

## Oklahoma Community Health Centers Celebrate National Health Center Week by Honoring “Health Care Heroes”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**July 24 – Oklahoma City:** From Tishomingo to Tahlequah, community outreach events, health fairs, and new facility open houses are taking place in recognition of National Health Center Week (NHCW), August 10-16. *"America's Health Centers: Home of America's Health Care Heroes"* is the 2008 NHCW theme. The Oklahoma Primary Care Association (OPCA), in conjunction with Community Health Centers (CHCs) across the state, will celebrate health center growth and honor “health care heroes” -- health professionals dedicated to providing a ‘medical home’ to all Oklahomans. *Health Care for the Homeless Day* will be observed on Wednesday, August 13, to focus on a population often left outside of the mainstream health care system. Governor Brad Henry signed a State Proclamation officially recognizing August 10-16 as Health Center Week in the State of Oklahoma. A complete calendar of events is attached, and the public is welcome at all locations.

CHCs, as public-private partnerships, serve all community residents and receive federal funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to deliver high quality, affordable health care to uninsured patients who are below 200% of federal poverty (FPL) on an income-based sliding fee scale. CHCs provide primary and preventive care, behavioral health and substance abuse counseling, oral health services, pharmacy, lab and x-ray making affordable, high quality health care available to everyone -- including those with Medicaid, Medicare, no insurance, major medical coverage, or full-coverage insurance. Prescription drug costs are also 37%-52% less due to CHC participation in federal 340b drug pricing, with the savings passed on to the patient. “Due to community commitment and hundreds of dedicated advocates, an estimated 120,000 women, men and children of all ages in and near Oklahoma CHCs will now enjoy excellent preventive, primary, oral and behavioral health services” said Greta Stewart, OPCA Executive Director.

Oklahoma has thirteen community health center grantees operating 26 access sites. These organizations are:

- Central Oklahoma Family Medical Center, Inc., located in Konawa
- Community Health Centers, Inc., located in Oklahoma City (Mary Mahoney Memorial Health Center) also operating Healing Hands Health Care Services for the Homeless and Perry A. Klaassen Family Medical Center in OKC and Mary Mahoney at Langston
- Community Health Connections, Inc., located in Tulsa
- Robert Clark Family Health Center, Inc., located in Fairfax also operating Hominy Family Health Center
- Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma located in Tishomingo
- Great Salt Plains Health Center located in Cherokee
- Kiamichi Family Medical Center (KFMC), Inc., located in Battiest, and also operating KFMC at Idabel
- Lawton Community Health Center located in Lawton

- Morton Comprehensive Health Services located in Tulsa also operating Mid Town Family Health Center, Nowata Family Medical Clinic, and East Tulsa Family Health Center
- Northeastern Oklahoma Community Health Centers, Inc., located in Hulbert also operating Tahlequah Health Center
- Oklahoma Community Health Services (OCHS), Inc., located in Oklahoma City also operating OCHS-Ft.Cobb and OCHS-Tipton
- Pushmataha Family Medical Center, Inc., located in Clayton
- Stigler Health & Wellness Center (SHWC), Inc. located in Stigler also operating SHWC-Eufala and SHWC-Sallisaw

## **2008 National Health Center Week Events in Oklahoma**

### **Thursday, August 7**

From 3:30pm to 6:00pm, **Robert Clark Family Health Center** will host a “Back to School Night” in Fairfax. The event includes information on nutrition, dental health, exercising, behavioral health, smoking/tobacco, and immunizations.

### **Friday, August 8**

**Stigler Health and Wellness Center** will host its annual “Back to School Roundup” in Stigler. The all-day event includes a health fair, free backpack and school supplies, free haircuts, bicycle safety course, child fingerprinting, health information, and refreshments.

### **Saturday, August 9**

**Morton Comprehensive Health Services** and The Big Brothers Big Sisters of Oklahoma will be sponsoring a health fair & community event at the Tulsa Dream Center from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Morton will be offering the following services: health screenings (glucose screenings & blood pressure checks), HIV testing, oral health education, WIC & nutrition information, as well as, Women’s Health Awareness & Prevention Workshops.

### **Monday, August 11**

From 10:00am to 2:00pm, **Oklahoma Community Health Services (OCHS)** in south Oklahoma City will celebrate Kids Health Day.

From 10:00am to 11:00am, **Morton Comprehensive Health Services** will be offering a women’s health awareness & prevention workshop at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless.

**Community Health Centers, Inc.** will host a Customer Appreciation Day at the Mary Mahoney Memorial Health Center in northeast OKC - this will be an all day event.

**Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma** in Tishomingo will offer free blood pressure and sugar checks, physicals for school children (K-12), chemical screening, Bio-A tests, cholesterol checks, diabetic education, microdermabrasion, and 5 minute chair massages. FHCSO will also offer free promotional material, drawing for 3 free full body massages, and provide refreshments (offered each day of CHC week Monday-Thursday, August 11-14)

**Tuesday, August 12**

From 10:00am to 2:00pm, **Oklahoma Community Health Services** in south Oklahoma City will celebrate Women's Health Day.

At 10:00am **Community Health Connection-Tulsa** will be having a ground breaking ceremony celebrating the establishment of their new health center.

**Wednesday, August 13**

From 10:00am to 2:00pm, **Oklahoma Community Health Services** in Oklahoma City will celebrate Staff Appreciation Day.

From 10:00am to 2:00pm, **Community Health Centers, Inc.** will be having a Health Fair at the Mary Mahoney Memorial Health Center in northeast OKC.

**Thursday, August 14**

From 11:00am to 2:00pm, **Oklahoma Community Health Services** in south Oklahoma City will celebrate Diabetic Health Education Day.

**Friday, August 15**

From 10:00am to 2:00pm, **Oklahoma Community Health Services** in south Oklahoma City will celebrate Men's Health Day.

**Family Health Center of Southern Oklahoma** will host an all day Open House event in celebration of their new state-of-the-art facility.

From 8:00am to 3:00pm, **Northeastern Oklahoma Community Health Centers** will be hosting a Health Fair at their Tahlequah site.

**For specific contact information please call Oklahoma Primary Care Association at 1-405-424-2282**

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