



Health and Human Services **MEDIA RELEASE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2015

Community Health Centers name change shows connection to the whole community

Three new physicians at health centers across Sarasota County

SARASOTA COUNTY — The Community Health Center of North Port Inc., which partners with the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County (DOH-Sarasota) to provide affordable health care to over 30,000 people annually, changed its name to the Community Health Centers of Sarasota County (CHCSC) to better reflect its connection to the entire county.

“The need for primary care services for Sarasota County residents, especially the uninsured and indigent, is an ongoing priority for the Florida Department of Health,” says DOH-Sarasota Health Officer/Administrator Chuck Henry.

“As the county’s health care safety net provider, the Community Health Centers of Sarasota County remains committed to providing continuity of care to patients, including those living with chronic health conditions and who are otherwise unable to afford or access health care,” says Community Health Centers of Sarasota County Board Chair Maureen Coble.



**Community
Health Centers**
of Sarasota County

A team of board-certified physicians, nurses, and dentists continue to accept new patients for adult and children’s primary care, children’s dental care, women’s health, family planning and OB services at locations across the county. Behavioral health services are also available to new and existing patients at three locations.

“Three new physicians have recently joined our women’s health and pediatric practices,” says Linda Stone, Ph.D., CEO for the Community Health Centers of Sarasota County. They include two new OB/GYN physicians - Washington Hill, M.D., a well-known Maternal and Fetal Medicine doctor, specializing in ‘high risk’ pregnancies, who has served the greater Sarasota area for over 45 years, and Frederick Fitzgerald, M.D., who recently moved to Sarasota from his practice in Syracuse, New York. Both physicians are serving women at the two health centers in Sarasota and North Port. Pediatrician David Lyons, M.D., has also joined the practice serving families at the two Sarasota locations, including the Sally & Sam Shapiro Babies and Children’s Medical Center on 17th Street.

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MEDIA NOTES:

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There are early morning and late afternoon hours available at all [health centers](#). Limited Saturday hours are available by appointment for health center patients at the Ringling location. Most insurance plans are accepted, including Medicare, Medicaid and many private plans. Costs vary by service and depend on family size and income, as determined by the DOH-Sarasota Eligibility Office. As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), no one is refused health care. However, anyone requesting services on a sliding fee must participate in eligibility screening and pay their fair share.

Health officials say that FQHCs are equipped to provide quality health services in the most cost-effective way possible and have more rigorous standards for achieving positive health outcomes in the patients they serve.

For more information or to make an appointment for services at the Ringling site, call 941-861-2900 or visit www.sarasotahealth.org.

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities.
View the complete policy at www.scgov.net/ADA/Pages/default.aspx

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