



MEDIA RELEASE

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BELLEFONTAINE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER to Occupy 212 E. Columbus Community Health & Wellness Partners to expand in Bellefontaine

Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County, which opened its first location at Oakhill Medical Center in West Liberty, is expanding in Bellefontaine, increasing access to integrated primary healthcare for the citizens of Logan County. The Bellefontaine Community Health Center is expected to open this August at 212 E. Columbus Ave., a site previously occupied by restaurant/pub Chattanooga, and most recently, Café 212. Community Health & Wellness also operates Indian Lake Community Health Center in the Aries Center at Russells Point. Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County is an independent Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and is associating with LCG Commerce, LLC. on this expansion.

“Community Health is excited to be providing additional access to the health center’s innovative approach to integrated primary healthcare to the community,” said Tara Bair, President and CEO of Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County, “Offering accessible healthcare in a more centralized location in the community has been the intent of the health center since its inception in 2014.”

Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County provides primary care in addition to integrated behavioral health, clinical primary care pharmacy and nutrition services. The health center offers patients a team-based approach to their care, supporting their primary care provider so that the patient can experience a more well-rounded approach to addressing their healthcare needs. Services are delivered regardless of ability to pay and the cost of care is based on a sliding fee scale and family income. In addition to providing healthcare to all, the health center focuses on an integrated approach to the management of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, cardiac disease and depression. Medication Assisted Treatment (Vivitrol), with a focus on patient accountability and provider discretion, is also offered at the health center supporting the community’s commitment to fighting the opioid epidemic.

“The mission of Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County is to serve as community partners in health care by providing economic-based, whole person, whole community primary care to all of the citizens of Logan County for long-term health and wellness,” stated Board Chair Tony Core. “We believe expanding the successful Community Health & Wellness Partners model in Bellefontaine will allow us to fulfill our mission while providing high quality, team-based primary health care.”



Since opening its doors in March of 2014, Community Health & Wellness Partners has experienced a 250% increase in the number of patient visits seen each year, due in part to the merger with Oakhill Medical Associates. In addition, it is projected that the current fiscal year ending in October will inject around \$4.2 million in direct labor related expenses to the local economy.

About Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County

With the collaborative support of Mary Rutan Hospital, Oakhill Medical Associates and Good Neighbor Pharmacy Aries Center, Community Health & Wellness Partners of Logan County opened its doors in March 2014 in two locations, West Liberty and Russells Point, OH. Primary health care services are offered to the residents of Logan County, regardless of income or insurance coverage, and are provided on a discounted basis based on patient's household income. The previously owned primary care practice of Mary Rutan Hospital, Mad River Family Practice, housed at Oakhill Medical Center was also affiliated with The Ohio State Rural Residency Training Program, which trained physicians in the specialty of rural family medicine headed up by Dr. Randall Longenecker (1999-2011). In March of 2016, Community Health & Wellness Partners and Oakhill Medical Associates merged together in the West Liberty location. Today, Community Health & Wellness offers 10 primary care providers and over 40 ancillary staff members to serve the community. Providers include: Dr. Tynese Anderson, Dr. Charles Kratz, Dr. Kenneth Miller, Dr. Brian Schmidt, and Certified Family Nurse Practitioners Joshua Bryant, Will DeGendt, Breanna Detrick, Justin Gildow, Amanda Lollini, and Leigh Ann Swank.

About Community Health Centers in Ohio

Ranked among the nation's most integrated health care systems, Community Health Centers are Ohio's leaders in providing convenient access to exceptional integrated health care services. Ohio's Community Health Centers are conceived, cultivated and administered locally. Additionally, health centers are required to provide care to all patients regardless of a person's insurance status, ability or inability to pay. In Ohio, Community Health Centers employ hundreds of physicians, mid-level providers, dentists, nurses and several thousand staff positions where quality professionals are in short supply. Per the Economic Impact Statistics from the National Association of Community Health Centers, the overall economic impact of the Community Health Center system in Ohio is estimated to be over \$118 million annually.