Plans call for the clinic to have six chairs within two years, according to Katrina Mattison-Chalwe, Piedmont Health Service's Dental Director.

It's not that patients are overrunning the clinic yet, Mattison-Chalwe said. But she said the clinic expects the patient load to grow and is planning for it.

"I don't think we'll have any problem filling the chairs," Mattison-Chalwe said. "The thing right now is getting the word out that we're open. Dentistry is so predictable that you can kind of manage when you open more chairs."

The new clinic in at the Burlington Community Health Center, which was funded by a federal grant, is the first dental service offered by Piedmont Health in Alamance County. While there are other dentists in the county, the new clinic at Burlington fills unmet needs, Mattison-Chalwe said. The clinic is more affordable, more accessible and more convenient than many private practices, she said.

The clinic charges on a sliding-scale basis, depending on income, Mattison-Chalwe explained. That is particularly important because a lot of the patients are referrals from the Open Door Clinic of Alamance County, an organization that helps indigent and uninsured residents find affordable health care.

Many other patients have health insurance but find that it is easier to get access to timely appointments at the Burlington Community Health Center dental clinic. At established dental practices it can take three to four weeks for an appointment, but the clinic can offer appointments in a week or two, she said.

The new clinic also can be more convenient for many patients, Mattison-Chalwe said. It offers "one-stop shopping" dental care, she said – everything from root canals to dentures. "We don't refer out [patients] as much as some others do. Some practices only want to focus on certain things."

In addition, the clinic has a lift that allows dental staff to give treatment without patients having to leave their wheelchairs. The lift minimizes risk of injury to both patients and staff associated with transfer from a wheelchair to a dental chair. It is especially helpful for the department since it has a partnership with Piedmont Health SeniorCare, Piedmont Health's Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly – which is housed in the same building.

"We try to reach everybody," Mattison-Chalwe said. The clinic is working with the school system, resource fairs, community-based programs and churches to find patients who need dental care, she said.

But she said they are not trying to take patients away from existing dental practices. Piedmont Health CEO Brian Toomey noted that various other agencies and organizations were instrumental in Piedmont gaining approval to establish the dental practice, including the Cone Health Alamance Regional Medical Center, which helped in various ways including financial aid and assistance in preparing the statement of need; the Alamance County Health Department; the Open Door Clinic; Allied Churches of Alamance County; the Alamance County School System; and the United Way of Alamance County.

“What we want to do is find people who need services but have not yet found a dental home,” Mattison-Chalwe said. “We want to cater to unmet needs – and we know they’re there.”

Piedmont Health, located in Carrboro, operates 10 community health centers in central North Carolina, is dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable and comprehensive primary care to improve the health and well-being of the community. Piedmont also operates two Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, in Burlington and Pittsboro. For more information, call (919) 933-8494 or visit www.piedmonthhealth.org.