The new leader of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Mary Wakefield, announced the release of $338 million to expand services offered at the nation’s Community Health Centers. Wakefield made the announcement during a speech at the NACHC 2009 Policy and Issues Forum in Washington D.C. The money was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and comes as more Americans join the ranks of the uninsured.

“More Americans are losing their health insurance and turning to health centers for care,” said Wakefield. “These grants will aid centers in their efforts to provide care to an increasing number of patients during the economic downturn.”

Wakefield explained how the dollars are maximized. “The Stewart County Community Medical Center in Tennessee has two enormous and very different problems: the state ranks 5th in the Nation for deaths due to untreated diabetic complications, and they’re running out of dentists. For a comparatively small investment of $147,000 in IDS funds, the Stewart County health center will be able to provide free retinal eye screens for hundreds of their residents; a full-time dental assistant, a part-time dentist to help their full-time staff clinician, and a bus service to get local kids to and from the dental clinic.”

Wakefield also noted that health centers can help the nation cut overall health care costs because health center patients are less likely to require hospitalizations and emergency room care. The grants -- titled Increased Demand for Services (IDS) grants -- will be distributed to 1,128 federally qualified health center grantees. Health centers will use the funds over the next two years to create or retain approximately 150 health center jobs in Tennessee, according to HRSA.

Three Rivers Community Health’s Hickman County Clinic Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony

Construction has begun on the addition to the Three Rivers Community Health Center’s Hickman County site in Lyles, TN. The addition will create four new clinic suites with patient rooms, a larger waiting room, office space and a front desk area, and a lab for bloodwork and other tests. Three Rivers Community Health’s Hickman clinic originally opened for business on October 15, 2007 as a satellite site of the Perry County Medical Center, Inc.

Association Members Receive National Awards for Advocacy and Leadership

Two Tennessee Primary Care Association members were presented with the NACHC 2009 Betsey K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers for their outstanding work and dedication to building Community Health Center advocacy and furthering the Community Health Center policy agenda in Congress. tort Waller, Executive Director of Christ Community Health Services in Memphis, TN and Howard Chapman Jr., Executive Director of Southwest Virginia Community Health Systems were honored during a reception in Washington on Thursday, March 26. The NACHC Grassroots MVP Award is named in honor of the late Elizabeth K. (Betsey) Cooke whose constant effort and unflagging persistence as an advocate for America’s health centers and their patients set an example for all health center advocates to follow. This year’s honorees went above and beyond in their efforts to insure that their members of Congress actively supported Community Health Centers and to establish and expand grassroots advocacy efforts at their health centers.

Tennessee Primary Care Association member Shantelle Leatherwood, Practice Administrator at Christ Community Health Services in Memphis, received the 2009 Geiger Gibson Emerging Leader Award from the George Washington University School of Public Policy. The Emerging Leader Award is designed to highlight and share the accomplishments of health center staff. The Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health Policy at The George Washington University, Washington, DC annually honors a leader who has undertaken or guided a specific task that has helped the health center further the mission of providing high-quality, culturally competent health services to underserved populations. Ms. Leatherwood was presented with the award in Washington on March 28.

Connecting Communities Who Care

Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) is a nonprofit corporation connecting Tennesseans with a health care home, especially the medically underserved. Since its inception in 1976, TPCA committed to 1) identifying unmet needs and gaps in service access, 2) developing systems of care, 3) advocating for resources, and 4) promoting awareness of Community Health Centers. Membership includes nonprofit primary care clinics across the state operating over 150 sites providing comprehensive medical care.

Please send articles, press releases and other content to Jackie Crumley at jackie@tnpca.org

BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

615-329-3836
Creating jobs and spurring economic development in healthier people and communities, overall lower costs of health centers is to spur innovation by improving benefits through greater investment in health centers. This opportunity to demonstrate how Tennessee’s Primary Care Association welcomes new Director of Development.

United Neighborhood Health Services welcomes new Director of Development.

United Neighborhood Health Services hosted the opening recently for the Charlotte Avenue Community Health Center. It is dedicated to serving homeless youth and those at risk for homelessness.

Steve Cohen were both in attendance for the ceremony in March, Pearce commented, "It's over the operations for the clinic. While Pearce, Regional Vice President at Cherokee Regional Vice President at Cherokee National Health Services, opened doors for the Hickory Hill Community Health Center. The Hickory Hill Community Health Center is a part of the city’s homeless population. In addition to primary care, the clinic will provide behavioral health services, lab services, health education and outreach programs. Brian Bonney, the clinic’s Medical Director, has a passion for the homeless, and rapidly recruited immigrant populations. "The clinic is providing high-quality care to these people in my hometown," he said. In addition to Dr. Bonney, the clinic employs a full-time nurse practitioner, two patient navigators who deliver some care to medical providers. The clinic is partnering with the University of Tennessee College of Nursing and Carson Newman College’s nursing program for additional staff. Julia Pearce, Regional Vice President at Cherokee National Health Services, said Hickory Hill residents are over the operations for the clinic. While serving a meal to area residents at the opening ceremony in March, Pearce commented, "It’s dedicated to making health care accessible to those in need is a real testament to what Hickory Hill, Tennessee, and we want to thank them for helping us reach out to the Hickory Hill community."

United Neighborhood Health Services Opens First Homeless Youth Clinic in Tennessee.

Two years ago double Dutch was an activity we did with some of our youth in partnership with neighbors of Hickory Hill. Hickory Hill Community Health Center is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work, and the program’s success is instrumental in this work. Homelessness.

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Robin G. Dillon has joined United Neighborhood Health Services (UNHS) as Director of Development. Dillon, who has 11 years of development experience with non-profit agencies and groups in Nashville, was previously Development Director at Love In A Big World.

"Robin’s experience and knowledge make her a valuable asset to our management team, particularly at a time when United Neighborhood Health Services is expanding to serve an increasing number of people," said Bwufuku.

Dillon holds a Certificate in Fund Development from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). She was a 2006 recipient of the Susan Simmons Scholarship and a 2008 recipient of the AFP Senior Fundraising Scholarship, both of which are underwritten by the AFP International Conference on Fundraising. In 2007, she was honored with the Award that recognizes United Way of Metropolitan Nashville’s top agency speaker. This summer, Dillon will sit for the AFP Certified Fund Raising Executive examination.

Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, the Department of Health and Human Services Regional IV Offices in Atlanta, Georgia and cumulus broadcasting station have come together to better the health of the Nashvill youth. The Center was awarded a grant to facilitate the Revising Double Dutch competition in Nashville. The program aims to motivate, educate and empower children and youth to lead healthy lifestyles. The final competition will be held at the end of April.

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From the Chief Executive Officer’s Desk
Kathy Wood-Dalbey

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are a health care home to almost 300,000 Tennesseans who are medically underserved, uninsured, or live with the highest poverty rate in the nation. These 23 federally funded CHCs in the state operate over 140 sites, CHCs provide cost-effective, community-based, quality primary health care services. With a social mission and fee-forgiveness free to make patient payments affordable, CHCs serve patients regardless of their ability to pay. CHCs provide care to patients who are poor with about 92% living in incomes below 200% of the poverty level. About 14% are uninsured and another 34% are covered by TennCare. A small number of patients served have Medicare or private insurance. With job losses mounting in the challenged economy, health centers are serving greater numbers of newly uninsured or underinsured people. When people have a place to go for health care they will use it, stay healthy and avoid costly hospital emergency rooms, where the cost of care is more expensive. CHCs generate cost-savings for the entire health care system by providing primary care services focused on keeping people well and treating chronic illness before it requires hospitalization.

There are two main sources of federal funding currently being received by CHCs - The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the annual federal appropriations. These federal funds have already made a significant investment of $8.8 million dollars to meet the increased demand for CHC services. The funds have been leveraged to create two new clinics – one in Wayne County and one in Davidson County. These funds will be used to retain or create almost 150 jobs and ensure that an additional 35,000 Tennesseans in Tennessee are served through a CHC. It is estimated that another $12 million dollars will be invested in Tennessee CHCs for capital projects. These investments are one-time funding over a two year period and are strictly designated for specific use. CHCs will continue to rely on a combination of federal grants, TennCare payments, State Safety Net payments, private grants, and the generosity of the community made by their patients to keep their doors open. These funds are utilized to employ physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, behavioral health providers, and administrative staffs that provide high quality care and meet the complex health needs of their patients.

Additionally, the annual federal appropriation provides opportunities to bring CHCs into new communities and to add new services, such as oral health and behavioral health, to existing centers. For example, the Tennessee Community Care Alliance, working with Lauderdale County in West Tennessee, to secure competitive grants that will enable them to open a new clinic. There are several new initiatives that are being funded by the federal government.

• The Health Centers Program. There are approximately 24 million people in the United States who have diabetes, or 8% of the total population. Tennessee’s prevalence rate of 9.1% exceeds the national rate considerably. The percentage of diabetic adult Tennesseans has practically doubled (5.0% to 9.1%) from 1994 to 2008.

The national total annual economic cost of diabetes in 2007 was estimated at $71.4 billion. The Tennessee Department of Health states 78% of those diagnosed with diabetes eat less than five fruits and vegetables daily and 34% are considered overweight. Many people will first learn of their diabetic condition when they are treated for one of its life threatening complications, i.e., heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness or amputation.

CHEROKEE HEALTH SYSTEM EXPANDS SERVICES IN INNER CITY KNOXVILLE

Cherokee Health System has opened a second clinic in inner city Knoxville. The Broadway clinic is located near three homeless shelters and provides accessible health care to the city’s homeless population. In addition to primary care, the clinic will provide behavioral health services, lab services, health education and outreach programs.

Brian Boney, the clinic’s Medical Director, has a passion for the homeless, indigent and recently immigrated populations. “We’re providing primary health care to these people in my hometown.”

In addition to Dr. Boney, the clinic employs a full-time nurse practitioner, two patient navigators that utilize some other medical providers. The clinic is partnering with the University of Tennessee College of Nursing and Carson Newman College’s nursing program for additional staff. Julia Pearce, Regional/Assistant Vice President at Cherokee oversees the clinic. While serving a meal to area residents at the opening ceremony in March, Pearce commented, “It’s a great feeling to offer services to these folks. We look forward to working together with our community to make a difference in these people’s lives.”

CHRIST COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES OPEN HICKORY HILL HEALTH CENTER IN MEMPHIS

Senator Lamar Alexander and Congressman Steve Cohen were both in attendance for the grand opening of Christ Community’s newest site in Memphis. The Hickory Hill Health Center offers internal and medical pediatrics and prenatal care. Christ Community is dedicated to providing needed care to the medically underserved, and continually evaluating and expanding our services is part of that,” said Burt Waller, executive director of Christ Community Health Services. “Our goal is to establish health centers where the need is greatest, and Hickory Hill is greatly in need of accessible and preventive care. This new health center will provide Hickory Hill residents with quality, affordable, accessible and convenient health care to their homes.

Two donor organizations and one anonymous donor were instrumental in opening the new health center and hiring Jeffrey Zaremba, M.D., to head clinic staff. “This new health center is possible by the generosity of the donors,” Waller said. “Their dedication to making health care accessible to those in need is a real testament to the compassion of people in Memphis, and we want to thank them for helping us reach out to the Hickory Hill community.”

United Neighborhood Health Services Opens First Homeless Youth Clinic in Tennessee

United Neighborhood Health Services held the opening recently for the Charlotte Adams Youth Health Center, a new clinic dedicated to serving homeless youth and those at risk for homelessness.

Mary Bufwack, CEO of United Neighborhood, says that the unique needs of homeless children and their families need to be addressed. “We felt that a separate clinic from our other homeless services could best address their unique physical and emotional needs. Children who are homeless have a difficulty succeeding in school, and this sets them up to be poor at risk for being homeless in their adult lives. This youth clinic and its enriched services will work with families to meet the healthcare needs of children and youth and to establish greater financial, housing and food resources.”

• Tennessee is ranked among the top five states for the risk of its children and youth being homeless.
• 16,584 children and youth are reported homeless in Tennessee.
• 6,905 under the age of 6.
• 7,006 age 7-17 in grades 1-8.
• 1,713 in grades 9-12.

UNITED NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH SERVICES WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Robin G. Dillon has joined United Neighborhood Health Services (UNHS) as Director of Development. Dillon, who has over 11 years of development experience with non-profit agencies and groups in Nashville, was previously Development Director at Love In A Big World.

“Robin’s experience and knowledge make her a valuable addition to our management team, particularly at a time when United Neighborhood Health Services is expanding to serve an increasing number of people,” said Bufwack. Dillon holds a Certificate in Fund Development from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). She was a 2006 recipient of the Susan Simmons Scholarship and a 2008 recipient of the AFP Senior Fundraising Scholarship.

United Neighborhood Health Services operates two behavioral health centers in Nashville, a multi-service agency that provides mental health and chemical dependency services to children, adults and families. UNHS serves over 3,000 people each year through its programs.

The Hickory Hill Health Center serves over 1,000 people annually, and has a mission to provide a comprehensive range of health care services to the homeless. UNHS is dedicated to caring for the uninsured and under-insured, and has a special focus on serving the needs of the homeless population.”

Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center’s Reviving Double Dutch Final Competition

Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, the Department of Health and Human Services Regional IV Offices in Atlanta, Georgia and CEO of Cumulus Broadcasting Station have come together to better the health of the Nashville youth. The Center was awarded a grant to facilitate the Reviving Double Dutch Competition in Nashville. The program aims to motivate, educate and empower children in Nashville to develop and maintain physical activity levels. The final competition will be held at the end of April.

“Myers Barr, the City of Nashville’s senior public health educator, started the project idea in 2004 with the theme of ‘reviving double dutch’. The concept is to provide ideas and strategies to local students to help them develop and maintain physical activity levels.”

The Reviving Double Dutch Program is based on an idea to encourage and promote the jump rope concept called “double Dutch”, where there are two jump ropes used simultaneously along with two people turning and possibly multiple persons jumping. The youth and the coaches were taught to jump double Dutch rope by professional trainers. All Reviving Double Dutch Program participants were monitored and provided feedback for their jump rope skills in their body mass index (BMI), endurance, strength, agility, nutrition knowledge and of course growth in double Dutch skills.

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“Reviving Double Dutch is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our neighbors as a way to get youth interested in physical activity. They are going to love this.”

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Dr. Waller and Boney hope that the Hickory Hill community will embrace the new center.

“Years ago double Dutch was an activity that kids did after school together with neighborhood friends,” says Katina Beard, Director of Institutional Development. “We didn’t think of it as a sport or anything.”

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**HHS Releases $338 Million to Expand Community Health Centers and Serve More Patients**

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