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COMMUNITY HEALTH & DENTAL CARE AWARDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXPANSION GRANT

Pottstown – Community Health & Dental Care (CHDC) proudly announces it is the recipient of a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant award to expand mental health and substance use disorder service throughout its service area in the tri-county region of southeastern Berks, western Montgomery, and northern Chester counties.

HRSA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded CHDC, along with 400 other community health centers across the country, to help increase access to behavioral health services. This award comes from the Biden-Harris announcement of its historic investment of \$240 million in funding to integrate mental health and substance use disorder treatment into primary care to more than 10 million patients across the country.

Bridgette McGivern, CEO of CHDC, recognized the great need for additional behavioral support services to address the growing mental health needs and substance use of opioids in the tri-county region. *"More and more children and adults are suffering each day with anxiety, depression, opioid abuse, and I am so happy to receive this award to increase access to behavioral health services throughout our five CHDC locations! This includes virtual visits, making it easier for our patients to access these services as this grant will allow CHDC to hire more staff to meet these growing demands."*

As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), CHDC is a true medical home offering access to quality, affordable healthcare services to all individuals regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Integrated behavioral health is available to all established medical patients. Integrated behavioral health is a holistic approach to behavioral health to include mind and body. By working with a CHDC medical provider, our licensed Behavioral Health team provides short-term brief solution-focused sessions, goal setting and guidance, and referrals to outpatient treatment. Additionally, patients are screened for depression and anxiety at all patient visits to help provide the resources and tools to fight mental illness.

In 2016, CHDC was designated as a PA Center of Excellence which helps individuals recover from addiction and provides support to move forward. CHDC earned its designation from the Department of Human Services to be utilized by anyone with a current or previous diagnosis of opioid use disorder. CHDC uses both internal and external resources and referrals to provide the best addiction treatment services. Each person gets their own Care Manager, who coordinates the many aspects of a recovery program. Internally, CHDC refers to medication-assisted treatment, medical services, and referrals to behavioral health counseling. Externally, CHDC partners with organizations such as 12-Step Meetings, Sober Living opportunities, and more to provide care outside its office.

To learn more about opioid substance abuse and addiction education, CHDC invites the community to attend an Addiction Education Event on Tuesday, October 29th from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM at its Coventry Mall location at 351 W.

Schuylkill Road, Pottstown 19465. Panelists will include CHDC medical provider, Dr. Vinutha Netaji, a Board-Certified Addiction Specialist, who will discuss:

- identifying addiction,
- medications for addiction, and
- resources available at CHDC.

Registration is requested by calling 610-326-9460 ext. 105 or visit <https://ch-dc.org/event/addiction-education/>

New patients are welcome for all CHDC services. If you are an existing CHDC medical patient or would like to become a new medical patient and integrate a behavioral health appointment, please call 610-326-9460. If you are seeking addiction support for opioid use disorder, please contact the CHDC Center of Excellence at 610-326-9460 ext. 105.

About Community Health & Dental Care

Since 2008, Community Health & Dental Care ensures access to appropriate levels of care for all people in the service area regardless of their ability to pay. CHDC has qualified, caring staff to assist you and your family to become a patient of a true medical and dental home. Same day and integrated appointments are available to meet the scheduling needs of our patients and family members!

CHDC provides medical, dental, OBGYN, vision, podiatry, physical therapy, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), integrated behavioral health, care and case management, and free transportation to and from all CHDC health center locations in Pottstown, Barto, and its newest medical office in Boyertown offering Pediatrics, Women's Health, and Family Practice.

We accept most major Commercial, Medicare and Medicare supplement plans, Fee for Service Medicaid and Managed Care Medicaid plans and provide a health care discount for eligible uninsured and underinsured patients. For qualified patients receiving a 100% healthcare discount, the nominal fee for a medical/behavioral health/vision visit is \$25, \$40 for a dental visit and \$7 for a prescription! CHDC can offer the health care discount because we receive annual funding from our Federal partner, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) since 2012 as a designated Federally Qualified Health Center.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact us at 610-326-9460, email us at info@ch-dc.org or visit our website at www.ch-dc.org

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