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Health Commissioner
Board of Health
City of Cincinnati

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cincinnati Receives Key Approval from HRSA—Local Safety Net Strengthened

Cincinnati – On June 25, 2009 the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD) and the City of Cincinnati Primary Care (CCPC) was informed that their application to the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to achieve Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike status was approved. This distinction means area residents will have access to a strengthened safety net of critical health services.

For years the Cincinnati Health Department has operated six primary care and two dental facilities serving 35,000 patients and 140,000 patient visits annually. These health centers provide patients with top of the line services including primary care, dental, laboratory, pharmacy, OB/GYN, the WIC program and more. Though these centers provide all of the services that FQHC's provide they were never classified as FQHC's thus foregoing valuable federal resources.

In May of 2007 Health Commissioner Dr. Noble Maseru, as part of the CHD's long-term fiscal solvency plan, began an effort to improve the CHD's fiscal and service capacity when providing preventative and primary care services to Cincinnatians. This massive effort ultimately lead to the creation of the CCPC Board and a formal FQHC look-a-like submission in June of 2008.

The designation means that the City of Cincinnati and the patients they serve will now have access to critical federal resources. For example currently only a partial federal reimbursement is received for Medicaid and Medicare clients. As an FQHC Look-Alike there will be a full re-imburement for these patients. In addition the Department will benefit from discounted prescription pricing and this will enhance the City's ability to recruit talented physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and mental health workers. It could also have an impact on the City's ability to receive federal economic stimulus health care dollars.

(more)

Dr. Maseru added that, “The real winners are the patients we serve who will receive better access to improved services. This designation will help us further achieve our goals of chronic disease prevention, care management and better serving the uninsured community which unfortunately is increasing as a result of these difficult economic times.”

The Cincinnati Health Department also acknowledges that none of this would have been possible without the hard work and support of the dedicated CHD staff, the local non-City operated FQHC's, the CCPC Board, the Cincinnati Board of Health, Mayor Mark Mallory, City Council, The City Manager Milton Dohoney and countless other local supporters.

These City of Cincinnati Primary Care sites were approved for Look-Alike status:

- Millvale at Hopple Street Health Center, 3301 Beekman Street
- Braxton Cann Memorial Medical Center, 5818 Madison Road
- Northside Health Center, 3917 Spring Grove
- Price Hill Health Center, 2136 West 8th Street
- Ambrose Clement Health Center, 3101 Burnet Avenue
- Crest Smile Shoppe, 612 Rockdale Avenue

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