



News Release

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Community information session planned for new Rockwood Community Health Center

The Multnomah County Health Department is hosting a community information session on June 23, 2010 to inform the public about the August 2010 opening of a new federally qualified health center in the Rockwood area.

According to health officials, there are significant barriers to health care access for low income residents in the Rockwood area. Comprehensive primary care services are currently unavailable in the immediate Rockwood area and the closest clinical access points are three part-time, volunteer-staffed acute care clinics. Residents must travel outside of Rockwood to access primary care, pharmacy, and dental services.

The Rockwood Community Health Center will be staffed by four medical and two dental providers and will provide access to medical services for approximately 3,300 individuals and dental services for 1,100 individuals in the first year of operation.

“The goal is to offer residents an option for more preventive care and earlier interventions through a medical home model, leveraging Multnomah County Health Department’s knowledge and experience providing cost-effective primary care for uninsured and under-insured patients,” said Multnomah County Health Department Director Lillian Shirley.

Forty percent of the more than 40,000 Rockwood residents earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and 20-30 percent are uninsured. Recent changes in Rockwood’s demographics are also contributing to an increased urgency regarding solutions to the need for health care access. From 2000 to 2007, the number of people of color in Rockwood increased by 54 percent while the countywide increase was 27 percent. Sixty-two percent of the 7,000 plus Rockwood residents living below 100 percent of the federal poverty level are persons of color (which is 20 percent higher than the countywide average) and five of the area’s eight census tracts are designated as medically underserved populations in recognition of access issues residents faced.

Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel and Health Department Director Lillian Shirley will be in attendance to provide information about the health center and respond to questions.

The Community Information Session will be held:

**Wednesday, June 23, 2010
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Parklane Christian Reformed Church
16001 SE Main Street
Portland, Oregon 97233**

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